



**CITY OF WORTHINGTON**  
**Worthington City Council Minutes**  
December 2, 2019

6550 N. High Street  
Worthington, Ohio 43085

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**CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance**

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, December 2, 2019, in the John P. Coleman Council Chambers of the Louis J.R. Goorey Municipal Building, 6550 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:40 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rachael R. Dorothy, Douglas Foust, Beth Kowalczyk, Scott Myers David Robinson, Douglas K. Smith, and Bonnie D. Michael

**Member(s) Absent:**

**Also present:** City Manager Matt Greeson, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Law Director Tom Lindsey, Director of Finance Scott Barter, Chief of Fire John Bailot, Director of Service & Engineering Dan Whited, Director of Planning & Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress, Management Assistant Ethan Barnhardt

There were 7 visitors present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*President Michael waived reciting the Pledge of Allegiance since it had just been done for the Joint Meeting with Sharon Township.*

**VISITOR COMMENTS**

*There were no visitor comments.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Ordinance No. 47-2019**

Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with the Village of Riverlea for the Provision of Police Protection.

- Ordinance No. 48-2019** Approving the City Manager’s Appointment of the Franklin County District Board of Health as the Provider of Plumbing Inspection Services in the City of Worthington.
- Ordinance No. 49-2019** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract Between the City of Columbus Board of Health and the City of Worthington for Health Services.
- Resolution No. 69-2019** Re-appointing Members to Various City Boards and Commissions and Appointing a Member to the Volunteer Firefighters Dependents Board.
- Resolution No. 70-2019** Approving the City Manager's Appointment of Donald W. Schofield as Alternate Chief Building Official and Alternate Master Plans Examiner for the Division of Building Regulation.
- Resolution No. 72-2019** Amending the Staffing Chart of the City of Worthington to Reflect the Positions Authorized in the 2020 Operating Budget.

**Resolutions are introduced by Mr. Robinson.**

Approval of the Minutes

- Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2019
- Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2019 (Special)
- Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2019

Policy Items

- Objections to Renewal of a Liquor Permit
- Sale of Surplus Equipment

**End of Consent**

There will be a roll call vote on the Consent Agenda. A vote in favor of the Consent Agenda approves the legislation per staff recommendation. For the liquor permits, the recommendation is to not request a hearing.

- Do any Council members have any items they wish to be removed from the Consent Agenda?
- Does any staff wish to have any items removed from the Consent Agenda?
- Does anyone from the public want to comment on an item?

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda is moved by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Myers.

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on approving the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes 7** Robinson, Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, and Michael

**No 0**

**The Consent Agenda was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record books.**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION**

*President Michael declared public hearings and voting on legislation previously introduced to be in order.*

**Ordinance No. 30-2019** Amending Ordinance 53-2018 to Establish Compensation for the Unclassified Position of Deputy Director of Safety/Police Chief.

**MOTION** Ms. Dorothy made a motion to remove Ordinance No. 30-2019 from the table. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**MOTION** Mr. Robinson made a motion to amend Section 1 to add the sum of \$125,522.45 and to add Section 3 with up to \$5,000 for relocation assistance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

*Mr. Greeson described how when we have vacancies, we traditionally examine those positions and make any necessary revisions. When this ordinance was previously introduced we had not named a new chief, and it was tabled until we knew what the salary would be. We are asking to remove this from table and approve. Chief Ware will be starting before the end of the year and we wanted this ordinance to be in effect before he starts.*

**There being no comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 30-2019 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes 7** Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Robinson, and Michael

**No 0**

**Ordinance No. 30-2019 (As Amended) was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**Ordinance No. 45-2019** Providing for the Adoption of the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020 and Appropriating Sums for Current Operating Expenses.

**MOTION** Mr. Smith made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 45-2019 to the December 2<sup>nd</sup> version provided with Council materials. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

*Mr. Greeson highlighted the few changes from the original budget submittal in early October. He expressed his thanks to Council for asking good questions and providing their input. He also thanked the staff members who have worked hard and contributed to this budget. This was not an easy budget to put together. There is a modest increase in the Mayor's salary which is the subject of separate legislation later on. The Columbus Public Health contract has increased by a couple thousand dollars. He highlighted the \$109,000 increase for the transition to the Northwest Regional Communications Center (NRECC) which was an adjustment from the original analysis as we have moved into implementation.*

*Mr. Myers asked about if there would be a slight deficit for 2020. Mr. Bartter said that is correct. Mr. Myers asked if that deficit would increase by \$109,000 with the NRECC transition. Mr. Bartter responded that is correct.*

**There being no comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 45-2019 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes 7** Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Robinson, and Michael

**No 0**

**Ordinance No. 45-2019 (As Amended) was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**Ordinance No. 46-2019** Establishing Compensation for Certain Unclassified Positions of the Municipal Service For the Period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, and Adopting Class Specifications for Said Unclassified Positions.

**MOTION** Ms. Dorothy made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 46-2019 to reflect the December 2, 2019 version provided with Council materials. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

*Mr. Greeson explained how this is standard legislation that is consistent with what was just approved in the budget and provides for the not to exceed salaries for unclassified employees.*

**There being no comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 46-2019 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes 7** Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Robinson, and Michael

**No 0**

**Ordinance No. 46-2019 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**Ordinance No. 50-2019** Amending Ordinance No. 47-13 and Establishing Compensation for the Mayor of the Municipality of Worthington.

*Mr. Greeson explained how the Mayor's salary can only be set every two years and cannot be increased during their term of office. It has not been increased since 2014. The increase is equivalent to the 3% received by City employees over the same time period.*

*Ms. Dorothy commented that in addition to the Mayor acting in a ceremonial capacity, he plays an important role in the Mayor's Court. If we did not have the Mayor doing this and had a magistrate doing this at their typical fee it would be much more costly. She expressed how happy she is that we have had such high-quality people serving in this capacity. We are getting off with a steal for this salary and it is appropriate we are increasing this.*

*President Michael noted how the Mayor serves over the Mayor's Court 52 weeks out of the year in addition to his ceremonial duties.*

**There being no comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 50-2019. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes 7** Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Robinson, and Michael

**No 0**

**Ordinance No. 50-2019 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

## **NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

**Resolution No. 71-2019** Approving the 2020-2024 Capital Improvements Program for the City of Worthington.

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson.**

**MOTION**

Mr. Foust made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 71-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

*Mr. Greeson again echoed his thanks to Council and staff for their time dedicated to creating the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). This is the area where Council has the most opportunity to make modifications and express where to invest in the community.*

*There is one change that he would like to discuss with Council highlighted in the staff memorandum. Since we last talked to Council about the CIP, an opportunity arose that came out of discussions over the Worthingway Middle site redevelopment. There has been some small localized flooding where houses on Hawthorne have gotten water in their basement. The engineers for the middle school project and Mr. Whited looked at that and came up with a way to address the problem while the middle school project is occurring, which reduces the need to come back and do a more expensive project later. It is approximately \$100,000 to increase stormwater capacity. The discussion has been to split that cost. We identified an opportunity to swap something worth \$50,000 in the CIP and next year's wayfinding is an appropriate thing to switch out.*

*Ms. Dorothy said she is concerned that bike and pedestrian transportation is the thing on the chopping block. She is concerned that our most vulnerable users are getting the short end of the stick. However, she understands that we are under budget constraints.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk said she understands that wayfinding has been done in phases. Mr. Greeson said that this would delay the phase to the next year. Mr. Brown said that we have the remaining park, neighborhood street signs, and Wilson Bridge Road to do with the wayfinding. Mr. Greeson explained that we will be taking advantage of the opportunity to swap out while dirt is torn up instead of spending out of fund balance. However, Council can decide to spend out of the fund balance if they so desire. Ms. Kowalczyk said that we could consider grant funding for wayfinding and she encourages staff to look at those opportunities as a supplement. Mr. Greeson explained how TIF dollars could be used to do some of that. We are not looking to get rid of the program.*

*Mr. Foust said he commends staff. We are just delaying the wayfinding. Signage is a good thing, but wet basements are a bad thing. He is glad we are taking this step with the schools.*

*Mr. Greeson explained how this opportunity was not around as the CIP was originally being developed.*

**John Rist – 285 Bryant Avenue, Worthington, Ohio 43085**

Mr. Rist said he wanted to go back to the October staff presentation that showed how \$4.7 million would be added to bonding, most equipment replacements were being delayed, and fleet vehicles would be dropped among other things. The final slide discussed the need for additional revenue. Current revenue streams are insufficient. The slide ended with

suggestions including parks and recreation fees, an increased license tax, and increased water and sewer fees.

He proposed placing before voters a bond measure for the CIP with 1.138 mills that would raise \$6 million over 10 years. That would be less than \$10 per month. Something like this may come through the visioning process. Next November will be a high turnout presidential election and he wanted to bring this option to Council's attention which he believes is reasonable and affordable.

*Ms. Dorothy expressed how she wanted to echo Mr. Rist and reiterated how we are facing a constrained budget and it is imperative we look at other revenue sources or we will have tradeoffs that no one will be happy with. We need to deal with this up front and have conversations with the public. It is imperative we look at new revenue sources.*

*President Michael said she has had opportunities to meet with Councilmembers and asked to have staff look for alternate sources of funding. That includes grants, corporate donation, and analyzing a bond issue.*

*Mr. Robinson asked to put on the retreat agenda a thorough examination of our economic development strategy as a city. That is where we can have the greatest impact on increasing revenue.*

*Mr. Smith agreed with Mr. Rist and Mr. Robinson. He asked Mr. Lindsey what it would take for Council to get a vote on November ballot, he would like to get clarification before talking any further.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 71-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 73-2019**

Establishing the Compensation Plan, Assigning Compensation Levels for Positions in the Classified Service, Adopting Class Specifications, Providing for Normal Work Weeks, and Repealing Resolutions No. 64-2018 and 07-2019.

**Introduced by Mr. Myers.**

**MOTION**

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 73-2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

*Mr. Greeson explained how this compensation plan is consistent with the budget and deals with classified employees.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 73-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 74-2019** Amending the Position Title and Position Description for Part-time Court Liaison.

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson.**

**MOTION** Mr. Foust made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 74-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

*Mr. Greeson said this expands the duties of the Part-time Court Liaison to provide security at other City meetings.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 74-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Ordinance No. 51-2019** Amending Ordinance No. 52-2018 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the General Fund, Downtown Worthington Municipal Public Improvement TIF and West Dublin-Granville Rd. Municipal Public Improvement TIF Funds Unappropriated Balance to Provide Funds for the Payment of Franklin County Auditor Fees and School Compensation.

**Introduced by Mr. Myers.**

**Ordinance No. 52-2019** Amending Ordinance No. 52-2018 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Capital Improvements Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Additional Design and Engineering Services for the NE Gateway Intersection Improvement Project and all Related Expenses with said Project (Project No. 602-14)

**Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.**

**Ordinance No. 53-2019** Amending Ordinance No. 45-2019 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for Appropriations From the Capital Improvements Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Cost of the 2020 New and Replacement Equipment Items and for Certain Projects as Identified in the 2020 Five-Year Capital Improvements Program and all

Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Projects.

**Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk**

**Ordinance No. 54-2019**

Amending Ordinance No. 52-2018 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for Appropriations from the General Fund Unappropriated Balance.

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson.**

The Clerk was instructed to give notice of a public hearing on said ordinance(s) in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter unless otherwise directed.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

Policy Item(s)

- Permission to Bid - Pingree Drive and State Route 161 Crossing Improvement

*Mr. Greeson explained how bicycle and pedestrian improvements are a priority for the City. Council adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan this year. The advisory board has been evaluating the creation of a crossing at Pingree Drive and SR 161.*

*Mr. Hurley explained how the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board receives a \$100,000 allocation annually. They came to Council previously with a rough idea for the crossing. There are different ideas for how to create the crossing. This is a high priority in the master plan and identifying barriers in Worthington neighborhoods. There is a big gap between Old Worthington and Proprietors.*

**Cynthia Peck – DLZ Corporation**

Ms. Peck explained how it has been an honor to work with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board on this. The proposed plan includes signage with embedded LED lights and pedestrian push buttons. The intent of the signal beacon is to draw attention to the pedestrian crossing. We want to draw attention but not impact the flow of traffic in a severe way. The lights are not lit all the time because people become immune to flashing lights. There will also be advance signage to show the pedestrian crossing is ahead. In addition to signage and lights, a pedestrian refuge island is included to give protection to pedestrians crossing the road. This particular crossing is not that wide, and most pedestrians will be able to cross in a timely manner. Timing of the Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) can be changed.

*Mr. Robinson shared from his personal experience that this crossing is rather harrowing. He asked Ms. Peck to help visualize what the signs will look like and where they will be. Ms. Peck described the locations of the signs on the plans. Mr. Robinson asked if the island would be elevated. Ms. Peck said there would be a six-inch curb on the sides.*

*Mr. Smith brought up conversations about the island and how it may impact traffic. Ms. Peck said the issue was brought to her attention. Traffic turns left and waits in the center and because of that we shortened the island.*

*President Michael asked how someone could cross if stopped in the center island. Ms. Peck described how a button could added at an additional cost.*

*Mr. Foust asked about syncing with the light. Ms. Peck said RRFB could not be synchronized with light.*

*Mr. Kowalczyk asked about confusion with flashing signs. Ms. Peck conveyed how with RRFBs you will have a fairly high rate of people following what they are supposed to do. Under Ohio law you are supposed to stop for someone in a crosswalk. This is something that draws attention to there being a pedestrian and the need to stop. An educational campaign can be conducted at the school level, on social media, and on the City's website. Ms. Kowalczyk brought up lengthening the time of the light for older residents because you do not want people to be stuck in the middle. She likes the fact that we can adjust the length and she suggested defaulting to the longest time.*

*Ms. Dorothy asked what is the average feet per second for pedestrian travel time. Ms. Peck responded it is 4.2 feet per second. For older adults that goes down to 3.8 feet or less per second. Ms. Dorothy asked about when someone is in the crosswalk if they have the right of way. Ms. Peck said that is the state law. Ms. Dorothy said the purpose of this is not to impede traffic but to get the most vulnerable users across. She expressed how she would like to see a longer time. She asked to have the yellow pedestrian signs which would be great to have them at least temporarily. She is very happy with all the transportation improvement for people who are not in motorized vehicles.*

*President Michael asked how this project compares to our budget for improvements. Mr. Hurley said he expects it to be under our \$100,000 budget. With the apron that occurs at Pingree and 161 there are some plans to do improvements to that that could utilize any extra funds.*

*Mr. Myers asked about the thinking behind this sign as opposed to a mast beacon. Ms. Peck replied that the pedestrian hybrid beacon is more often considered at locations with higher pedestrian counts. The pedestrian counts are not high at this location.*

*Mr. Foust said he wishes he had a clear picture of the layout of the street. He asked if there is any possibility someone crashes over the center island thinking there is a turn lane. Ms. Peck said you have the opportunity to add delineators around the island. They positioned the island in a position no turners would be going. Mr. Foust brought up the possibility of having east and west be tapered so it would be a speed bump essentially rather than taking out the axle of their cars.*

*Mr. Robinson expressed how he thinks the plan looks like a perfect balance of not over engineering it. He hoped we would not have a mast arm. This will blend in well with the neighborhood.*

*Ms. Dorothy echoed Mr. Robinson's comments that this is very well thought out. She thanked everyone involved with this plan.*

**MOTION**

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to authorize staff to move forward with procuring bids for this project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

- Distribution of Proposed Age Friendly Resolution and Age Friendly Planning Process Proposal prepared by Council Member Kowalczyk

*Ms. Kowalczyk explained how there have already been a lot of conversations about this and an ad hoc committee has seen the results of the things we are already doing to be Age Friendly. This was an initiative that was second on the list of priorities after 2019 City Council retreat. She discussed how she drafted a resolution that follows the AARP draft template and looking at Westerville's resolution. This will kick off the process of us making a commitment to undertake a deliberate and thoughtful review of what it means to be Age Friendly. We are all aging and living longer and we need to be supportive of that. There have been some conversations about resources and staff time commitments. Given where we are right now as a community and what is happening around us, people are excited and motivated to look at this issue. She believes this is the time for us to act and asks this to be on the agenda for a vote and consideration for moving forward.*

*President Michael clarified how with this resolution the City would be moving forward in a five year project. Ms. Kowalczyk detailed how that was part of the previous presentation. There is a planning phase of one to two years where you gather feedback before putting together a plan and implementing it. There are currently 400 communities and 7 states that have joined Age Friendly Communities. There are a lot of folks who are invested in this idea. She sees this as a community led project.*

*Ms. Dorothy said what she finds intriguing is that it does explore different aspects of the community we have already identified as a Council that we are struggling with. This gives a nice overall arching framework without overly promising anything to the community.*

*Mr. Robinson questioned what would be our relationship with AARP and our role in this. Ms. Kowalczyk explained how AARP's role is to support communities, not to lead initiatives. There is a flexible framework that entails as much involvement as you want. There is not a specific requirement of involvement. With the AARP there is the potential for resources.*

*Mr. Myers said no one would object to age friendly communities. When he thinks about it a little bit more, there is a lot more to this than is on this piece of paper. It is going to challenge some things we have already done. Transportation comes to mind. We had an opportunity to encourage public transportation and we rejected it. There will be some things with Age Friendly the community will support, but there are other things people are not going to support. Ms. Kowalczyk said the process depends on the feedback from residents and what they believe is the need. It is not one size fits all. An important piece is how this is potentially running alongside visioning process. She suggests that the visioning process is a starting point to gathering feedback and then being deliberate about additional feedback. She is confident this is something people want to see happen.*

*Mr. Foust said that six of the eight concepts he is on board with, however, some he feels are an overreach. Going back to our conversation at the Council retreat, we agreed conceptually about age friendly, who is going to say no. But relating to item number five, he thinks of our recently passed antidiscrimination and the role of the CRC. Ms. Kowalczyk explained how Columbus altered their eight domains. These can be small things, they do not have to be huge heavy lifts. When looking at Columbus's plan, there are things they adopted from other communities. Mr. Foust said to his point age friendly and ethnic diversity are important, but he wonders if they should*

*be married. He looks at number eight and he feels it steps into social services versus the normal parts of running a city. There is more about this he would like to talk about.*

*Mr. Myers said from what he understands is that we will be doing an inventory. He thinks we will find we are already doing a lot of things. He does not think it will expand what we are doing. We may find we will not expand.*

*Mr. Foust said he does not know if we adopt these eight, if they are a fit or not. The other concern he has is the whole connection with AARP because if you look in 2018, they can claim themselves as being independent, but 92% of their contributions went to one party. The notion to embrace AARP, to use them as a resource and draw on their expertise is one thing, to commit ourselves to a checklist feels like a bigger reach than he is interested in making.*

*President Michael elaborated on number eight, explaining we have a lot of things we are already doing. By putting this together we are showcasing what we are already doing. There are a lot of people who do not realize what we are doing. She had the opportunity to participate in roundtable discussion of Central Ohio communities discussing age friendly and found that people had different things they were doing and tailoring these items to things that are good for their communities.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk said in terms of numbers five and eight, social inclusion includes promotes multi-generational dialogue. There are other things that could be identified about social isolation. The same goes with number eight and she mentioned physical exercise and healthy habits. This is not a list of must haves, but suggested items. She does agree they can be more flexible and can pick something else that is a slightly better fit. In terms of the AARP, she understands what Mr. Foust is saying. She can say that this initiative is a world health initiative. It happens that AARP is the one who is organizing it through their network. In terms of us liking the idea of age friendly is not enough. We need to have some thoughtful discussions in the community in light of the demographics. We need a plan. This is what people are doing across the country. AARP is offering support.*

*Mr. Foust said there are a few words that are muddying the waters in terms of age friendly. The list of Ohio cities that have embraced this include several large cities and counties. Three cities that have currently joined include Oxford, Westerville, and Yellow Springs. There are a handful of communities similar in size to us. It is not as though we are falling behind here. He would like to hear from staff's standpoint about concerns regarding staff resources.*

*Mr. Greason said he would be better prepared to answer next week. The challenge is about how we move forward and play a convening role, without inhibiting our ability to support everything else we are doing.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk discussed how we can conduct outreach and gather information from visioning. All of these issues do not need to be City led. We can talk with other organizations that can be a part of this. She understands the concerns about resources. When discussed as a priority at the retreat, we wanted to see something come out of it. She thinks it can be a gradual two year planning process.*

*Mr. Robinson asked if we follow this approach of submitting an application with AARP if we saying we embrace the elements they list under the eight headings. He questioned if we are committing ourselves to say these are good ideas, or are we saying we view AARP as a resource and organizational tool for facilitating our discussion. Those are two different things. He expressed*

*how he wants to know the commitment. He also asked if there is a way to accomplish these goals without using AARP.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk said what Dublin is doing is City funded. We do not have the resources that they have. These are not necessarily things we have the ability to do. By having a framework we can work from and energize the community around is incredibly helpful. She does not see an alternative plan being proposed. This is one where we have the benefit of not having to reinvent the wheel. Anything else is up to what the community needs.*

*Mr. Myers asked if the end result of this process is an aspirational or prescriptive document. Ms. Kowalczyk said it would be an implementation plan. Other communities identify specific things in the short term or long term, and they are very specific projects or initiatives. It is flexible if you determine you cannot accomplish something. Mr. Myers said he is concerned that we adopt something like this it is codified and is something we have to do versus an aspirational document. Ms. Kowalczyk said it is between those. It is not codified.*

*Mr. Robinson asked if we can expect to have another conversation like this to ask questions and explore. He is going to dig in and study. Ms. Kowalczyk said there will be opportunity to discuss.*

*Mr. Foust asked Ms. Kowalczyk if she is open to negotiation on some of the numbers. Ms. Kowalczyk said we can discuss that, the language is definitely flexible. However, she is not sure if cultural diversity is something we necessarily want to take out. Mr. Foust said it is a great thing, but he feels like we are mixing apples and oranges.*

*Mr. Myers said if we do not have all our questions answered, last thing he wants to do is vote something down. He does not want a hard and fast deadline.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk expressed she appreciates the request to consider. We need to keep it moving.*

*Mr. Greeson said he wanted to spend some time discussing SwimInc funding considering there will be a public meeting tomorrow night with the Worthington Schools and SwimInc. The three will present and then there will be a breakout dialogue. We heard earlier tonight some interesting dialogue about the need for funding for infrastructure. In many municipalities quality of life infrastructure involves pool facilities. Since the 1950s we had a not for profit build and operate our outdoor pool. The bottom line is that he does not think we can make significant investments without tradeoffs on quality of life infrastructure. Outlined in an attachment to a memorandum distributed to Council are the various scenarios to provide funding for the pools. None of the tradeoffs are great.*

*One option be reducing an allocation for McCord park. Another would be using the energy savings from our City building energy conservation project. We do not program the savings until we realize it. There could also be the reduction of bike and pedestrian improvement allocations. \$500,000 in general fund balance could additionally be utilized. To invest \$1 million it would take a limited combination of the above options. To invest \$3 million we would likely need to do several of the options together. Above \$3 million we could come up with if we traded off or cut existing priorities as well as redirecting energy savings. It would require new revenues that could come from city millage or through a joint recreation district which would be school district wide. In the scenario requesting above \$8 million we only analyzed the Joint Recreation District millage. He wanted to highlight this because we need to publicly discuss the tradeoffs internal to our community. There will need to be a discussion about additional new revenue.*

*Mr. Robinson asked about the timeline for action and when these decisions need to be made. Secondly, dollar figures are being put out there but what for, he asked if we are we discussing an outdoor facility, a natatorium, or both. Mr. Greeson said would be for both. That presentation will come from SwimInc tomorrow night. Mr. Robinson asked about timing for any decisions. Mr. Greeson said that any decision would be in first quarter. One thing happened recently is that SwimInc came to terms with the schools on a new lease agreement and they are now positioned to avail themselves of funds. The question is how to use the funds and if that is for a larger project or a smaller project. If a Joint Recreation District model is pursued, they could pursue the larger project. The million dollars from the state could be used for planning. If it is a smaller project, there is a different strategy that could be employed. Right now we are at higher level conceptual discussion.*

*President Michael said because the pool is located on school property the funding discussion is something not only for the City but something that serves the whole school district. We had some discussions with the City of Columbus but that did not work.*

*Mr. Greeson said this can quickly outstrip our ability to make tradeoffs and leads us to conversations about additional revenue. The \$1 million in Capital Bill funding necessitates identifying how that can be wisely spent in the first quarter. A major discussion is about maintaining existing priorities while also providing funding to the pools, which will also require additional property tax millage. We have a robust set of city services that were creating in the absence of us not having to run a pool. We built our financial structure around supporting all those services, but not an outdoor pool. Now we are being called onto invest in an outdoor pool and there will be tradeoffs and need for potential new revenue. He highlighted that about 44% of the members of the outdoor pool are not Worthington city residents.*

*Mr. Foust asked if the property tax options would be voted on. Mr. Greeson said you have unvoted mills we could raise, which we have been cautious about using the three mills we have left that are unvoted. A Joint Recreation District would be voted mills.*

*President Michael emphasized there will be a lot of community outreach and understanding to come to a community consensus in a short period of time.*

*Ms. Dorothy asked about how we are collecting feedback. Mr. Greeson said they would be gathering feedback in person. We will work with other entities to figure out how to work further.*

*President Michael asked if the meeting would be recorded or livestreamed. Mr. Greeson said he was unsure. President Michael said it would be great to have those presentations recorded so the presentations can get out there. This is a huge issue and not everybody can show up. Ms. Kowalczyk said the schools have been able to put other presentations online in the past.*

*Mr. Robinson asked about what is required for the creation of a Joint Recreation District. Mr. Greeson explained that Mr. Barnhardt is collecting information and doing research into Joint Recreation Districts and that information will be distributed as soon as it is finished.*

## **REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Ms. Kowalczyk brought up how she and Mr. Brown and Ms. Dorothy attended a session Westerville held on age friendly senior housing. They discussed a new program called Nesterly which pairs up older residents with college students who need housing. There are discussions whether our code even allows that.*

*Ms. Dorothy thanked the Partnership and City employees for the celebrations that were going on yesterday welcoming Santa into town and lighting the tree. She did have several people tell her what a nice event that was. She noted that WIFA does have the Japanese treats and treasures event on December 5th. Also, she reminded everyone the WIFA annual dinner fills up fast and is coming up on January 24<sup>th</sup>.*

*Mr. Myers said that next Thursday night there will be both Stafford Village and the Holiday Inn providing applications. If you have the need for additional information please ask and pass anything on to himself or Mr. Brown.*

*Mr. Smith asked Ms. Stewart asked about the Community Grant program deadlines. Ms. Stewart said that grant applications were coming in before the deadline today.*

*Mr. Foust explained how wants 2D renders of the proposed structures along Hartford. It will be interesting to see the height of buildings for a frame of reference. Mr. Myers explained how renderings can be very expensive. Mr. Foust said he would be satisfied with seeing the central building on scale..*

*President Michael thanked staff and the Worthington Partnership for the excellent Holiday Open House program. It is a wonderful family tradition. She met with several members of Council and talked about a joint meeting with ARB/MPC. With multiple big projects coming up, she asked when we want to have meeting and what should be the outcomes to come from that meeting. What do we want to see happen. We need to think a little bit about structure and organization on how to do this. She explained how at the first Committee of the Whole meeting in January, we can discuss what to have at the retreat. The general feeling is that they would like to have retreat early so we can get up and running with a new councilmember on board with us.*

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** Mr. Myers moved, Mr. Smith seconded a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, board and commission appointments and personnel issues.

**The clerk called the roll on Executive Session. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes 7** Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Robinson, Kowalczyk, and Michael

**No 0**

Council recessed at 9:46 p.m. from the Regular meeting session

**MOTION** Mr. Foust moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to return to open session at 10:45 p.m.

**The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk moved, Mr. Smith seconded a motion to adjourn.  
President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

/s/ Ethan Barnhardt  
Management Assistant

*APPROVED by the City Council, this  
6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
Council President