



**CITY OF WORTHINGTON**  
**Worthington City Council Minutes**  
December 9, 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 9, 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.*

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)**

- Community Visioning Update

*Mr. Sherman explained that Mr. Miner, who was the Vice Chair of the Visioning Committee, has stepped down after taking a new job in Cincinnati. He has been replaced in that position by Austin Mitchell.*

*As part of the standard operating procedure of their meetings, they have spent some time going back through the data that has been presented to them. In Mr. Boring's presentation, it showed Anthem as full, when in fact it is not full. Several interesting data points were on the demographics of the City, different types of housing, and types of restaurants. They are looking to go back to Mr. Boring for him to look at housing options compared to the other benchmark cities. The Committee will be looking at this information which will be in the data bucket and uploaded into the website along with the Fast Facts.*

*Bang the Table is starting to go up, including the selection of the URL VisionWorthington.org. However, they started getting into it as a group and determined they were not ready to implement this thing. They have one shot and it is important to not have citizens see there is nothing there. So, they have slowed this down and will not do anything until January. They are working diligently behind the scenes.*

*This Committee is still doing educational presentations and tomorrow Superintendent Trent Bowers and City of Worthington Community Relations/Public Information Officer Anne Brown will be speaking. This current model with Matt Lees doing the heavy lifting is not working, so they looked at the roles and delegated. Mr. Barnhardt on staff is going to take the lead for us on the website. Ms. Brown helped craft a ThisWeek article with the how and the why for the Committee. He is anxious to see the reaction. They have also reached out to Rotary and there are four dates available for them to present. The Farmers Market is coming up in January.*

*He brought up the creation of a visioning postcard that is 6x9 and discusses fast facts and how to get on the website. That will be presented in January. He also showcased the creation of the logo for Vision Worthington. Tomorrow night they will be going over various documents and volunteer opportunities.*

*He mentioned how Mr. Robinson has asked him about where the Committee was in regard to community education and he said 4-6 weeks away.*

*Mr. Foust commented that he is pleased and impressed with Mr. Sherman's grasp of all this and thanked him for his work.*

*President Michael thanked Mr. Sherman and the Committee for their work.*

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION**

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

### **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.

*Mr. Greeson explained how a couple of our TIF arrangements include compensation agreements with the Worthington Schools.*

*Mr. Bartter further detailed we have multiple economic development agreements that impact the schools as well as Crossing Guards and the School Resource officer. This appropriation funds the necessary payments to schools and offsets payments to us.*

**There being no comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 51-2019. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes 7** Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Robinson, and Michael  
**No 0**

**Ordinance No. 51-2019 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**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)

*Mr. Greeson described how this is another Northeast Gateway Project related item. We are moving from the design phase to the construction phase. There were some items not originally anticipated in the design contract and we are now starting to contract on more specific construction phase activities*

*Mr. Whited explained how we will need support from EMH&T and some other unanticipated items. The total is \$100,000 for this work and it is well worth it to move this project forward.*

**There being no comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 52-2019. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes 7** Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Robinson, and Michael  
**No 0**

**Ordinance No. 52-2019 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**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.

*Mr. Greeson brought up how this ordinance is customary to the end of the year. Council has already approved the CIP which is a 5-year plan. The first year is the year we will implement. It is our custom after the CIP is adopted to appropriate several aspects of it. Included in this are new and replacement equipment and various projects. Council will appropriate funds to purchase equipment and we will then follow procurement guidelines. In addition, the 2020 building improvements program is in there and projects with expenses below the \$50,000 competitive bid threshold.*

**There being no comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 53-2019. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes    7        Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Robinson, and Michael**  
**No       0**

**Ordinance No. 53-2019 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**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.

*Mr. Lindsey explained how it is his understanding from looking through records with the Finance Department, the range of expenses from the Baker Firm over the last eight years seems to be approximately \$192,000 per year. The highest amount recently included legal action regarding the Community Center roof. This appropriation will true us up for expenses in the next year. We will not have the same collective bargaining expenses as we have had in the past two years. There are discussions with Baker about this arrangement and how we would rather have tighter control. For financial purposes and accountability, it would be better to implement some changes with a different form of billing.*

**There being no comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 54-2019. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes**    7        Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Robinson, and Michael  
**No**     0

**Ordinance No. 54-2019 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.**

**NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

**Resolution No. 75-2019**                      Approving 2020 Grant Funding for the Old Worthington Partnership and the Worthington Historical Society.

**Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk.**

**MOTION**                      Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 75-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

*Mr. Greeson explained how Council included in the operating budget funds to be granted to the Old Worthington Partnership and the Worthington Historical Society to support their activities.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk noted that the Partnership has updated their name to “Worthington Partnership” dropping “Old” from their name.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 75-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 76-2019**                      Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Real Estate Interests Involving Parcel 10 for the Northeast Gateway Intersection Improvement Project. (Project No. 602-14)

**Introduced by Mr. Smith.**

**MOTION**                      Mr. Foust made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 76-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

*Mr. Lindsey remarked how this is another acquisition of right-of-way done through negotiated agreement. This was the only property involving an actual resident of a home. City staff and the consultant were very sensitive to what is involved when asking someone to sell their property under the threat of the city appropriating it if now willing to sell it. TranSystems did a great job in their relationship with Mr. Montgomery and negotiated the final price for this property. This action would allow a negotiated purchase price of \$228,000. That property will be demolished as we move forward with the project.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 76-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 77-2019**

Expressing Support of the City's Application for Membership to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

**Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk.**

**MOTION**

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 77-2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

*Mr. Greeson explained how a revised resolution has been distributed that was prepared by Ms. Kowalczyk. He invited her to explain the changes that have been made.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk detailed how this redraft implements some of the comments she received over the past week. One thing that she heard was that we should be clear about Age Friendly communities being friendly for all ages. Language has been added from World Health Organization (WHO) materials. She also clarified the eight domains with AARP Ohio, and she was assured that the process is a framework and it is something we can make our own. These are domains recognized by the WHO as topic areas we can consider but they are not strict standards we have to follow.*

*In conversations with Mr. Greeson about capacity of City staff and considering all the other projects being worked on, there is not a strict timeline as far as implementation. We can start slowly by educating the community and pulling interested people together to come up with a proposal on how we could begin with the assessment and implementation of a plan. We can work in concert with the Visioning Committee as far as where they land with the data they collect and the vision they come out with. This encompasses the community as a whole, not just City staff or City policies, it is community engagement and what are other organizations doing including the Old Worthington Partnership, churches, the business community, and others.*

*Mr. Robinson said he believes we are all for promoting quality of life issues for all ages. The framework outlined is a good approach. However, he still does not understand the desirability of being a member of an AARP program. He thought of a parallel situation where hypothetically the Sierra Club had a sustainable cities program and whether that is something the City should consider. We set ourselves down the road that an external organization is setting criteria we have to follow. He asked to be sold on why becoming a member of AARP's is the best way to go.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk stated that when we are looking through an Age Friendly lens, we need a framework to do that through and we still need some education on what that means. The AARP network is implementing an international set of guidelines on what an Age Friendly community can be. It does not dictate specific things we have to do. We join the network to share resources and gain credibility. We would be a member of network of 400*

*communities that agree on what Age Friendly means. We should not reinvent the wheel. We would also have access to potential funding sources. It would be missing an opportunity. The AARP is not dictating, the framework allows communities to develop this to meet their needs. One other point, going forward with this process engages the community in a way, so they understand what they are getting into. It energizes people to come to the table to look closely and make a change.*

*Mr. Foust explained how the discussion at the retreat was a small age friendly Worthington. His preference is before we join the AARP network, he would like more conversation and come up with our own definition of what that means to Worthington. He is unsure of the upside of joining this formal network. There are other resources out there as well. He believes we are creating something before having enough conversation. He would like to see us get some more input and learn more about what is happening out there before taking the step.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk asked what makes him not want to take this step. Mr. Foust responded that the order concerns him. He thinks Mr. Robinson's analogy to the Sierra Club is on point, it is his belief everything we do on this dais ought to be apolitical. The AARP is anything but. 94% of their financial support for candidates went to one side of the table. Ms. Kowalczyk rebutted that the AARP does not make donations to politicians and campaigns.*

*Mr. Myers said he does not get it. We say this is a priority for years. We have someone who stepped up and did a lot of work. All the AARP gives us is a framework to lay this thing out. We do not submit an application to AARP, they do not say yes or no. This just gets the ball rolling. He does not understand why there is this personal bias against the organization.*

*Ms. Dorothy expressed how she is happy we would be working under a framework that is already well known and implemented throughout the world. It provides these eight domains to make sure we are looking at each decision under this framework. It is something we have been wanting to look at and it is a step in the right direction. There are old bike and pedestrian plans from the 1950s and 1960s where we never did anything until we had a dedicated group looking at things. We need a sustained effort and group to make sure every time we look at each project, we are looking at it through an Age Friendly lens. She thinks it is a good opportunity to engage in this process.*

*Mr. Smith said the whole idea is great, but it would be helpful to clarify that we see the AARP as a resource, and they are a tool in the toolbox. He does not see that from this document.*

**MOTION** Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to amend Section Two by removing the word "that." and adding "In order to use AARP as a resource..."

**The motion passed unanimously.**

*Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Myers about his question about whether this was going to be prescriptive versus aspirational and whether his thoughts and concerns were sufficiently addressed. Mr. Myers said his comments were aimed toward if these were absolutes, but we are free to do whatever we want to do with this. He is convinced we can guide our own ship.*

Nick Linkenhoker – 451 Crandall Drive

Mr. Linkenhoker presented that he is a member of the Community Relations Commission (CRC) and for the past year has been working on investigating what it means to be an Age Friendly community. He urges Worthington's membership in Age Friendly communities which opens access to funding and offers connections to other communities. It does not force any changes to services by the City and no residents will lose programs that are important to them. As Worthington proceeds with visioning, this is an opportune time. The Age Friendly Network is not just about meeting the needs of older adults. The CRC believes becoming a network member is a good first step and encourages City Council to adopt this proposal.

*Mr. Robinson conveyed how he is not convinced it is not setting up future arguments on why we are not doing something. For instance, how would transportation and buses specifically be talked about considering this program. Ms. Kowalczyk responded that this gives a framework for that discussion. It does not dictate any mode of transportation. Columbus is exploring a circulator to discuss specific needs. Another option is looking at the Village Network for Worthington, which is not city run, to come up with the types of services they want this organization to support. We must engage older residents in the conversation. We may find out we want expanded bus service, but it is not feasible. However, what can we do to meet immediate needs and look toward the future. Mr. Robinson said he will choose to see this as a vehicle for discussion. Mr. Myers said that is what his comment last week was all about. He does not think that by adopting this approach, Worthington is endorsing or adopting anything. This is not a prescriptive document; it is a guiding document. We are reading way too much into this.*

*Mr. Foust said that to be clear he is looking at OpenSecrets.org and AARP has spent \$288 million on lobbying. 92% went one way. There is clearly a political bent to this.*

*Mr. Smith said he heard that the CRC has volunteered to run this. He asked if there is a possibility AARP could kick us out. Ms. Kowalczyk said they do not kick out organizations as far as she knows.*

*President Michael brought up how at the National League of Cities, she sat in on discussion on this and how the different communities doing this were individualized. This will open up opportunities for funding to help pay for this. Staff is tight. She hopes we have volunteers to help pick up some of this.*

*Mr. Myers said that the resolution in packet is not the same resolution as on the screen. Mr. Lindsey said we need motion and it can refer to the December 9<sup>th</sup> redline version.*

**MOTION** Mr. Myers moved, seconded by Ms. Dorothy amend the resolution to the December 9<sup>th</sup> redline version as amended and if passed, instruct the Clerk to journalize a clean version of that redlined amended resolution.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 77-2019 (As Amended) passed by a voice vote.**

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

### Policy Item(s)

- Application for State Capital Bill Funding for McCord Park

*Mr. Greeson detailed how this is the time of the year where we have an opportunity to apply for Capital Bill funds. He recommends authorizing staff to submit an application for McCord Park which is the type of project eligible given past practices of the state legislature. This project has been a priority and CIP funding is not sufficient to cover the full master plan costs. Council may have questions about how this interacts with SwimInc and the fact that in a recent presentation, it was suggested one way to accomplish providing funding for the pools would be a reduction in areas including McCord Park. If McCord is reduced, we do not suggest reducing all of it, we need to move forward with some commitments. If we break McCord Park into phases, the Capital Bill funding would allow for more comprehensive phases.*

*Mr. Robinson brought up the State funding for SwimInc and if that would need to be spent before we receive more State funds. Mr. Greeson said we were not the applicant or recipient of those State funds for the pools, that was SwimInc. SwimInc has the opportunity to figure out how to draw down those funds. This would be the City of Worthington asking for Capital Bill dollars and they would be allocated to us. They are two separate entities, and two separate grants.*

*Mr. Myers said he thinks that \$1 million may be too modest an ask.*

*Mr. Greeson explained how the amount depends on the amounts requested and amounts allocated to this region. The bottom line is that any dollars we get will be well used and benefit Worthington citizens to move park improvements forward.*

**MOTION** Mr. Myers moved, seconded by Ms. Dorothy to authorize staff to apply for State Capital Bill funds for \$1 million.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

- Financial Report - November 2019

*Mr. Robinson asked how this compares to the budgeted amounts for revenue. Mr. Bartter responded it is within approximate 1%. We are above projections.*

*Mr. Greeson presented that we are likely to end the year at the 50% level and the Fund Balance Policy requires us to schedule discussion about that. Interesting thing, we will probably disperse monies to the Northwest Center early in the year and rapidly take ourselves back under that 50% mark. President Michael requested that discussion be set as an agenda item in January.*

**MOTION** Mr. Foust moved, Mr. Myers seconded a motion to accept the November 2019 Financial Report as presented.

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

*President Michael brought up an email that the City received from Lauren Rummel with Franklin County. She is not sure if something council wants to move forward with stating that Worthington wants to be a refugee friendly community.*

*Mr. Robinson asked if we have capacity to draft and send letter before the deadline.*

*Ms. Dorothy mentioned how WIFA is supposed to foster friendships. She believes it is appropriate we look at this.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk asked if we could have someone come speak to this.*

*Mr. Lindsey explained how there is some political discussion nationwide about this. There are some who would argue that the executive order is contrary to the law. Some have taken the view that they do not need to comply because it is not lawful. There is some value in acknowledging and indicating the City's welcoming of any such refugees the State Department was going to place. He would suggest if want to do something, we would need a motion and the Council President sign the letter.*

*Mr. Myers said he is not familiar with this executive order and there could be some constitutional issues. Mr. Lindsey will forward further information and the text of the executive order.*

*Mr. Foust requested some plain English what this means if we do or do not.*

*President Michael detailed how she received a message from Mr. Lindsey about how our agreement with the SRO will renew for one more year.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk said that this should be on the agenda in early January to discuss what is going on.*

*Ms. Dorothy said she thought we were going to talk about it too and have more data about what is going on a daily basis. We were looking to see some more concrete information and she would like a conversation.*

*Mr. Lindsey clarified that we will discuss this in January, but the contract will automatically renew for another year before that discussion.*

*President Michael discussed having a joint meeting with the Municipal Planning Commission/Architectural Review Board, and she got some wonderful thoughts back on that. Mr. Greeson said in review of some of the feedback, the question is, what is the desired outcome of this meeting and what do we need to prepare for the meeting. The types of things we have heard back indicates a fair number of things that are educational including training in codes and guidelines.*

*There has been some discussion about bringing in people to do that anyways in the coming year as a support and training opportunity for our boards and commissions. That might be beneficial to Council as well.*

*Mr. Myers said we have talked about this for a long time, but he does not know what a joint meeting is going to do. The idea to sit down and have training is more viable. We seem to be in a rush to get a whole bunch done in January and he just wants to say slow down. We should ask staff to prepare a recommendation about what this joint meeting would look like. If it involves training, what does that look like and who would it entail. We have a lot on the plate in January and he would like the first Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the retreat. He has not been satisfied that the retreats have accomplished everything they are supposed to accomplish. That is best had at a COW meeting.*

*President Michael said she is hearing to hold back on the joint meeting with the MPC/ARB.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk said she heard we would like to have more discussion and a proposal of what it would look like and what goals we are looking to accomplish.*

*President Michael asked that at the Committee of the Whole meeting there be a presentation from staff on an MPC/ARB meeting. Mr. Greeson said he would like to spend a little time debriefing with President Michael and talk to all the people who would participate about what they want out of the experience.*

*Mr. Robinson said the desired outcome of the process in engaging in with MPC/ARB is to have a common understanding about the best practices of MPC/ARB. He would be open to an initial meeting where individual members give their experiences. Perhaps Mr. Brown could give an overview of the process and how it currently works.*

*President Michael read a list of items from Mr. Coulter that he would like to see discussed.*

## **REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Mr. Myers said he had opportunity to meet with Edwin Hoffman of MPC who introduced him to an individual who has spent years researching and writing on issue of the “Not in My Backyard” (NIMBYs). She gives presentations where her approach is not good or bad, but she explains that we are all uncertain about change in the future and that creates fear and how does that fear enter into the decision-making process. That fear is real and has to be recognized. It seems to him something maybe the Visioning Committee would want to hear about. He wanted to let Council know he had made that connection and it may be something we want to hear one day.*

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk moved, Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss board and commission appointments.

**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 9:09 p.m. from the Regular meeting session

**MOTION** Mr. Myers moved, Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to return to open session at 9:23 p.m.

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

**Resolution No. 78-2019** Re-appointing Members to Various City Boards and Commissions.

**Introduced by Mr. Myers.**

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 78-2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 78-2019 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Smith seconded a motion to adjourn.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

/s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt  
Management Assistant

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

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
Council President