



**CITY OF WORTHINGTON**  
**Worthington City Council Minutes**

March 2, 2020

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, March 2, 2020, 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 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Peter Bucher, Rachael R. Dorothy, 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 Personnel Lori Trego, Director of Service & Engineering Dan Whited, Director of Planning & Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Police Robert Ware, Acting Chief of Fire & EMS Mark Zambito, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress, Management Assistant Ethan Barnhardt

There were approximately 38 visitors present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*President Michael invited all to stand and join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.*

**VISITOR COMMENTS**

*There were no visitor comments.*

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- American Legion - 100th Anniversary of Memorial Day Parade

*Mr. Lippert explained how he is a co-director of the Worthington Memorial Day Parade and this is going to be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parade. It was first started in 1919 by the Daughters of the American Revolution and it has been going on continuously since.*

*The Worthington American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post is named after the first Worthington casualty from both World War I and World War II. This year they will have the McDonalds All American Alumni Band participating with people coming from 33 different states to march in our parade. This is a great opportunity for the community to put their best foot forward. To date they have 27 groups signed up to march in the parade and that number usually tops over 100. Since this is their 100<sup>th</sup> year, they are looking for any ideas from Council and City leadership to learn how to get more youth involvement in the parade.*

*Mr. Greeson added that from a staff standpoint, it is a great blessing to work with the Post each year to perform an important function, honoring those who lost their life in service and continuing a great Worthington tradition.*

*President Michael expressed her thanks and applauded the Post for doing such an outstanding job.*

*Ms. Dorothy thanked the Post for organizing the parade and for conducting the ceremony after the parade. The Circle of Honor is being rebuilt to make sure it honors everyone. The Post works with the cemetery to ensure that it looks beautiful. She conveyed how it would be great to have more youth and people attend the ceremony after the parade.*

*Mr. Lippert brought up that Mayor Holmes has agreed to be the keynote speaker this year.*

- Good Neighbor Award

**Resolution No. 11-2020**

To Congratulate Seth and Liam Keasel on Their Recognition as Recipients of the 2019 Good Neighbor Award from the Worthington Community Relations Commission.

**Introduced by Mr. Bucher.**

**MOTION**

Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 11-2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

**There being no comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 11-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 12-2020**

To Congratulate George and Michelle Geissbuhler on Their Recognition as Recipients of the 2019 Good Neighbor Award from the Worthington Community Relations Commission.

**Introduced by Mr. Myers.**

**MOTION** Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 12-2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 12-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

*Mr. Pauline reminded everyone that the Community Relations Commission (CRC) has been presenting the Good Neighbor Award annually since 1993 to thank community members that promote cooperation and goodwill throughout their neighborhood. While it is an honor to receive this award, we should also bring attention to those that do the nominating for this honor. We are all busy people, and to take the time in order to recognize one of your neighbors is noteworthy. The CRC hopes people participate in this process to ensure that those serving our community and neighbors are appropriately recognized. He described how Seth and Liam were nominated by Lynn and Nick Masucci, and George and Michelle were nominated by John and Leslie Cross. He thanked them for taking the time to recognize their neighbors.*

Mr. Pauline read the text of Resolution No. 11-2020 and Resolution No. 12-2020 in their entirety and presented all with certified copies.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2020
- Meeting Minutes (Special) – February 18, 2020
- Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2020

**MOTION** Mr. Bucher moved, and Ms. Kowalczyk seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

**The motion to approve the minutes as presented carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

#### **NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

**Resolution No. 13-2020** Appointing Members to Various City Boards and Commissions.

**Introduced by Mr. Smith.**

**MOTION** Mr. Myers made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 13-2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

*President Michael stated that the appointees include Susan Hinz to the Architectural review Board, Alan McKnight to the Parks and Recreation Commission, and Rebecca Green to the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 13-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 14-2020**

Adopting a Job Description for the Position of Support Services Technician, Amending the Staffing Chart and Pay Resolution to Accommodate Said Position, Authorizing the City Manager to Appoint at a Starting Rate in Excess of Step B for Support Services Technician and Authorizing a Shift Differential for this Position.

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson.**

**MOTION** Mr. Bucher made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 14-2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

*Mr. Greeson explained how we are working through the transition of our dispatching services to the Northwest Center. This resolution is creating new positions in the Division of Police for administrative support.*

*Ms. Trego explained how this resolution gives the City Manager discretion to appoint qualified individuals at step C and D of the pay range. The positions will be open to current communications technicians with experience. The selection process is anticipated to begin this spring in preparation for this transition.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 14-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 15-2020**

Adopting a Job Description for Assistant Director/Parks and Recreation Superintendent and Amending the Staffing Chart to Accommodate Said Position.

**Introduced by Mr. Smith.**

**MOTION** Mr. Myers made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

*Mr. Greeson detailed how when the City has a vacancy or anticipated retirement it is customary to review the job description and assess current organizational needs. Mr. Hurley has an important upcoming vacancy stemming from the retirement of the long time Recreation Superintendent.*

*Mr. Hurley explained how Holly Keller is retiring in March after 30 years with the Parks and Recreation Department. This reworked position will decrease in salary a little bit and will be restructured to provide more support for himself. This transition will also help to*

*oversee the Griswold Center and the Community Center. He envisions Parks and Recreation Superintendent will become a little more universal. He plans to come back to look at the Community Center Manager further down the line.*

*Ms. Dorothy asked about how many fulltime and part-time employees that Parks and Recreation has. Mr. Hurley answered that they have 23 full time positions, and the part-time and seasonal employment varies, but at any given time there are 70 to 100 part-time staff. Ms. Dorothy expressed how people enjoy the many programs offered at the community center. It is a very difficult task and she appreciates all of Mr. Hurley's work. Mr. Hurley explained how he hopes there is a promotional opportunity in this transition.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 16-2020**

Amending the Personnel Rules and Regulations of the City of Worthington to include a Sexual Abuse and Molestation Prevention Policy

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson.**

**MOTION**

Mr. Bucher made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 16-2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

*Mr. Greeson presented how the City has property and casualty insurance and the carrier from a risk management standpoint has recommended adopting a sexual abuse and molestation prevention policy. This is comprised of best practices to make sure those activities do not occur. Our staff have worked to develop the policy that is included in the agenda tonight. If adopted, we will spend time educating employees about the policy and conducting training.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk asked how this new policy differs from what is currently going on. Ms. Trego said that there was not a formal policy previously. This is comprehensive, providing guidelines for supervising minors and extensive training requirements for employees and volunteers. Ms. Kowalczyk said when looking at references to mandatory reporting requirements, she wondered if we can also include elder abuse and neglect within this policy. Mr. Lindsey responded that it is a good suggestion, but staff needs to look at whether it would be best to incorporate that within this policy or draft a separate standalone policy.*

*Ms. Dorothy explained that considering the training and reporting, it will be positive having people be more cognizant about things such as human trafficking. She is pleased we will have training. These things are happening in the community around us.*

*Mr. Hurley noted some of these new policies were taken from existing policies. Training has previously existed dealing with detecting child abuse and reporting procedures.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 16-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Ordinance No. 08-2020**                      Establishing Compensation for the Vice Mayor of the Municipality of Worthington.

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson.**

**Ordinance No. 09-2020**                      To Amend the Official Zoning Map of the City of Worthington, Ohio, to Change Zoning of Certain Land from the R-10 District and S-1 District to the C-3 District (Southwest corner of Larrimer Avenue & High Street and Larrimer & Longfellow Avenue)

**Introduced by Mr. Bucher.**

**MOTION**                      Mr. Myers made a motion to refer Ordinance No. 09-2020 to the Municipal Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Ordinance No. 10-2020**                      To Amend Section 1123.73 to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington to add a definition of Transient Guest to the Tourist Home definition found in the Definition Section of the Planning & Zoning Code.

**Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk.**

**MOTION**                      Ms. Dorothy made a motion to refer Ordinance No. 10-2020 to the Municipal Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Ordinance No. 11-2020**                      To Amend Section 1174.05(c)(B) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington to amend the caliper inch fee associated with the Natural Features section of the Development Standards and Development Standards Text Found in the Planned Unit Development.

**Introduced by Mr. Smith.**

**MOTION** Mr. Myers made a motion to refer Ordinance No. 11-2020 to the Municipal Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Ordinance No. 12-2020** Amending Ordinance 46-2019 to Establish Compensation for the Unclassified Position of Assistant Director/Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

**Introduced by Mr. Myers.**

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**

- Permission to Bid – Community Center Swimming Pool Diamond Brite Replacement

*Mr. Greeson explained how we need Council's permission to bid for replacing the Diamond Brite surface on the bottom of the pool at the Community Center. This will complete the remainder of the leisure pool. We did the lazy river last year. If the bids are sufficient, we will also do the lap pool.*

*President Michael asked whether this would be completed during the shutdown? Mr. Hurley said that it would be.*

*Mr. Robinson asked about the lifecycle of the surface. Mr. Hurley said it should be good for 15-20 years. Currently we have had about 17 years from the current surfacing. Mr. Robinson asked how many vendors provide this surface. Mr. Hurley responded there are lots of vendors who build pools, but finding people willing to do smaller amounts of work can be a challenge. He is hoping that the size of this project will draw more interest. The problem is that a lot of pools want this work done during the same timeframe. Mr. Robinson asked if we could get warranties for this work. Mr. Hurley said that is not typical, but you can typically see what the quality of the work is. The issue is more about the initial application.*

*President Michael asked if this helps us preserve the walls and floors of the pools. Mr. Hurley said it is more about the aesthetics. It impacts a lot of how the pool looks. With bad diamond brite it becomes abrasive. You do not want a pool without diamond brite.*

**MOTION** Ms. Dorothy made a motion to authorize the City Manager to bid the project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

*Mr. Greeson discussed planning for the upcoming City Council retreat. There has been some discussion about start times with it being proposed to begin on Friday at 5:30 pm and 8:30 am start on Saturday. They will be working with the facilitator to put together a more detailed agenda.*

*He forecasted to Council some of the proposed upcoming Committee of the Whole topics. He proposed discussing next week the potential Joint Recreation District and having POD Designs to talk more about McCord Park. In April we plan to have in our consultants to talk about the recent waterline study. We will be distributing an analysis completed of Rush Run and we will have Sustainable Streams here to talk about Rush Run and the proposed Huntley Bowl project.*

## **REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Mr. Bucher asked when Council would see the retreat agenda. Mr. Greeson said it should be by next Monday.*

*Ms. Kowalczyk explained how the Worthington Partnership is hosting Worthington First Wednesday. This month is national reading month, so the theme is reading. She encouraged everyone to attend. She brought up how everyone should get tickets for the Slice of Worthington honoring all the pizza places in town and raising money for feedworthingtonkids.org. Councilmembers should be on the lookout for an invitation to the annual meeting for the Partnership on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Griswold Center.*

*Ms. Dorothy said that WIFA is starting to coordinate getting a citizen's delegation together to travel to Sayama. There is an information seminar planned for March 18<sup>th</sup> to talk about what the opportunities and responsibilities are.*

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **MOTION**

Mr. Bucher moved, Ms. Kowalczyk seconded a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, economic development negotiations, appointment and compensation of personnel.

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

**Yes    7        Robinson, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Bucher, Kowalczyk, Michael**

**No       0**

Council recessed at 8:20 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

### **MOTION**

Mr. Myers moved, Mr. Smith seconded a motion to return to open session at 9:23 p.m.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** Ms. Dorothy moved, Mr. Myers seconded a motion to adjourn.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

/s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt  
Management Assistant

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

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
Council President