City of Worthington

and

Sharon Township

Joint Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 5, 2014 ~ 7:30 P.M.

Worthington Municipal Building
The John P. Coleman Council Chamber
6550 North High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085

Worthington City Council
Bonnie D. Michael, President
Robert F. Chosy, President Pro-Tem
Rachael Dorothy
Scott Myers
David M. Norstrom
Douglas Smith
Michael C. Troper

D. Kay Thress, Clerk of Council

Sharon Township Trustees
Lori Gerald, Chairman
John Oberle
Phillip Smith

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance:

Worthington City Council met in Joint Session on Monday, May 5, 2014, in the John P. Coleman Council Chambers of City Hall, 6550 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 P.M.

City Council Members Present: Robert F. Chosy. Rachael R. Dorothy, Scott Myers, David Norstrom, Douglas K. Smith, Michael C. Troper, and Bonnie D. Michael

Sharon Township Trustees Present: John Oberle, and Lori Gerald

Member(s) Absent: Phillip Smith

Also present: Clerk of Council Kay Thress, City Manager Matthew Greeson, Director of Law Pamela Fox, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Finance Molly Roberts, Director of Parks and Recreation Darren Hurley, Director of Service and Engineering William Watterson, Director of Planning and Building Lee Brown, Chief of Police James Mosic, and Chief of Fire Scott Highley

There were twenty four visitors present.

President Michael invited those in attendance to stand and join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Ms. Michael acknowledged there being a revised Resolution No. 14-2014 at members places this evening. She reported it being the one that members will vote on shortly.

Resolution No. 14-2014 Levying Tax for the Maintenance of Union Cemetery dba Walnut Grove and Flint Road Cemetery for the Tax Collection Year 2015.

Introduced by Dr. Chosy.

Motion A motion was made by Mr. Myers to adopt Resolution No. 14-2014. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oberle.

Ms. Fox explained that for the past many, many years, this resolution has read pretty much exactly as the version that members received in their packets. She shared that as a result of the recent annexation of the Segna property at the corner of Linworth Rd. and StRt-161, and the type of annexation it was (type 2), the annexed property will remain in Perry Township. Therefore the "WHEREAS" clauses of this particular resolution needed to be amended to reflect the fact that Worthington is no longer entirely within Sharon Township but that it now is primarily within the bounds of Sharon Township and that property owners of the city of Worthington parcels that are situated within Sharon

Township will pay the same rate as the other residents of the Township. Staff wanted to make those changes to reflect that current annexation situation.

Ms. Michael invited Mr. Courtney Chapman, Chair of the Cemetery Board to address the City Council and Township Trustees.

Mr. Chapman shared a PowerPoint with the group, the highlights of which are listed below.

- Board is requesting the continuation of the 5/10 of 1 mill to fund the work of the cemetery
- Recent briefing from Mr. Greeson who shared about trends in central Ohio. He suggested that there will be changes in the ethnic mix within the community. The Board will continue to work at sensitivity to all ethnic cultures.

Mr. Chapman shared that they recently had their first Muslim burial.

- Memorial Day parade ends each year at the Circle of Honor at Walnut Grove cemetery. Everyone is invited to join them for the Memorial Day service after the parade.

<u>Accomplishments</u>

- Website redesigned and includes detailed maps and pricing. Important part is that families can now find their way to where loved ones are buried.
- Walnut Grove Creek Erosion Abatement – This past year staff was able to provide some stabilization of the creek walls when the sewer work was being done.
- Lot pinning and Perimeter Planting Plan – important because it provides the boundaries for where cemetery plots are so a map can be developed. This is a big job in surveying to get the right points. Weeds were removed and one of the volunteers is currently developing a plan for replanting the entire area. The entire process will take several years to complete.
- Flint Children's Garden Dedication – celebrated the opening of the Children's Garden this past year. It is a very special and unique design. It is one of a kind. There is also an art piece and a sensory garden.
- Flint Cremation Niche & Prairie Scattering Garden – 50 niches included in the Columbarium. Prairie vegetation area is an outdoor scattering area for those who don't wish to be buried. Their names can be etched into the large stone beside the prairie.
- Tree Assessment & Inventory – This was a big deal!
    - Walnut Grove started in 1859. Many of those trees are reaching the end of their life cycle. We have been caring for trees reactively. There are 707 trees in Walnut Grove. All have been assessed, documented and identified. Now we can be proactive and develop an on-purpose tree maintenance program. Important because our contractor valued these

trees at $2,400,000. We now have an obligation to take care of that resource.

- Flint Road has 144 trees that are currently valued around $250,000.

Mr. Chapman added that the trees are an important community resource that is important for us to maintain.

Mr. Chapman commented that he likes to use the word "we" and it sounds like he really had something to do with all of this stuff and all of the accomplishments at the cemeteries. Actually when he uses the word "we", what he is thinking about is city council, township trustees, all of the staff members of both jurisdictions. You are the ones that oversee this resource. It is a great resource for our community. In addition to you all, there are many in the trenches that are doing the real work. We are very fortunate to have 1 ½ full-time people at the cemeteries who are just outstanding. We also have an advisory committee of citizens who have been volunteering their time and efforts for some ten years or so. We would not have been able to accomplish what we have without those volunteers. He again requested the approval of this resolution.

Dr. Chosy shared that he has served as City Council's representative to the Cemetery Board for a number of years now. The people who run this organization are just first class. Worthington and Sharon Township are definitely getting their money's worth.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously and Resolution No. 14-2014 is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Joint Meeting, President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

APPROVED by the City Council, this 19th day of May, 2014.

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President of Council