



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

January 6, 2020

6550 N. High Street
Worthington, Ohio
43085

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, January 6, 2020, in the John P. Coleman Council Chambers of the Louis J.R. Goorey Municipal Building, 6550 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio. Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Thress invited all those in attendance to stand and join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Mrs. Thress welcomed former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton to administer the oath of office to the newly elected Councilmembers.

Justice Stratton gave brief remarks about her background and explained her appreciation for the City Council and how citizens can be engaged with their Councilmembers. It is democracy at its most basic and responsible.

Justice Stratton administered the oath of office to Mr. Peter Bucher.

Justice Stratton administered the oath of office to Ms. Bonnie Michael.

Justice Stratton administered the oath of office to Mr. Doug Smith.

ROLL CALL

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

Member(s) Absent:

Also present: City Manager Matthew Greeson, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Law Tom Lindsey, Director of Finance Scott Bartter, Director of Planning & Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Fire &

EMS John Bailot, Chief of Police Robert Ware, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress,
Management Assistant Ethan Barnhardt

There were 21 visitors present.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mrs. Thress detailed the process for electing a new President of the Worthington City Council in accordance with the newly adopted guidelines for the organizational meeting.

Councilmember nominations for President of Council are as follows:

David Robinson nominated Doug Smith

Rachael Dorothy nominated Bonnie Michael

Scott Myers nominated Bonnie Michael

Bonnie Michael nominated Bonnie Michael

Pete Bucher nominated Rachael Dorothy

Beth Kowalczyk nominated Bonnie Michael

Doug Smith nominated Rachael Dorothy

Mrs. Thress explained that the top two vote recipients, Ms. Michael and Ms. Dorothy each have five minutes to provide a brief statement about their interest in serving as President of Council.

Ms. Dorothy expressed her thanks to the Councilmembers who voted for, but she is not looking forward to being President of Council. Her vote was to have Ms. Michael become President of Council. She wants to serve the community to the best of her ability as a member of Council.

Ms. Michael thanked the Councilmembers for their support over the past two years and welcomed the new Councilmember Peter Bucher. She explained how Worthington continues to be a leading community in Ohio, working from a sound base to address the challenges of 2020 and beyond. Moving forward, Council plays a central role and through the retreat, Councilmembers will be able to determine the top priorities for the community over the next year. As she has demonstrated previously, she will support including priority projects from the retreat into Council agendas along with other Council initiated issues. If she is re-elected as President of Council, she pledges to maintain a positive working relationship with Councilmembers, include residents in our deliberations, and promote civility in our dialogue with each other and Worthington residents.

2020 promises to be a challenging year, but we are up to the task. She highlighted some of the challenges including the budget priorities considering the closures of Anthem, the Holiday Inn, and the Worthington Inn. Development will be at the forefront of this upcoming term. Planning for the construction of the Northeast Gateway will be important. Key initiatives such as the transfer of 911 call answering to the Northwest Regional Communications Center affect quality of life in our community. Community wide consensus on some of these projects may be unlikely, so it is Council's duty to listen to all perspectives and strive towards a resolution to bring our community forward. Since she is self-employed, she will be able to meet the commitments necessary to be Council President. In addition, she will continue to have individual meetings with each Councilmember on a regular basis to understand their thoughts and concerns.

Moving forward we need to make sure Council continually reaches out to our residents for their involvement, input, feedback, and support. She pledges to continue to reach out to the community, address constituent concerns, provide useful connections, and conduct Council meetings so that residents who speak before us feel their voices are heard. We all care deeply about the City of Worthington. She asked for the support to continue taking on the challenges before us together. As President of Council, she believes she has brought leadership, respect, fairness, hard work, and balance to the table.

Councilmember votes for President of Council are as follows:

Pete Bucher voted for Rachael Dorothy

Beth Kowalczyk voted for Bonnie Michael

Bonnie Michael voted for Bonnie Michael

Doug Smith voted for Rachael Dorothy

Scott Myers voted for Bonnie Michael

David Robinson voted for Rachael Dorothy

Rachael Dorothy voted for Bonnie Michael

Mrs. Thress declared that Ms. Michael has been elected as President of Council.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Justice Stratton administered the oath of office to Ms. Michael.

Mrs. Thress relinquished her role as temporary chair and turned the meeting over to President Michael.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO-TEM OF COUNCIL

President Michael explained that the same procedures would be followed for the election of President Pro-Tem of Council that were followed for the selection of the President of Council.

Doug Smith nominated Scott Myers

Bonnie Michael nominated Scott Myers

Scott Myers nominated Scott Myers

Rachael Dorothy nominated Scott Myers

Beth Kowalczyk nominated Scott Myers

Pete Bucher nominated Scott Myers

David Robinson nominated Doug Smith

Mr. Myers thanked those who nominated him. He explained how he will do three things when he serves. He will serve with integrity; you will always know where he stands on the issues. He will be prepared and show up and do his work. He will serve with open-mindedness, he will listen, and will not prejudge things. He will challenge and he hopes he will be challenged. Only through spirited debate can we have appropriate result. He will continue to build bridges, seek compromise and common ground on the important issues we will face over the next two years. This will be his eighteenth year of service to the City of Worthington, it has been a lot of work and he hopes to continue that service over the next two years as President Pro-Tem.

Mr. Smith expressed his thanks for the nomination. He said that as far as leadership goes, a lot will be determined by the Visioning Process that was kicked off last year. He stated that he is not seeking the nomination.

Councilmember votes for President Pro-Tem of Council are as follows:

Beth Kowalczyk voted for Scott Myers

Bonnie Michael voted for Scott Myers

Doug Smith voted for Scott Myers

Pete Bucher voted for Scott Myers

Scott Myers voted for Scott Myers

Rachael Dorothy voted for Scott Myers

David Robinson voted for Scott Myers

OATH OF OFFICE FOR PRESIDENT PRO-TEM OF COUNCIL

Justice Stratton administered the oath of office to Mr. Myers.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

President Michael said she would entertain nominations for Mayor of the City of Worthington.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Dorothy and seconded by Mr. Robinson to re-appoint Scott Holmes as Mayor of the City of Worthington.

There being no additional nominees, nominations were closed.

The motion to re-appoint Scott Holmes to serve as Mayor of the City of Worthington carried unanimously by a voice vote.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR MAYOR

Justice Stratton administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Holmes.

Mayor Holmes expressed his thanks to the Councilpersons who have supported him. Mayor of Worthington is the best job in the world.

President Michael explained how Vice Mayor Lorimer has decided to retire from his City duties. Council will discuss the process they will undertake to appoint a Vice Mayor. She expressed her thanks to Vice Mayor Lorimer for his years of service and how a committee will be putting together a celebration for him.

DESIGNATION OF CLERK OF COUNCIL AS COUNCIL MEMBERS' DESIGNEE FOR OPEN RECORDS CERTIFICATION

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Myers and seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to appoint the Clerk of Council as Councilmembers' designee for open records certification.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

/s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt
Management Assistant

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
21ST day of January, 2020.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President