



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council 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. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 8:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Pete 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, Director of Law Tom Lindsey, Director of Finance Scott Bartter, Director of Service & Engineering Dan Whited, Director of Planning & Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Fire John Bailot, Chief of Police Robert Ware, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress, Management Assistant Ethan Barnhardt

There were 12 visitors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Michael waived reciting the Pledge of Allegiance since it had just been done for the Organizational Meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

- Oath of Office – Police Chief Robert Ware

Mr. Greeson explained how we went through a thorough process to find the City's next Chief of Police and he is pleased to administer the oath of office to Robert Ware. Mr. Greeson detailed Chief Ware's background and qualifications.

Mr. Greeson administered the oath of office to Chief Ware.

Chief Ware introduced his family members who are in the audience here to support him tonight. He explained how he is humbled and how he comes from humble beginnings and was the first to go to college in his family. Hard work and dedication are why he is sitting here today. It is a testament to his children of what they can do when putting their mind to something, and it is the reward for the sacrifices that they endured, and he endured to get to this point. He is honored to have the chance to build relationships here and work hard for the people of Worthington. He hopes to bring vigor and energy to the men and women in the Worthington Division of Police. He has already been impressed in his short time here by the officers that on the street.

President Michael welcomed Chief Ware aboard.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2019 (Joint Meeting)
- Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2019
- Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2019 (Special Meeting)
- Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2019
- Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2019

MOTION Mr. Robinson moved and Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to approve the aforementioned 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. 01-2020 Approving Funding to Worthington Community Groups for the 2020 Community Grant Program.

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

MOTION Mr. Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 01-2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

Mr. Greeson explained how Council budgets dollars for several small grants for community organizations that encompass Council priorities. A committee was appointed to review grant applications, with the total dollar ask being quite a bit more than the dollars budgeted. Ms. Kowalczyk and Mr. Smith reviewed those applications and made recommendations for funding which are included in the Council packet.

Ms. Kowalczyk conveyed it was a good process, and we had a little more money this year, so there could be some increases provided. One deviation was for Leadership Worthington where they wanted to give them some flexibility to restart their leadership class. It was decided to let them determine how best to spend those dollars, and we did not want to restrict their ability to use those funds.

Mr. Smith explained the committee got together their ideas about what funding should be given to whom and came to a consensus based on that conversation which is expressed in the numbers here.

Ms. Dorothy thanked everyone on the committee, expressing how it is a hard decision process between many worthy organizations.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 01-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Mr. Greeson conveyed his congratulations to those who were sworn in tonight.

Mrs. Thress reported still needing responses from several Councilmembers on retreat dates.

REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Robinson reported on his attendance last October at the National Trust for Historic Preservation PastForward conference. He described how the National Trust for Historic Preservation describes themselves as leading the movement for saving Americas historic places. He came away from the conference with a broader understanding of what historic preservation is and how it is about far more than physical objects alone. It is about our lives today and how we shape our shared future. On a personal level, person-place relationships can create a sense of belonging and of being part of something bigger than oneself. He was surprised to hear terms used in the context of preservation which helped him think about the ways that different ideas can be brought together. On a societal level preservation can provide spaces that give a common identity. An aspect of preservation is the role in helping to write a truthful history and the issue of writing history is not an academic topic but one of relevance today. If you doubt the importance and power of history, look at how governments seek to control the telling of it.

He brought up a program that will be aired on PBS this year called The Power of Place which examines multiple communities losing historic buildings including Tulsa, Oklahoma and Pilsen, Chicago and the loss of culture born out of community. He described how during the movie, he became aware of Dr. Mindy Fullilove and a paper she wrote describing the effects of forced relocation, extending her analysis to issues affecting all of us in a changing world.

In closing, preservation is about buildings, but only as the physical element whole way of looking at life and one's own place in stream of time. It is a reminder of the responsibility to pay it forward and to create something others in the future see worth preserving. He closed his thoughts asserting that as we enter 2020, we as a community and Council will

face many decisions this year that will impact Worthington and our sense of belonging in this place.

Ms. Dorothy said her report dovetails with Mr. Robinson's and that she wanted to speak about attending the National Walking Summit in Columbus and the Summit on Sustainability hosted by MORPC. The National Walking Summit featured a keynote talk about how pedestrians are marginalized in society today and how we are all pedestrians. She took one breakout session which was a walking tour of Franklinton where she had an opportunity to travel on the COTA circulator. There were discussions about our current single use zoning versus form-based codes. They advocated looking at sense of place and allowing for more diverse mixed use that enables getting around on foot. ODOT has a new bike and pedestrian Walk Bike Ohio rolling out this year with goals of safety, equity, economic health, preservation, and partnerships.

The Summit on Sustainability keynote showed visualizations of the CO2 produced per household and how we can decrease CO2 emissions through different modes of transportation. There was discussion about walkable communities being more attractive to young professionals and older people. Insight 2050 scenarios were covered where growth focused on infield development versus communities taking over farmland that surrounds us. It can result in reduced vehicle miles driven and lower infrastructure costs. Reynoldsburg, Whitehall, and Dublin have rewritten their zoning codes to allow for mixed use with the hope that it will spur economic growth in their communities.

Mr. Myers reminded Council that this Thursday night at the Municipal Planning Commission/Architectural Review Board meeting, it will be National Church Residences part two.

Mr. Bucher thanked the community for giving him this opportunity and he thanked his family. He expressed his appreciation to City staff for taking the time to get him up to speed.

President Michael thanked staff for all of their hard work and Councilmembers for all their work together. She is looking forward to 2020 and beyond to bring the community forward in positive ways.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION Mr. Bucher moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss the appointment of public officials.

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

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

Council recessed at 8:42 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION Ms. Dorothy moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to return to open session at 9:26 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Ms. Smith moved, Ms. Kowalczyk seconded a motion to adjourn.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:26 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