



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council Minutes
July 6, 2020

6550 N. High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Worthington City Council met remotely in Regular Session on Monday, July 6, 2020, via Microsoft Teams video conference. 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 Finance Scott Bartter, Director of Service & Engineering Dan Whited, Director of Planning & Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Police Robert Ware, Chief of Fire & EMS Mark Zambito, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- Dr. Mysheika Roberts – COVID19-Update

Ordinance No. 30-2020

To Enact New Chapter 767 “Face-Coverings” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington to Require the Wearing of Face Coverings during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Declaring an Emergency.

Introduced by Mr. Bucher.

Mr. Greeson described how COVID-19 remains a very serious matter, particularly here in Franklin County which has seen the virus growing. Like many communities across Central Ohio, we have put before Council a consideration of requiring face coverings. Tonight, we have Dr. Mysheika Roberts who is the head of Columbus Public Health. After Dr. Roberts speaks, he is going to ask Law Director Lindsey to walk through the face coverings ordinance and its various provisions.

Dr. Mysheika Roberts – Columbus Public Health

Dr. Roberts explained how she is speaking tonight about COVID and how it is impacting our community and has impacted our community since March right here in Franklin County. Since the start of the pandemic there have been 174 cases of COVID-19 diagnosed among Worthington residents and there have been 33 deaths. 32 out of 33 of the deaths occurred in nursing homes, which is an issue we need to think about. The age range of COVID cases are from 7 to 100. 4% of cases are among healthcare workers. To put these numbers in perspective, there are almost 11,000 cases of COVID-19 in Franklin County. Last week the Governor announced a new coding system for rating counties based on the number of cases, the severity of cases, and hospitalization. There are four different categories, levels one through four, color coded as yellow, orange, red, and purple. Level four and purple is the worst. Seven counties were identified as being in the red, and Franklin County was the only county in the state on a watch list because we were close to being purple. After that, she knew we had to do whatever we could here in our community to try to control the spread of this virus. We had been through a stay-at-home order, and nobody wanted to go back to that. In an effort to keep the virus low, and businesses open, she thought it necessary we have a mandatory mask order and the Mayor of Columbus agreed, signing an executive order on Thursday. She immediately called City Manager Greeson and said that she thought Worthington should consider doing the same.

Given the spread of the virus, you have seen other large and small municipalities in Franklin County issue their own mask requirements. We only have a few tools we can use against the virus at this point in time since we do not have a vaccine. One tool is to wear a face covering because it can prevent the spread of the virus to others. We are finding many people in our community are asymptomatic but have the virus. An asymptomatic 30-year old can visit an older or ailing relative, and that person could get COVID-19 and those individuals can be much more vulnerable. It is important we use one of the three tools we have: wearing a face covering, washing your hands, and keeping six feet away from other people. The only other thing we can do is when we are having symptoms consistent with COVID-19, stay at home and stay away from others until we know whether it is COVID. Face masks are one of the greatest tools we have. She realizes they are not always comfortable, but this is an uncomfortable situation we are all in and a face mask is a minor inconvenience to help us through a difficult time.

Ms. Dorothy stated that she knows we have quite a bit of community spread, and we now have some new testing centers. She asked how people would be able to get access to those new centers. Dr. Roberts replied that Columbus Public Health has been offering testing at their 240 Parsons location for the last four weeks. There are not out of pocket expenses

for the patient. All one has to do is call 614-645-1519 and they can connect that person with testing. It is offered Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. They also take walk and drive-ups if necessary. If someone has health insurance, they will ask for that information and bill their insurance. But there will be no out of pocket expense to the individual or individuals. Though the testing is available and readily accessible, this is not something to test for regularly, unless you develop symptoms or have a reason to get tested such as being exposed to someone and you need to know if you have the virus before working in a nursing home, or seeing an at-risk relative. They do not recommend serial testing for the virus. Ms. Dorothy asked if it was true that if someone donates blood, that the Red Cross when doing the regular screening for your bloodwork, will test for COVID-19 antibodies. Dr. Roberts reported that as being correct, the Red Cross is screening for COVID-19 and that is a benefit of giving blood.

Mr. Robinson asked if Dr. Roberts could explain the criteria that determine whether a county is in red or purple, and what are the effects of going into purple. Dr. Roberts responded that there are currently seven criteria that the state is using to determine the color status or level status. These criteria include looking at a five-day trend and hospitalization rates of new cases of COVID-19. The other metric they look at is the trend of new cases over a seven-day period. She explained that over the last 12 days, the number of new cases we have had here in the Columbus jurisdiction, has been on average 100 per day. One day we had as many as 229 cases reported. That is higher than what we thought was the peak of this pandemic during the shutdown, which is very concerning. They also look at the number of ER visits with COVID-like symptoms and look at the percentage of cases that are in non-congregate settings, not in a nursing home, jail, or prison. Anything over 50% of their cases that are in a non-congregate setting is a trigger. For the three days following the report that the Governor released, Franklin County was at 90, 80, and 87% of our cases were non-congregate. The reason we did not get to the level purple or four is because our hospitalization rate and ICU bed occupancy did not trigger us to go to that next level, but we are very close. She had a conversation with the Governor this morning where she asked him what the state recommends when going to purple. She asked if he would call for a stay-at-home order, and he said they are working out the details.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked if there are settings of locations where many of these cases are occurring. Dr. Roberts replied that the majority of our cases are between the ages of 20 and 39, and they say they do not know where they got the virus from. They did not have a friend or relative with the virus. They are most likely picking up the virus from their daily activities whatever that might be, whether that is going to work, going out to eat, or going to the grocery store.

President Michael asked if anything is showing up in particular neighborhoods having higher clusters or certain parts of the City of Worthington having higher clusters. Dr. Roberts explained they have mapped out the county and they can see where the majority of the cases are. There are certain hotspot areas, with a lot of that driven by nursing home cases. There was a lot of disease activity in long-term care facilities due to having a very vulnerable population along with other reasons. Nursing homes were not necessarily accustomed to isolating patients with infectious disease which was a challenge. We see

certain neighborhoods particularly in Columbus where we know there is a lot of multigenerational housing. Some of our immigrant community is seeing increased cases. If you want to see more information about the maps posted on the website, you can visit columbus.gov/coronavirus.

Mr. Myers asked Dr. Roberts to give the best argument for why masks work. Dr. Roberts detailed how masks work because they cover your nose and mouth where most of your respiratory droplets come from. You can spray droplets when you are not talking and just from breathing through your nose and mouth. The masks create a barrier so when you are talking or breathing, instead of the particles going out into the air and letting someone else inhale them, or letting them land on a surface, they are now trapped in with the mask and not being released into the environment to expose other people. At the beginning of the pandemic, we all heard you do not need to wear a mask unless you are symptomatic or if you are a healthcare provider. We have learned so much about this virus over the past 4 months, and we have had studies done to show the effectiveness of a mask. They can reduce the spread of the virus by as much as 20% just by having that barrier there so you are not spraying your respiratory droplets out in the air and in the community for others to inhale. Mr. Myers asked if it would be correct to say that using a mask is as much or more for the protection of others than it is for himself. Dr. Roberts agreed that is correct and that it is definitely protecting others.

President Michael asked what enforcement mechanisms there are regarding masks. Dr. Roberts explained how in Columbus they have chosen not to use the police to enforce wearing a mask, and that is what she would recommend Worthington do. They are using their public health sanitarians how they use them now. The requirement is to wear a mask when out in public or if they are in an area outside where they cannot guarantee six feet of space between them and someone else. There are exemptions for the Columbus order such as if you are exercising inside or outside, if you have a medical or mental health condition that precludes you from wearing a mask, or for children under six years of age. What they plan to do to make sure people are compliant, is they are going to go into businesses, and if they see multiple customers that are not wearing a mask, they can then cite the business owner. They do not plan to approach or cite individuals. If they see an individual at a crowded location that is not wearing a mask, the intention is to provide education and a mask, but not to cite them. A lot of that has to do with the safety of the public health staff because they are not police. The first citation will always be a warning. If they have to go back and see gross negligence, they will fine the business \$500. The second offense would be a \$1000 fine.

Mr. Bucher asked if in Columbus with their ordinance, whether there are customers coming in that refuse to put on a mask or leave, and is that going to be fielded by the Columbus Public Health team or might the police be looped in. Dr. Roberts said that in Columbus, many grocery stores at least have security, whether CPD or private security, and they could assist. They do not want to have arguments over this, and they do not want to have anyone hurt over this. There is clear data that shows wearing a mask is not only good for our health but for our economy. If we can reduce the number of cases in the community, we can get back to some kind of normal economy faster. Mr. Bucher agreed that is the

right approach. He then asked if there are potential increases after July 4th in the Franklin County area, when would we start seeing confirmed cases or potential increases. Dr. Roberts responded that the incubation period is 2-14 days. After the July 4th weekend with opportunities for people to gather and spread the virus among each other, we are going to start seeing more cases in the next five days, and definitely within the next 10 days.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked if this mask requirement applies when school starts, and will it apply to students in school. Dr. Roberts said that currently the way it is written in Columbus, the schools are exempt. But in the Governor's guidance to schools, he recommends masks, but that is up to the school district to decide. She has made it clear for the Columbus City Schools that they will need to require masks because the disease burden in Columbus is so high.

Mr. Lindsey described how the draft legislation before Council is based off of the working draft that Columbus had on Saturday when he began working on this based on Mr. Greeson's decision to provide something for this meeting rather than waiting until later in the month. We tried to move in a way that would be both appropriate and timely. Our primary consideration was to make sure that we had a mask ordinance that would have the appropriate exceptions to it and the appropriate coverages in terms of who it applies to and addressed the enforcement mechanism. Columbus is planning on doing this not as a criminal enforcement, but as civil enforcement with sanitarians providing warnings and subsequent violations involving a fine, not arrest. This model made sense to both he and Mr. Greeson when looking at how to prepare something. The range of options for communities is limitless in the methods of enforcement. Some have passed resolutions that are merely guidance to the community and others have gone towards making it a criminal offense. Columbus's approach is in the middle with a civil enforcement mechanism. The number of exceptions that exist through the country and these various ordinances vary to different degrees.

Worthington contracts with Columbus Public Health for public health services. So, we wanted to make sure that if they were going to be the enforcement agency, we needed to be consistent with Columbus' ordinance, so the starting point for our ordinance was the Columbus draft. We may at some later date feel it appropriate to make additional adjustments if there are changes that Columbus Public Health deems are important for their enforcement effort or otherwise appropriate from a health standpoint as well. This was not an ordinance we had previously had the opportunity to discuss with City Council, so the drafting of it is without the guidance or direction that sometimes we would do through a work session to understand Council's objectives. The model proposed mirrors Columbus and includes two primary requirements, one is to individuals, one is to businesses. Individuals have a requirement to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when doing various activities, including entering a place of business or waiting in line at a business, or Worthington public facility or building. Also, for public transportation purposes and in certain high-density occupational settings. Workers in long-term care facilities and other healthcare facilities are required to follow the CDC guidance. Any outdoor space where the person is unable to maintain or does not maintain the social distancing at six feet from others, the ordinance requires that you wear a mask

in that setting. There are other cities that have only applied their mask requirements to indoor facilities. The other broad category of requirements involves the businesses that Dr. Roberts had previously indicated. That will be the primary mechanism for enforcement through the sanitarian. There are also quite a few exceptions. There are specific provisions that deal with the schools, indicating they are required to follow the regulations by their governing bodies and the Ohio Department of Education. There is also an exception for facilities owned by the federal, state, and county government. If a facility is owned by the state or county and is located in the City of Worthington, it would be exempt from this order and would have to follow the regulations of that state or county government.

As indicated by Dr. Roberts, the enforcement would be through Columbus Public Health, and violations for a business are first a warning, second \$500 fine, and subsequent violations would be a fine of \$1,000. For individuals, a first violation would simply be a warning. If somebody was not sure of whether they fell within an exception or required to wear a mask, the enforcement process provides they would be given a warning before any action is taken. Any second or subsequent violation, the ordinance does provide a fine of \$25. This is similar to our Tobacco 21 ordinance, which is also enforced by Columbus Public Health. The appeal process, presumably for a second and subsequent violations, would be handled through the process provided for Columbus Public Health. This ordinance does provide a sunset provision which is subject to further discussion. This will remain in effect until December 31st of this year unless either extended, modified, or earlier terminated by a majority vote of City Council. This is drafted as an emergency legislation, so Council will need to take the appropriate vote regarding that, which requires a 6/7 vote. It is set to become effective at 8:00am tomorrow morning consistent with Columbus.

Mr. Robinson brought up the provision about being outdoors and his concern is that the description of others who are not members of their own household might be too narrowly defined. He is thinking about a situation where there might be direct family members who may not be in the household but are direct family members. Another potential scenario would be regarding a personal assistant or healthcare worker that might be helping someone. He wondered if that language might be expanded accordingly. Mr. Lindsey responded that he does not see a problem expanding that. However, he defers to Dr. Roberts as to why they felt household members was the right standard as far as their proposal. Dr. Roberts explained that for the healthcare setting, or health aid helping someone, her thought would be that person should act like a healthcare professional would in someone's home or in a healthcare environment. That means they should always be wearing a face mask even if caring for someone in their home. In this situation, she is imagining it is an older adult or someone likely at high risk for complications. We have to be mindful of household contact and family members. She has told many of her friends as well as the media, it is helpful when you have a group, you have made an agreement to behave in a certain way to protect yourselves.

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Lindsey about businesses and their responsibility in this. He asked whether a business would be in a potential violation if there was a person not in compliance who did not make a transaction of value. He asked would the business be liable for that

or would the violation occur at the point when a transaction takes place. Mr. Lindsey explained that the way it is written is to control at the point of transaction where the business is engaging in that direct action. He was not the original drafter of this, so he is not fully aware of the drafter's rationale. When he read the language of the ordinance as prepared and presented, it would not directly expose the business to a violation for somebody simply walking into their store without a mask. That does not prevent the business from telling that individual they are in violation of the requirements for individuals and therefore telling them they need to leave the store or put on a mask. In terms of businesses being held responsible, that would be a point of transaction. Mr. Robinson said that he would think this would enable businesses to be able to inform their clientele that they are unable to transact business if someone is not wearing a face covering. Mr. Lindsey replied that the business has the ability to provide the rules of engagement within their store, similar to the "No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service" kind of provisions.

Mr. Myers expressed that he is a little concerned about some of the news feeds that we have seen about the disruption in stores when stores have attempted to possibly overhandedly enforce this. He does not want to deputize store clerks to enforce this. As he reads it, if a business fails to enforce the requirement, they can be fined. To him, putting signs up and asking the guests to leave and refusing service is sufficient to constitute enforcement, not forcibly removing that person. Mr. Lindsey explained that the fact a customer refused to leave, does not require the business to do anything. We certainly do not think we ever want those decisions to play out in a confrontational, physical, or threatening manner for either customers or businesses. There are some businesses that aggressively pursue shoplifters, and some do not. He suspects that at some point, people will decide where they do business based on whether they are required to wear a mask. Dr. Roberts expressed that they do not want confrontation that could get ugly. They want the business to do their best to manage it, but not get confrontational, putting their staff at risk. Mr. Myers asked about the ordinance including restaurants, he has a difficult time understanding how to eat dinner with a mask on. Dr. Roberts replied that the ordinance says that someone does not have to wear a mask while eating or drinking. The concept is that someone would wear a mask on entering a restaurant and walking to their table. That person would then take the mask off at their seat. If someone then gets up from the table, they will need to put their mask back on.

Ms. Dorothy asked about whether people need to wear a mask when exercising indoors and outdoors. Dr. Roberts replied that exercise is exempt, whether outside or inside.

President Michael said that she had a question from a resident who is a doula. That person asked whether women delivering babies have to wear a face mask during labor. Dr. Roberts explained that at a hospital setting, what happens is the hospital staff is wearing a mask and the patients do not have to. Although, she has seen some pictures on social media of moms in delivery wearing a mask.

Mr. Bucher asked if there is somebody that is looking to report or notify if the ordinance is not being followed, what are the preferred methods to flag that. Dr. Roberts said for

that person to call 614-645-1519 or email them at coronavirus@columbus.gov. Mr. Greeson noted that if someone calls City Hall, we will make sure to get them those numbers and emails to make sure their concerns are routed into the Columbus Public Health system. We will also be sending out information tomorrow.

Ms. Kowalczyk explained that it sounds like we may need to revisit this to make a few amendments once we look at the final Columbus order and asked Mr. Lindsey if that was correct. Mr. Lindsey responded that his preference is that this evening if Council is generally in agreement with the broad principle and the bulk of the language, in the interest of getting it enacted and beginning to educate the public about this requirement, that Council take action on the ordinance as presented. We can then work both with Columbus's final version of their ordinance and any additional concerns that Council might have. We will plan to bring it back on the third meeting of the month as a clean-up ordinance.

Ms. Thress brought up that Council has received two email since the close of business. The first is from Michael Hock and Elaine Ebright at 1060 Morning street and they are supportive of wearing masks. The second is from Tom Burns at 1006 Kilbourne Drive and he is also in full support of Ordinance 30-2020.

Ray Schmoll – 335 Pinney Drive

Mr. Schmoll explained that he has had quite a few experiences with this. First off, face masks were the only things that have been proven to really be effective against controlling this virus. The thing about it is everyone is looking at ventilators, blood thinners, steroids. But the most cost-effective method to control this would be face masks. We need everyone to wear them. There are plenty of studies that show the efficiencies of facemasks. He thinks the government made a big mistake in the beginning of the pandemic by not making face masks. He shared how Menards requires face masks, but Lowes does not. It is more comfortable to go shopping in Menards. He is in full support of face masks.

Paul Dorothy – 179 Kenbrook Drive

Mr. Dorothy stated that he is in opposition of this ordinance. He would be fully in support if this was a resolution being passed by the City to strongly suggest the use of masks. We already have a good web presence with the City that could be used to drive that resolution and the message contained within that resolution. To make this an ordinance is the definition of government overreach. Let us start with the claim so far that masks can prevent the spread of the virus to others. He read an excerpt from the World Health Organization's June 2020 memo on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19 explaining how that widespread use of masks in the community setting is not supported by direct side effect evidence. The likely disadvantages of the mask by healthy people includes potential increased risk of self-contamination and touching of the eyes with contaminated hands.

He then explained the difficulties of enforcement that are laid out with this. You literally want citizens turning each other in, which does not lead anywhere good. The stipulation of the government determining when you are too close to other people, essentially outlaws dating. Besides that, how is it the government's business who someone associates with. He heard a lot of equivocation about how this ordinance would be enforced. As the Law Director will tell you, the law says what it says, and it is enforced based on what it says. It allows you to literally go up and ask people for their papers, to determine whether or not they are from the same household. If we are looking to already hurt our struggling businesses, putting the burden on business is brutal. He asked how many small businesses do you know in this community that will survive a couple of thousand dollars in fines. You now have a business owner who has to face down a member of the public or face a thousand dollar fine. This seems to be pushed by Columbus Public Health, the same folks enforcing it, which he assumes are taking a cut of the fines. This smells like the red-light camera scam that was inflicted on a lot of cities, including Columbus. That did not turn out well for us either. We cannot take the road where we are turning our citizens against each other. Where we are taking away civil liberties for unproven things and contradictory language in it.

He encouraged passing a resolution that says very much the same thing. Put it on social media and stand behind it. But do not come down on the citizens with this kind of thing when you cannot even keep the junkies from stealing from our cars. Downgrade it to a resolution so we can have something we can all stand behind together rather than creating something that divides the community and turns people against each other.

Ms. Thress explained that Mr. Troper sent in a question about whether you must wear a face mask at the community center if this passes. Mr. Lindsey explained that the provision regarding exercise, someone exercising would not need to wear a mask. He spoke with Mr. Hurley and they would be clarifying some of the current signage regarding masks at their facilities.

Cathy Berger – 2191 Snouffer Road

Ms. Berger wanted to reiterate what the gentleman before her said and asked why we are dividing each other against this. Already when you walk into a store without a mask, you get the eyes at you and it is almost like you have leprosy. The data does not show that COVID-19 is a pandemic in Worthington. She looked at the number today and as of July the 3rd, there have been 29 death in Worthington with 28 of them in one long-term health facility. Unless you have other data, that is what she is showing as the data for COVID-19. She does not see any justification on it. She has a special needs child. They have been here 29 years. They have been through the Worthington school systems. She feels like it is going to be a great divider. People are not going to be happy. She cannot even breathe in the mask anyways; it feels like she is muzzled. She feels like she has seen too many studies in regard to the negative things that have happened with masks already. Cellulitis on the skin. People have headaches. Lungs are compromised. Her son is special needs and cannot wear a mask because he has to wear an oxygen tank. She does not see why we cannot make it, so our citizens are responsible for themselves.

Shawna Moraille – 385 Riley Avenue

Ms. Moraille said that she wanted to make sure that she spoke publicly about passing this ordinance. She feels strong that it needs to be passed. This is a public health emergency. This is not about dividing the country. It is about basic taking care of yourself and the need to be masked up. The Worthington Resource Pantry and the City of Worthington has masks available for the public. She would encourage folks to take a look at a couple of things and make sure it is aligned and looking at childcare facilities. There may be questions there in the future. Maybe the City of Columbus will clarify and what is going to happen in the school district. She knows this has a clause about deferring to the school district. This covers under six, five-year-olds can be in Kindergarten. She wants to make sure that is covered. She is concerned about religious organizations being exempt. She encourages the City Council to look at that. Many daycare facilities are part of churches in Worthington. It is really important that people mask up and stop with the constant dividing. This is common decency and being aware of our health. If we cannot have a Governor tell us to wear a mask, thank God we have a city Council and health department educating us to make sure we put our best foot forward with this horrible disease.

Tricia Jones – 5704 Foster Avenue

She wanted to express that she is glad to hear that masks are available at the Worthington Resource Pantry, because it is a concern. If we are going to make exemptions for exercising outdoors, she hopes we can make an exemption for children playing in parks. She has seen how important that has been for the emotional wellbeing of her children to play outside.

President Michael stated that as we look at things over the next two weeks, we can add that to the list to examine.

Brenda Kinzer – 1133 Macgregor West Avenue

Ms. Kinzer expressed that she thinks masks are very important in our community, especially at the moment. It is important we recognize individually that COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting people of color. Refusing to wear a mask because of eyes at your grocery store and other ridiculous things is a privileged way to look at this. We can all come together and unite, and soon this will all be over.

Ms. Dorothy asked how long this ordinance might be in effect or how often we will revisit this. President Michael replied that it will be in effect until the Columbus area is down to level one, so there is a definite sunset. Mr. Myers said that he read it to be in effect until December 31st. Mr. Lindsey confirmed that it is in effect until December 31st. If Council would want, we could include a provision that if we got to Level One or Level Two, it would terminate automatically based on that in addition to the specific time deadline. He picked the end of the year because that is a fixed date but could be sooner or later as Council determines.

Mr. Robinson expressed that he is strongly supportive of this ordinance. With that said, he also respects the people that called in and voiced their concerns or criticisms. His thinking about those who say that we are not currently experiencing a pandemic here in Worthington, his response is that is exactly the purpose and goal of this mask wearing ordinance to prevent that from happening. Regarding those who say this infringes upon their civil liberties, it is his understanding that his freedom is properly constrained when it impinges upon your freedom. We established a law that we do not allow individuals to drink alcohol, get drunk, and then get into cars because of the risk they pose to fellow citizens. He views this as analogous to that. We are expecting people to accept infringements upon their own liberties as to not infringe upon others as well.

MOTION Mr. Smith made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 30-2020 as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 30-2020 as an Emergency. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 30-2020. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

Ordinance No. 30-2020 As an Emergency was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2020 Community of the Whole Meeting
- Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2020 Regular Meeting

MOTION Ms. Dorothy moved, and Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to approve the aforementioned meeting minutes as presented.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION

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

Ordinance No. 25-2020

Amending Ordinance No. 45-2019 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Capital Improvements Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Costs of the Police Building Roof Construction and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 697-19)

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

MOTION

Mr. Bucher made a motion to insert an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$447,500) in Section 1. and the firm of Kalreuth Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. in Section 2. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Greeson explained in recent years we have done a lot of lifecycle maintenance for many of our buildings that are older. We have assessed roofs, evaluated energy efficiency retrofit opportunities, and really looked closely at trying to make sure that we are responsible stewards of these assets. In the case of the police station where the Division of Police and Information Technology are housed, we have done a number of things and this is one component of that. We have had a third-party assessment completed of the roof and its condition and evaluated the need for replacement. This is in addition to the indoor air quality concerns and HVAC improvements. Also, as part of the move to the Northwest Center, we have a later agenda item for the vestibule project related to that transition.

Mr. Whited described that this is a facility maintenance issue. The existing roof is 30 years old and having leak issues. We had consultants come out to evaluate the roof from several perspectives, one being a thermographic infrared survey allowing us to evaluate not just the roof, but the building envelope, and difficulties with tightness. This project involves replacement of the roof, shoring up as well as repairing some insulation and building envelope issues along the ceiling, the windows, and the building structure itself. This ties in with the HVAC project. This is a maintenance issue to deal with deferred maintenance as well as to supplement what we are doing with the HVAC issue, to make it a safe facility for visitors and employees. The project will take three to four months in concert with the other projects. The lifecycle for the work is a 20 to 30-year life cycle. The roof folks will tell you more like 40 to 50 years, but he would guess we would have 30 if we maintain it well.

Ms. Dorothy asked if we are also getting additional insulation in addition to the roof replacement. Mr. Whited replied that we are installing additional insulation and seals on windows and doors. Ms. Dorothy stated that keeping in the air with the air ceiling will help with energy efficiency, but we are also very concerned about the indoor air quality. She asked if there is a separate project, we are doing to address that. Mr. Whited said that is correct, that is not part of this ordinance but is very much related to that and the overall effort to improve the environment within that building. Ms. Dorothy expressed how we heard at the last meeting about how much money we were saving. This is part of that whole same type of improvement where we are maintaining and improving our buildings while saving money, reducing the carbon footprint, making our energy payments less, and making sure we are maintaining resources, and being responsible stewards of the community. She noted one other thing you can do at your own home with the Worthington Energy Savings Program, you can sign up and get a free LED light bulb and outlets. She encouraged people to sign up.

Ms. Kowalczyk expressed that this sounds like something we do not want to defer any longer and asked if there is a reason we took so long to do this. Mr. Whited responded that it should not be put off due to the environmental issues within the building as well as the savings that Ms. Dorothy referenced, and the environmental issues. There are a variety of reasons to make it happen. There has been deferred maintenance over time. It took time to put the package of the three projects together because of the structural issues and sealing of the building related to the HVAC.

President Michael noted that this is a building that the City purchased but did not build. It was a business use and we purchased it from a business owner. This building is something that we got in the condition that it was in at the time, along with the wear and tear that happens over time.

Mr. Myers asked about the process for this project and commented that the more we examined it, there were more issues that we found, impacting the health and safety of persons in the building. Mr. Whited agreed that is absolutely correct. The roof was in the CIP for replacement, and it was accelerated. In order to do the HVAC project, you are putting structure on the roof and you have facilities that need to be structurally sound for supporting them. That required tying those two projects together, so you were not sacrificing qualities with the replacement of the equipment. Mr. Myers asked whether this building houses multiple City departments. Mr. Whited said that it does house multiple departments and meetings from other departments as well.

Mr. Bucher asked if someone could explain what these CIP funds were intended for and how this fits into it. There have been a lot of discussion on this item from calls, to emails, to other inquiries. Mr. Greeson explained that 20% of our income tax revenues go to the Capital Improvement Fund and each year, Council amends a five-year Capital Improvement Program that is for facilities, construction, maintenance, and roads, buildings, sewers, waterlines, park improvements, playgrounds, and equipment purchases over a certain threshold.

Mr. Robinson stated that he wanted to address his remarks to the persons that have sent in emails questioning this expenditure under the framework of funding or defunding of the police. He wanted to say that he takes that issue very seriously in regard to the issue of funding police and if appropriated funds could be used differently to better achieve safe communities and social justice. He assumed those questions would be part of the conversation and dialogue that we are seeking to establish with some of the protesters. He would like to say that focusing on this roof is not the right place to direct that question. This is about routine maintenance of a public facility. Delaying the work any further could result in greater expenditures later. That is why he is going to vote “Yes” for this expenditure.

Tricia Jones – 5704 Foster Avenue

Ms. Jones explained that she is hearing and has been listening to everything that Council has been talking about in terms of how this is essential maintenance that needs to be done to preserve the integrity of the building and health of the employees. She appreciates that the police building is apparently used for other City departments as well, so that is nice to learn. She does however think there could be value in the City Council just taking a moment of symbolic action to say, not all of us have showed up to listen to what the protesters have been talking about. Not all of us have taken a moment to stop and say this is really an important moment in history. So maybe tonight, we table this for just one more week and stop and listen. What the young people have taken to the streets to talk about is really that important. So that is why she is going to make that point one more time in this moment with you, with her voice. She thanked Council for listening and she appreciates all the hard work everyone has put into understanding the problem with the police building. But she thinks that it would just serve us so well if we could start researching and understanding what this concept of defunding the police really means. So many activists have done so much work about it. She has a lot more to learn herself. She encourages all of us to learn on that front.

Ms. Dorothy mentioned that she has read and gotten all of the emails about defunding the police. She thinks it is definitely an appropriate topic to talk about. But she does not think it is a reason to hold up this needed maintenance for this asset that holds a lot of other functions in the community. She does however think what the policies of our police should be a topic for further discussion.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 25-2020 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

Ordinance No. 25-2020 (As Amended) was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Resolution No. 30-2020

Providing for Adoption of the Tax Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2021.

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

MOTION

Mr. Myers made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 30-2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

Mr. Bartter detailed how this is an annual housekeeping item. This does not transfer funds or establish budgetary restrictions. It is something we need to submit to the county tax commission by July 20th.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 30-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 31-2020

To Request CARES Act Funding for Expenditures Incurred as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Introduced by Mr. Robinson.

MOTION

Mr. Bucher made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 31-2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

Mr. Bartter explained how this is a resolution that is going to say that we are requesting the funding that has been made available through the CARES Act. The estimated amount that we are requesting is approximately \$548,000. Three stipulations turned into pages and pages of guidance and webinars, which are always evolving. The three primary restrictions are that these expenses would be for the use of necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency, costs not account for in the budget as of March 27, 2020, and costs from March 1 through December 30. There has been significant discussion lately, and guidance was issued by the Treasury Department on the payroll related to first responders, which does look like that will be a permissible expense. The funds will go into a separate fund called the "Coronavirus Relief Fund" which he will create. We will be able to move expenses into that fund. We have additional legislation for introduction with the public hearing scheduled for the third meeting in July to appropriate funds. This resolution is required by both the Office of Budgetary Management and the County Auditor before we can receive them. If we pass this tonight, he can submit to both of them and have the fund hopefully by next week.

Ms. Kowalczyk commented that she was surprised how limited the ability to use these funds are right now. She hopes that we do get the expanded interpretation. It is her understanding that the funds if not used revert back to the county and can then revert back to the state and the federal government. Mr. Bartter said that is correct, but he is seeing we will be able to use the funds for Division of Fire payroll. We will more than use these

dollars with that expense. It would be his recommendation to use them for that. These will be heavily audited in 2021. He would like to keep the usage to just one or two uses if possible, which is why fire payroll is a perfect use. As we have the public hearing on the appropriation ordinance, we can discuss how Council would like to see fund utilized. Ms. Kowalczyk said that she believes that is appropriate. She knows there are some discussions in municipalities about supporting efforts in the community to provide face coverings or other kinds of PPE. That makes sense to her for covering the Division of Fire expenses.

Ms. Dorothy asked about whether this is the maximum we can get and if we will then have to account for qualified expenses. Mr. Barter explained that we will receive the full amount and we have to expense against it. If we do not have it encumbered by October 15th, we have to return it. If it is not spent by the 30th of December, we have to return it. We have \$140,000 in biweekly payroll for emergency responders, which will eat it up quickly. Ms. Kowalczyk asked if there is additional state funding that has been held back until they determine whether there is more flexibility in the future. Mr. Bartter replied that he had not heard that. Maybe if there is a second round of CARES Act funding, the county will redistribute what has been returned to them as one possible way that could happen. Ms. Kowalczyk said that she believes it was in legislation at the state level that held money, and they would not distribute it until they got further flexibility with another federal act. So they distributed some of it, but not all of it.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 31-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 32-2020

A Resolution Requesting the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation to Proceed with the Construction of the Northeast Gateway Intersection Improvement Project (FRA-CR84-1.36, PID 95516) and Agreeing to Pay the City's Share of the Cost of the Project. (Project No. 602-14).

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

MOTION

Mr. Myers made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 32-2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

Mr. Greeson explained that this is one of the most important pieces of legislation that authorizes the most important transportation infrastructure project in a long time in Worthington.

Mr. Whited added that this kind of locks us into the payment of our share of the funds.

Mr. Bartter detailed how this is interesting in that we are not going to have to submit the funds ahead of time that are being reimbursed by the Ohio Public Works Commission, only our portion, which is the \$213,000. That is good from a cash flow perspective. We do not have to submit the full \$2 million for reimbursement. Council has already passed both the

agreement to enter into an agreement with ODOT and the appropriation ordinance is one more piece ODOT is requiring.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 32-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 33-2020

To Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with R.W. Setterlin Building Company for the Construction of a Public Improvement at the Police Building.

Introduced by Mr. Robinson.

MOTION

Mr. Bucher made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 33-2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

Mr. Greeson said that amidst all the things going on, staff is managing a transition of the 911 Dispatch Center to the Northwest Regional Emergency Communication Center, that also dispatches Dublin, Hilliard, and Upper Arlington. That transition is why we have planned this police vestibule improvement.

Ms. Stewart explained to Council that they may recall that the transition to the Northwest Center resulted in the need to do some modification to the entryway of the police building. The primary focus of the work is to create a vestibule so when people arrive at the police building, wanting to interact with police, fire, or EMS, they would have an opportunity to come into a vestibule area, pick up a phone and communicate with them. Up to this point, they have been able to come into the building. With the movement out of those operations, we need to modify the entryway to create an opportunity for people who come to a police station for assistance to access that assistance by communicating with the dispatching center, which will now be remotely located. Time is of the essence with this project. Fire and EMS services transition tomorrow and by early September, the police dispatching will be transferred. We have two months to complete the work.

Ms. Dorothy said she is a little bit confused as to how the public will use this space. She asked for a description of what happens if someone gets out of their car and tries to get into the building. Ms. Stewart replied that we will create a second set of doors, creating a vestibule area where the outside door is unlocked, and the inside door is locked when administrative staff is not in the building. It creates a secured space where there will be a phone available to pickup to talk with the Northwest Center to get the assistance needed. We are also installing a camera so if somebody cannot communicate, dispatchers can see what is happening and determine what assistance is needed. Mr. Greeson noted that what Ms. Stewart describes is for normal operations, during COVID-19 we have restricted access to both the police station and fire station to ensure we are protecting first responders from COVID-19 exposure.

Mr. Bucher asked for a discussion about where this is funded from, noting that it appears to be from appropriations from 2019 rather than the Capital Fund. Ms. Stewart explained that we appropriated the funds associated with the transition of the dispatching center all at one time, including the building modifications and costs related to software and equipment that needed to be purchased. Mr. Bucher echoed the sentiments that Mr. Robinson shared for the previous police appropriation. We have a lot of noise and outreach going on from people not wanting us to move forward on this appropriation. Given the timing necessitating this, he intends to support it. He emphasized that he believes this in no way means we are not dedicated to the discussion on how to take action going forward. The people that have spoken up are valued and being heard.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 33-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Ms. Dorothy asked about emails that had been sent in and whether they should be read into the record.

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to include attach emails that have been received prior to the meeting on the matter of the vestibule and related improvements and the transition of the 911 center be included and made a part of these proceedings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 26-2020 Amending Ordinance No. 45-2019 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for Appropriations from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

Ordinance No. 27-2020 Amending Ordinance No. 45-2019 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for Appropriations from the Coronavirus Relief Fund Unappropriated Balance

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

Ordinance No. 28-2020 Authorizing the Issuance of Notes in the Amount of Not to Exceed \$4,115,000 in Anticipation of the Issuance of Bonds for the Purpose of (I) Designing, Engineering, Constructing and Reconstructing various Sewer Improvements, with related Site Improvements and all necessary appurtenances thereto, (II) Purchasing and Installing Energy

Conservation Measures for the Community Center, (III) Designing, Replacing, Constructing and Installing as Waterline on East Wilson Bridge Road, with related site improvements and all necessary appurtenances thereto, and (IV) Replacing or Improving the Roofs of the Fire Station and the Community Center and all necessary appurtenances thereto, and Retiring Notes previously issued for such Purposes; and Approving Related Matters in connection with the Issuance of the Notes

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

Ordinance No. 29-2020

Authorizing the Issuance of Notes in the Amount of Not to Exceed \$1,700,000 in Anticipation of the Issuance of Bonds for the purpose of Designing, Constructing, Furnishing, and Equipping a Police Building with Related Site Improvements and Appurtenances Thereto; and Approving Related Matters in Connection with the Issuance of the Notes.

Introduced by Mr. Robinson.

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

There were no reports from City officials.

REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Bucher asked if he could highlight the ordinance to potentially appropriate funds for the police body cameras. It got a lot of interest and questions over the past few days. He wanted to say that this coming up again on the July 20th meeting for people who are interested in commenting and weighing in on that. He asked if Mr. Bartter could explain more about the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Mr. Bartter detailed how the Law Enforcement Trust Fund is not an often-used fund. It receives proceeds from the sale of contraband and can be used for purposes as determined by the Police Chief to further investigate cases. The actual cost for body cameras was estimated to be \$58,000. There is \$5,000 currently appropriated with the adoption of the original budget ordinance. This would add the \$55,000 for a total appropriation of \$60,000, covering the body cameras for five years including service and maintenance.

Ms. Kowalczyk echoed what folks are saying about how we want to have more discussion about what our budget priorities are for the next year, and body cameras will be the first thing we can talk about in that context. She knows she has gotten questions on the effectiveness and policies that are necessary which she hopes we can discuss further. She hopes there will be rich discussion going forward in terms of where we stand on these policies.

Ms. Dorothy explained how she does think we need to spend some more time discussing our priorities for Council. We unfortunately missed our priority setting, but we do have Vision Worthington which everyone is using to express their opinions. She is so happy we have more people engaging in our public meetings. It is critical we use as many communication avenues as we can. It is important we engage with all our community. She encouraged people to go to VisionWorthington.org.

Mr. Robinson expressed it is an honor to serve the community of Worthington and he appreciates all the thoughts and comments he has received.

President Michael thanked all the additional participation we have had and the dedication of councilmembers to work together to move forward in the community and bring the community closer. She applauded everyone trying to reach out, and to listen and hear what members of the community need.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Mr. Bucher moved, Ms. Kowalczyk seconded a motion to adjourn.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

/s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt
Management Assistant

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
20th day of July, 2020.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President

E-Mails – Police Funding

Kathryn Campbell-Kibler kathrynck@gmail.com

Sun 7/5/2020 9:36 PM

Delaying approval for police funding

Hello council,

I'm writing in response to your recent Resolution recognizing the impacts of racism. It's heartening to see Worthington take a clear stand on a pressing national issue. As I'm sure you're aware, a key demand of the movement for Black lives is the shifting of public funds away from police towards positive social services. This call is rooted in the intuitive and research-backed idea that societies function better and more safely for everyone when they prioritize supporting members and ensuring that their needs are met. It is also rooted in the knowledge that our policing systems are embedded in racism, and especially anti-Blackness. This is not a statement about the feelings or beliefs of any individual, but an acknowledgement that systems grow from their history.

A full discussion of exactly where and how policing funds might be better spent will take some time. I ask that you refrain from approving the planned appropriations until that discussion can be held, regarding how Worthington plans to implement its commitment to recognizing the impacts of racism.

Thank you for your time,

Kathryn Campbell-Kibler

Mollie Gladden mollie0845@gmail.com

Mon 7/6/2020 3:06 AM

Defund the Police

Hello,

Firstly, this is not a *personal attack* towards any members on city council. This email makes no assumptions about individuals' knowledge. This is an address to the community as a whole through addressing city council.

Before I get into this, please make the Worthington website more accessible if that is within your jurisdiction. Finding a consolidated list of council member's emails should be easy (even though it is just first.last@worthington.org, which I'm well aware of, though one might assume Pete's email is pete and not peter). Hyperlinks are not always accessible for the disabled community if they just want to be able to read what your email is and not just click on a link to open their automatic email browser (which may not be the email they want to use). For the non-disabled community, it's just inconvenient to have multiple different windows opening to send you all an email. But I digress...

Many people seem to be calling for body cameras, but to that idea, I reject it. A simple google search on "body camera failures" or other versions of those words will tell you why. I do not mean to undermine others' opinions, but I think that those who advocate for body cameras have a slight misunderstanding of how body cameras have been inefficient. I also reject the idea of any more "trainings" that address individualist harm. More about that below...

I am in favor of defunding the police. Defund, disarm, divest. Invest in the community and *actual* preventative measures (and preventative meaning at the actual root cause-- not preventive as in put more cops everywhere to catch when crimes are committed. It means to prevent people from even having the desire or need to commit crime in the first place, which is by meeting their basic needs and also adequate mental and physical healthcare).

Police do not need more rules to break, they do not need expensive body cameras to turn off or expensive trainings to ignore.

Please postpone/table (or get rid of altogether...) the discussion of giving more funding to the police while we are in the streets calling for DEfunding of the police. Put your money where your mouth is.

Do not miss the "system" and "institutional" parts of systemic and institutional racism. It seems that many will acknowledge that the system is the issue, yet take individualist approaches within the same exact system that they deem corrupt as solutions... Systemic racism doesn't mean that everyone's a racist and needs implicit bias training, it means that even if ALL individuals believed they aren't racist, that the systems and processes in the US and around the world directly and intentionally contribute to the oppression of BIPOC. Some companies and institutions cannot commit to being "anti-racist" without ceasing to exist, even if they do all the individualist work and reforms of their mindsets that being an "anti-racist" entails.

Defund, Disarm, Divest.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VHfF-1Kcb7T1qd_fQXsrX8i3lpiR6gIO/view?usp=sharing

<https://www.8toabolition.com/> Please take the time to read EVERY point on this website, including the introductory page which outlines why reforms like 8 Can't Wait are HARMFUL not helpful to communities.

http://aworldwithoutpolice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/AWorldWithoutPolice_Color.pdf

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59ead8f9692ebee25b72f17f/t/5b65cd58758d46d34254f22c/1533398363539/CR_NoCops_reform_vs_abolition_CRside.pdf This PDF highlights reformist reforms (not helpful!) vs non-reformist reforms (HELPFUL). Please do adequate research on abolition, whether you like it or not, so that you can have an

informed opinion. Adequate does not mean only what I send to you in this email- these readings are a starting point- it means consistently being in the loop with abolitionists (and not just people that co-opt the movement) and their demands, as well as being familiar with the works of activists like Angela Davis and Ruth Wilson Gilmore.

<http://criticalresistance.org/about/not-so-common-language/>

<https://transformharm.org/>

Please stop reading White Fragility and calling it a day and ending your education there.

<https://envs.ucsc.edu/internships/internship-readings/freire-pedagogy-of-the-oppressed.pdf>

https://www.feministes-radicales.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Angela-Davis-Are_Prisons_Obsolete.pdf

<https://www.docdroid.net/rfDRFWv/freedom-is-a-constant-struggle-pdf>

A concerned citizen,
Mollie Gladden.

Stephanie Harless skharless@gmail.com

Mon 7/6/2020 11:55 AM

July 7 2020 City Council Meeting: Request to postpone the discussion on body cameras

Dear City Council,

I have been encouraged by the conversations around race, diversity, and inclusion in Worthington over the last several months. Seeing young people protesting peacefully downtown, looking for a change in their community rather than looking to leave is inspiring to say the least.

For this reason, I'm asking you to please postpone the discussion of police body cameras until a more comprehensive evaluation of what the future of policing in Worthington could look like.

Worthington is currently going through their Visioning Process and what a great opportunity this could be to sit down and create a vision for what policing could be. The protestors are calling to defund the police. Let's engage with that conversation, a conversation that's happening on the national level--this will help us take steps to care for ALL of the citizens of Worthington. Yes, the main goal of defunding the police is to alleviate the disproportionate engagement of police and BIPOC, but it also calls for funding community support and programs such as providing social workers for individuals in crisis, which align with our vision for an inclusive Worthington community.

A change like this can't be addressed by something like body cameras, which are not proven to reduce use of force. Rather, it comes through strategic, research-based best practices that places like Minneapolis are now evaluating. We can be a leader in this space, but it will take some hard work and difficult conversations. Postponing the discussion on police spending this evening in favor of a resolution to discuss more comprehensive changes will go a long way in signalling your intentions to listen to the protestors and the national conversation at large.

Thank you,

Stephanie Harless
6895 Haymore Ave. W.

Sarah Lucas smlucas5255@gmail.com
Mon 7/6/2020 12:03 PM
City Council Meeting 7/6 Thoughts

To whom it may concern:

My name is Sarah Lucas and I am a Clintonville/ resident but I work in Worthington. I wish to enter testimony for the city council meeting today, July 6th.

I have opinions on the following issues:

- Ordinance 030-2020 - I support this ordinance. Face masks dramatically help stop the spread of disease and in this pandemic, it is necessary for our government to require people to wear them in public to protect everyone as much as possible.
- Ordinance 26-2020 - I do not support this ordinance. Research shows that body cameras work FOR cops, not for citizens. It seems intuitive that body cams would protect citizens, but it is at police discretion on when & how to use body cameras. See this [article](#) for more information. Worthington City Council should take more active steps to address police violence and structural racism, such as:
- 1) making it illegal for the police department to hire officers who previously were fired or resigned due to serious misconduct or excessive force 2) creating a community oversight board with power to pass dept policies, fire officers & the police chief, select the candidates for police chief, and investigate misconduct, 3) restricting the police union contract from interfering with police accountability and banning all police union contracts from having language affecting misconduct investigations, discipline & records.

I would love to see Worthington City Council take more of these steps.

Thank you for your time,
Sarah Lucas smlucas5255@gmail.com

Lesley Saeed Lesley@etruetech.com

Mon 7/6/2020 2:15 PM

Please read during our council's discussion of police funding and issues

Good Morning,

My family has resided in Worthington for 41 years. I grew up on Howard Ave. in Old Worthington and have lived for the past 14 years in the home my family built in Worthington Estates East on Northhigh Dr. I have always been proud to live in a community that values education, history, and respect for others but I am very concerned that our city needs to make changes to reflect current understanding of the injustices of systemic racism in policing.

As you know, in the wake of the killing of George Floyd many communities around the country have been considering reallocating some of the funds that are currently being used by law enforcement for other, security related, community needs and for educational needs. This has unfortunately been termed "defunding," although I believe that most of us recognize that it is not a call to eliminate all spending on police, but a desire to utilize tax money more thoughtfully. An example of this is to hire professionals that are trained to do tasks that police are often asked to do which should fall outside of their job description. These are tasks they are not adequately trained to perform, such as dealing with people who have mental illness or cognitive issues.

Furthermore, many Americans are concerned with the build up in police departments of equipment that was originally created for use by our military, not for use in situations with American civilians. I'm sure that you are also aware that this military equipment is currently being used by police in their interactions with citizens who are exercising their First Amendment right to protest government actions with which they disagree. It is even being used at public vigils for victims of police brutality such as the violin vigil for Eliza McClain held in Aurora on June 25, 2020. In that particular instance, police used pepper spray on the gathering of musicians, including children.

Use of chemical weapons on protesters is unethical and unjustifiable. It further demonstrates a need to reform law enforcement in this country. Legislation that limits their access to military equipment and chemical agents, including tear gas, needs to be prioritized. Tear gas, specifically, was banned by the Geneva Convention in 1925. According to the [United Nations website](#): the United States reserved the right to use riot control agents in few circumstances; when controlling rioting prisoners of war, in rescue missions, or in situations where civilians are being used to mask or shield attacks and dispersing them would help avoid casualties. None of these protocols relate to using tear gas and pepper spray on unarmed civilians during demonstrations. Furthermore, it is obvious that these chemical agents are being used only on protesters whose political views morally implicate police. For example, during recent protests of Covid protective measures, protesters came to public and government

buildings carrying guns and were still not met with the violence and chemical agents deployed by police against those protesting law enforcement practices.

Over the last decades we have all born witness to many videos showing murders of unarmed civilians by police. The conscience of many Americans has been stirred by these videos, which causes many of us to demand of our representatives that you make changes to the way our police force is selected, trained, equipped and funded. The fact that African Americans, who comprise only 13% of the population, account for half of those killed by police, illustrates the grotesque racism of our current system.

As with other departments across our nation, Worthington Police will need to make changes. This means that Robert Ware will need to examine the numerical data that has already been collected that reveals differences in how people of color are policed in our community. He will need to respond in an effective and moral way to the events of June 20 when a driver pushed a protesting student with his vehicle and used a racial slur. And, to support the progress that is needed, he will need to admit that there is also an issue in Worthington police force with systemic racism. Those of us who have been demonstrating will continue to do so and to insist that he and our entire police department make changes that serve *everyone* in our community better.

I ask that our City Council investigate ways to reallocate a portion of the money which currently goes to police equipment and salaries toward hiring professionals trained to work with those who have mental illness and special needs and that the money spent on the SRO who is present in our high schools be utilized instead to help our schools fund educational costs that have increased due to covid. In an earlier email, I provided a link to the NAACP research document that demonstrates how SROs contribute to the "school-to-prison" pipeline. Please review this, along with research on the lack of effectiveness of SROs in preventing school shootings, to help you determine if we need to be paying a law enforcement officer \$93,000/year to handle discipline issues that were always handled by school administrators before.

Sincerely,

Lesley Saeed

Susan Gladden susan@sginteriors.org

Mon 7/6/2020 2:18 PM

7/6/20 City Council Meeting

Dear Worthington City Council,

I am aware that there is a city council meeting this evening and that on the agenda are several items related to the appropriation of funds to WPD. I understand that the roof repair is necessary, but respectfully ask that Council consider tabling the expenditure for the vestibule upgrade as well as the purchase of body cameras at this time. I am in favor

of defunding the police in some way and reallocating those resources into programs that help support and strengthen our community. I am in conversation with others and we are working to have a clearer understanding and consensus of what defunding could mean for Worthington. Furthermore, much of the research around use of police body cameras is mixed and does not seem to support the reduction of use of force.

Respectfully,
Susan Gladden
Worthington Resident

Susan Gladden
Owner, Interior Designer

susan gladden interiors, llc
2690 W. Dublin-Granville Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43235
614.975.5739
email susan@sginteriors.org
website www.sginteriors.org

Pranav Jani pranavjani@gmail.com
Mon 7/6/2020 2:25 PM
Ongoing protests and police funding

Dear City Council members,

I'm writing to share my thoughts on the recent protests led by students and alums at both TWHS and WKHS, and to ask you to table any further funds going to the police department until the city takes seriously the demands to defund the police, emerging from this historic, national movement.

I'm writing as a parent in the Worthington school systems since I moved to the district in 2005, as a supporter of and participant in the protests, here and in Columbus, as a professor at Ohio State who studies race and ethnicity, and as a person of color with personal experience of living in our white-majority neighborhood.

The youth are passionate about change in society and are expressing the best legacies of the struggles for justice in this country. However, I hear criticism of their strategies -- including taking to the streets and costing taxpayers -- rather than real engagement with their demands. We forget that the legacy we supposedly value, that of the civil rights movement, was actually built on direct action. We as a city need to engage with the demands of getting armed police out of schools, and condemning the acts of repression by the Columbus PD, which is very much part of the Worthington universe.

To pass such a huge spending package on police right now would be a further slap in the face. I understand that many believe body cameras are the solution, but so many articles

and experiences tell us that any mechanism in which the police are in charge of their own surveillance and assessment fails when it comes to safety for Black and Brown people.

There is a movement ongoing that promises to be transformative. It needs real engagement, not lip service. Defunding police and rethinking safety for all of us, not just white residents, is central to taking on the demands of the racial justice movement today.

Sincerely
Dr. Pranav Jani
1224 Drumbarton Court
Columbus OH 43235

Courtney Cooke courtneylynncooke@gmail.com
Mon 7/6/2020 3:10 PM
Worthington City Council Meeting Jul 6, 2020

Dear Worthington City Council Members,

As a resident of Worthington, my purpose for this email is to address two issues that are on the agenda for the meeting this evening: spending on the police department and the mask mandate.

1. I appreciate the Resolution Recognizing the Impacts of Racism... that was recently passed, and think it is a necessary first step towards addressing systemic racism in our community. However, I also think that an appropriate follow-up action is to invest time and resources into understanding the demands of protestors, what it means to "defund the police," and options for other public safety/support models before spending over \$2 million on the police department. Those who call to defund the police are asking for a reallocation of all or a portion of funds to create/sustain social, economic, and educational services and supports for the community. Our society asks too much of our police departments; officers are not required to be licensed social workers or mental-health workers, so why are they required to respond to crises that would otherwise fall under those categories? In addition, there are deeply rooted connections between how policing works in the United States and systemic racism; we cannot continue to operate as if this link does not exist. I call on City Council, in the whole spirit of the Resolution Recognizing the Impacts of Racism, to table the vote in regards to spending on body cameras and improvements to the police department's buildings, until further research into our community's needs and options can be done.

2. Thank you for recommending to introduce and approve as emergency the ordinance to require face coverings in public. The current research certainly supports this decision and I hope that it is approved in order to protect the health of those who live and work in Worthington.

Thank you, Courtney Cooke

Jill Ritchey jritche1@csc.edu

Mon 7/6/2020 4:43 PM

Public comments for July 6th City Council meeting

Dear City Council members –

Thank you for allowing me to express my concern regarding the police handling of protestors, which conforms to tonight's agenda (budget - including the police). The spectacle of police presence (sheriffs, townships) and city trucks for major detours for a small peaceful protest seemed more about creating spectacle than protecting the right of dissent. In addition, taking pictures of protestors' license plates was invasive. What is it our police are here to protect? Seemingly not our First Amendment Rights. This outrageous demonstration from the police cost our community in more ways than in overtime...it cost us our trust. I was also disheartened on this date (June 27th, 2020) by Chief Ware's response to protestors. Given a meeting devoted to this matter (racist policing) at a June 8th meeting where Resolution No. 27-2020 had been discussed, he seemed ill-equipped to "recognize" the problem; institutional racism, whereby policing has been the tip of this spear.

In my estimation, the overarching demand from the protestors is to defund the police; a direct measure to counter racism. Although it seems counter-intuitive to request NO BODY CAMS, I urge citizens to read this article <https://truthout.org/articles/police-violence-body-cams-are-no-solution/> before approving \$55,000.00. Ending Racial Profiling; ending policing (criminalizing race) as we know it, is what needs to happen. Our young protestors have done the research and have found that Worthington's racial profiling exists at about the same degree as it occurs nationwide. Body cams did not help Eric Garner. Purportedly it works in favor of police (body cam footage - from then Portsmouth Chief Ware – exonerates wrongdoing of police) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waRXYupoxxY>. Our young research-protestors have found that police have much discretion about things other than appropriate use of force in the field, for instance, designating hate crimes. It seems that Body Cams will also be just another expensive tool for police to use at their discretion, and it is concerning, particularly since police are not resisting this form of accountability.

In a related matter, I would ask that the Worthington police not support CPD in its brutal response to protestors.

Questions:

How does the police chief or budget manager decide how to set the annual police budget? What are the metrics to help predict their needs? Are they based on the # of stops made? Are all 911 calls considered legitimate? Does responding to a call or a minor traffic violation always escalate into a Terry v. Ohio search? And if so, does this add to your "quota" to count toward budget needs? Is the spectacle created for protestors, really incentive to earn overtime or add to the budget needs?

Thank you for your time and your service,

Jill A Ritchey, MA, MSN, RN
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Tyler Moore moore_43085@yahoo.com
Mon 7/6/2020 4:51 PM
July 6th Council Meeting

Worthington City Council,

I have been a Worthington resident for 27 years. I am a TWHS grad, a Worthington business owner, and an employee of another Worthington business. It is my understanding that the Worthington City Council meeting being held this evening, Monday July 6th, will address several expenditures for the Worthington Police Department. As I have read the proposed projects and understand their purpose and need, I am compelled nonetheless to suggest tabling these expenses.

It is not that I feel the requests are extravagant or wasteful. It is not that I find the Worthington Police Department somehow unworthy of our support or investment. In fact, I prefer at this time not to address my thoughts on extravagance or worthiness altogether.

My concern at this time, both literally and in a larger sense, is that our country, our state, and more importantly the Greater Columbus Area is strongly discussing Police Funding as a whole, specifically under the heading of De-Funding. Despite the fact that most of the proposed expenses are for building maintenance and not for equipment, it is my opinion that discussing or approving Police Department spending is insensitive, if not distasteful, given the national circumstances.

It is not my intention to make the Worthington Police Department feel degraded or unsupported, though I imagine that can't be helped to some degree. I would hope, instead, that you, the Worthington City Council, as well as the WPD, understands and is sensitive to the movement that is happening, as mentioned, nationally as well as locally. We do not live in isolation. Suburbs, cities, townships, are all observing one another to see how we as a greater collective will handle the issues of today. Let's not reason away our actions by saying "well, it's only a roof, not ammo". Let's not dismiss the concerns or struggles of our neighbors in Columbus by saying "well, we don't have a problem here in Worthington". Their problems could be our problems and we would want their support in our time of distress.

I apologize for any melodrama this appeal contains. I will re-state my primary point; I encourage you all to table the discussion or approval of any expenditures for the Worthington Police Department for the time being.

Sincerely, Humbly,
Tyler Moore

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)