



# City Council Agenda

## Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7:30 pm

6550 N. High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085

### Virtual Meeting Information

Link through: [worthington.org](http://worthington.org)

Our Government – Live Stream

#### 1. Call to Order

**Minutes:**

Worthington City Council met remotely in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, via Microsoft Teams video conference. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

**Minutes:**

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

**Member(s) Absent:** None

**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

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

**Minutes:**

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

#### 4. Visitor Comments

**Minutes:**

Ms. Thress stated that Council received emailed comments from Ms. Trisha Jones

Narayanabhata that she read into the record:

*"Dear City Council,*

*Disappointment doesn't begin to capture my sentiments in the lack of public, transformative action you have taken this summer to back up your words after passing the Anti-Racism resolution in June. Young protestors were assaulted by the local Ace Hardware truck and a bystander who committed physical assault and used a racist slur - that was the day before Father's Day. Now, on the day after Labor Day your Chief of Police continues to maintain it "wouldn't be fair" to press charges for those violent acts without also pressing charges against the peaceful protestors marching for Black lives. We can clearly see the racism clouding his viewpoint and that of his supervisor Matt Greeson - why can't you?*

*In celebration of Labor Day I encourage you to actually take action: cut our police department's ties with the Fraternal Order of Police. The FOP is not a union; it's a brotherhood that protects killer cops in Columbus and bad cop behavior in our own town."*

## Approval of the Minutes

### 5. Approval of Minutes

**Minutes:**

President Michael explained that there was a request to amend the meeting minutes of July 20, 2020 to include the full name of Tricia Jones Narayanabhata.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bucher moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to approve the meeting minutes as amended

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

**a. Meeting Minutes - July 13, 2020**

**b. Meeting Minutes - July 20, 2020**

## Public Hearings on Legislation

### 6. Ordinance No. 27-2020 Appropriation - Coronavirus Relief Fund

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

**Minutes:**

**The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.**

**MOTION:**

Mr. Smith moved to remove Ordinance No. 27-2020 from the table, seconded by Mr. Myers.

**The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote**

Mr. Greeson explained how this ordinance was introduced earlier when we had a first wave of Coronavirus relief funds. There is some good news to report that we

are looking at additional funds coming in.

Mr. Bartter detailed how back in July, Council passed Resolution 31-2020 which request the CARES Act funding from the state. At the time we thought the amount of funding was going to be about \$548,556, which was for the first distribution that was received in July. Since that time, the State Controlling Board released an additional \$150 million in funds or \$274,278 in additional funding for the City of Worthington, bringing our total distribution to \$822,834. We received the \$274,278 last Thursday. He recommended that the City utilize those funds to offset fire and paramedic payroll expenses from the General Fund. We would then move the expenses incurred with the associated Coronavirus Relief Fund, offering some relief in the General Fund. Additionally since that time, we have had Senate Bill 375 pass the Senate and move to the House where they have not taken action. That is going to then potentially redistribute an additional \$527,000, which would bring our total to \$1.35 million.

Ms. Dorothy clarified that these funds could be used for a variety of Coronavirus-related expenses, but we are using it for our emergency first responder services because it is easier to make sure we are in compliance with the federal laws. Mr. Bartter responded that is correct and we want to avoid any compliance issues since we will be single audited on these funds next year. There is the potential with the third round of funds to sub-award them and that could be manageable and feasible in the future.

Ms. Kowalczyk noted how in particular, the Worthington Resource Pantry has seen a significant jump in need. While they do receive funding separately, and are getting some CARES Act dollars, they may have some additional things to offer if we could help support them, better serving the residents of the community. She also knows about the other help we are providing through the ReBOOT program, which was geared toward businesses. The point she wanted to make was that nonprofits also employ people and provide services to the community, and we did not really reach out to them in the ReBOOT program. If we are talking about allocating more dollars to ReBOOT, we should be considering how we are supporting our nonprofits as well, particularly those that support our residents and the broader community. President Michael explained how she had discussed with Mr. Greeson the potential for discussing funding for our community groups as a discussion item for the Committee of the Whole meeting next week. That way we can discuss that funding, whether that is CARES Act dollars or other City funds. Ms. Kowalczyk said she appreciates that, and she mentioned how there are other municipalities and counties that are figuring out ways to provide these grants both to businesses and nonprofits.

Mr. Greeson discussed how we have several issues to consider that include whether Council sees a compelling community need that would result in Council wanting to

appropriate additional funds due to the Coronavirus, such as to the food pantry. Additionally, there is the administrative matter of whether that comes out of the General Fund balance, or whether that comes out of Coronavirus funds. He urged that we try to do it wherever Mr. Bartter and his team feel it is the most simple to administer. The second issue is that it is the time of the year to discuss how we organize our Community Grant process as part of the budget process. The last thing to consider is that the liaison group is working on surveying the entire community about their needs and will have robust data that could inform some of our decisions by October. He will ask them if they have any preliminary information that could be shared.

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Bartter what these two initial payments do to the bottom line of the General Fund. Mr. Bartter responded that at the end of August, we are at about 43%, which is about \$12.5 million unencumbered. He will have finance reports coming out to Council next week, and they will not include the \$822,000, so if that is added we will be looking at a balance over \$13.25 million. When asked by Mr. Robinson if we are still in a deficit position with our annual expenses for the year, Mr. Bartter explained how August was our best income tax receipt month of 2020.

**MOTION:** Ms. Dorothy moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to amend Ordinance 27-2020 to include the dollar amount of \$822,834.

**The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote**

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

## 7. Ordinance No. 32-2020 Boundary Adjustment NE Gateway

Agreeing to the Adjustment of the Boundaries between the City of Columbus and the City of Worthington by Consenting to the Transfer from the City of Columbus to the City of Worthington of Approximately 2 acres and the Transfer from the City of Worthington to the City of Columbus of approximately 1.3 acres located in the Vicinity of the Intersection between Lakeview Plaza Boulevard, Sanctus Boulevard, and Worthington-Galena Road.

**Minutes:**

**The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.**

Mr. Greeson explained how currently the jurisdictional line goes down between the middle of the road with the northbound lanes being Columbus under the 270 Bridge and roughly the southbound lanes being Worthington. That has always been problematic and something that we have believed should be cleaned up. It will be even further exacerbated when we complete the Northeast Gateway project, so this was an opportune time to clean the boundaries up and make sure that the roadways are in appropriate jurisdictions and there is no confusion about responsibilities for public safety response and delivery of services.

Mr. Lindsey detailed how this ordinance was introduced prior to the Council recess, and tabled to tonight's meeting with the belief the necessary deeds would be

recorded during the break, allowing us to move forward with this ordinance. However, he found out last week that one of the deeds for a necessary parcel has not been recorded due to a mix-up with the Recorder's office, the Auditor's office, and the Frost-Brown Law Firm. This has led us to request to table this ordinance again with the hope that it will be ready for the September 21st meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bucher moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to table Ordinance No. 32-2020.

**The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote**

## **New Legislation To Be Introduced**

### **8. Resolution No. 39-2020 Renewal of Right of Way Agreement (Windstream KDL, Inc.)**

Approving an Agreement and Permit for and between Windstream KDL, Inc., a Kentucky corporation, to Operate and Maintain a Telecommunications System Within the City of Worthington Pursuant to and Subject to the Provisions of Chapter 949 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington.

**Minutes:**

**Resolution No. 39-2020 was introduced by Mr. Myers**

**MOTION:** Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 39-2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Greeson described how this is a standard right-of-way renewal for an existing provider in our right-of-way.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution 39-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote**

### **9. Resolution No. 40-2020 Renewal of Right of Way Agreement (AT&T Ohio)**

Approving an Agreement and Permit for and between AT&T Ohio, Inc., an Ohio Corporation, to Operate and Maintain a Telecommunications System Within the City of Worthington Pursuant to and Subject to the Provisions of Chapter 949 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington.

**Minutes:**

**Resolution No. 40-2020 was introduced by Mr. Bucher**

**MOTION:**

Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 40-2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Greeson explained how AT&T has been in our right-of-way for quiet some time and this is a similar renewal of their right-of-way agreement for three years consistent with our codified ordinances.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution 40-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote**

### **10. Resolution No. 41-2020 Terminating the School Resource Officer Agreement**

Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with the Worthington City School District Terminating the Agreement for School Resource Officer Services.

**Minutes:**

**Resolution No. 41-2020 was introduced by Mr. Myers**

**MOTION:** Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 41-2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Lindsey went over how this ordinance would authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement terminating the School Resource Officers' Service Agreement with the school district. This resolution, as prompted by the action of the school board making a decision to terminate the agreement. The school district did provide the required notice to the City by the contract terms that would require a six month notice, and therefore, there would have been a six month period at which both parties would still be obligated under the existing agreement. This resolution and the proposed agreement to terminate would terminate the agreement effective July 28th which was the morning following the school board's decision. He received the actual email notification regarding the school board's decision to terminate the evening of the 27th, so this would be the first full day following the notice. This basically means that the parties would not have any further obligations under the agreement for the period from July 28th to the time at which this agreement would be signed or anything following that date as well. So this was the method by which we could terminate the agreement as quickly as possible as requested by our school district partners.

Mr. Myers stated how he is sorry that this endeavor has ended this way and he has spoken to a lot of people on the streets about this program. The original intent of the City Council in creating a School Resource Officer position was that it was not meant to be an enforcement position. We did not place a police officer in the school to work a beat. We specifically stated that they were to stay out of school disciplinary matters and were hopeful that this would work as a bridge to create better relations with our young people and our police force. Everything he has seen indicates that it was not an enforcement position and that we did make some strides towards improving relationships. He wanted to make certain that his intent in voting in this position originally is clear and on the record. He is sorry that it had to end this way.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution 41-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote**

President Michael noted that her memory of the intent for this program matches what Mr. Myers said. She hopes that somehow we find a way that we can help bring law enforcement officers and youth closer together in the future.

**11. Resolution No. 42-2020 Approve Tax Incentive Review Council Recommendation**

Accepting the Recommendations of the 2020 Worthington Tax Incentive Review Council concerning parcels of commercial real property in the City of Worthington receiving tax exemptions for purposes of economic development.

**Minutes:**

**Resolution No. 42-2020 was introduced by Mr. Bucher**

**MOTION:** Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 42-2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. McCorkle explained how tonight he would be presenting on the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) recommendations from their August 12th meeting. The TIRC is comprised of a 9-member council with representatives from the Auditor's office, two City representatives, a school representative, and two representatives from Sharon Township.

A CRA for those not familiar, is a community Reinvestment Area, which exempts real property taxes on improvements made to commercial, industrial, or residential. A baseline value is locked in before any improvements are made to the property and the property owner is abated any taxes above that baseline as the incentive to the developer. The difference between a CRA and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is that a property owner continues to pay taxes for TIF, but the increased taxes above the baseline go into a separate fund that can pay for public infrastructure and improvements that benefit that parcel. Worthington has one CRA located across our three primary corridors along Huntley, Wilson Bridge, and High. In Worthington, only commercial and industrial are eligible for CRAs. We require a minimum investment of \$1 million as well as 25 new jobs or \$1 million in payroll. The TIRC met on August 12th and we only had two active CRAs and eight TIFs, and all of them were deemed to be in compliance, with the TIRC recommending to continue with all of them.

Mr. McCorkle provided a brief overview of the reporting information for the Worthington Station CRA, and explained how six of the eight TIFs are generating funds.

When asked by Ms. Dorothy asked whether the majority of our tax incentives take away any money from the schools, Mr. McCorkle confirmed that the vast majority do not take away any money from the schools.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution 42-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote**

**12. Resolution No. 43-2020 Additional Funding for the ReBOOT Program**

Authorizing the Use of Additional Funds for the ReBOOT Worthington Grant Program to Support Local Businesses in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Minutes:**

**Resolution No. 43-2020 was introduced by Mr. Myers**

**MOTION:** Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 43-2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. McCorkle thanked everyone who has been a part of the ReBOOT effort and for their support throughout this process. He showed a slide over-viewing the ReBOOT efforts to date, including surveying all the small businesses. We heard back that

folks needed flexibility on signage, parking, and tables. We have since put out temporary signage, temporary parking spaces, and a handful of new picnic tables on the Village Green. We had a liaison with Columbus Public Health (CPH) that was available for logistical and safety support as our businesses reopened. Our businesses had support from the Small Business Association as well as local banks such as FC Bank, who put on presentations to help them with their Payroll Protection Program loans. City Council supported the "We're Open" marketing campaign with 100 feather flags that line our commercial corridors. This past Sunday, you may have experienced the fair food event with the DORA activated. Most recently, the City Council supported the ReBOOT effort and provided our small business community with \$50,000 in grant funding. That money was exhausted within the first 26 hours. Our businesses have really needed this, with an average percentage revenue loss of 63%. Businesses are truly hurting and this program is making a difference. We have received another dozen or so applications that came in after the initial funding had been exhausted. Those requests total approximately \$29,000 additional dollars. These applications were still received within the first two weeks of the grant period being open. FC Bank has generously offered to donate an additional \$5,000 to the Economic Development Fund to support this effort and other efforts. The request to Council tonight is an additional amount of money to cover the round two applications that we were unable to fund with the first \$50,000. President Michael asked if the total funding request was for \$28,387.73. Mr. McCorkle said that is correct. There was \$1,500 remaining from round one that we chose to roll over into this second round. These dollars are not new fund, it is a redirection of the venture grant program funds that have already been appropriated.

Ms. Thress read an email comment sent in by Teena Parker who owns Ampersand Flowers & Events:

*"Good evening, City Council.*

*Ampersand Flowers & Events celebrated its grand opening exactly six months prior to the statewide shutdown. It has been a challenge to adapt during these uncertain times—especially when so much of our revenue comes from weddings and events. But we love this community, and we're going to stay right here in Worthington for as long as we can. The residents of Colonial Hills and beyond have been so incredibly supportive of our little flower shop—and as a Worthington resident myself, I couldn't imagine owning a business anywhere else.*

*So thank you for your consideration of the allocation of additional Coronavirus relief funds for local businesses."*

Mr. Bucher asked whether this is a program that CARES Act funding could be considered for as we go forward on a third round of funding depending on the legislative action. Mr. Bartter replied that his thought process would be to re-frame



that to say we have received CARES Act funding and therefore, we have a bigger balance available. We are going to use the balance available in the General Fund or in this case the Economic Development fund to support these businesses. The reason for that is so that we do not create a sub-award compliance with the CARES Act funding. For now, we have the appropriation available within the Economic Development Fund and while this could be an eligible expense, we do not need to use it as such because we want to avoid creating that sub-award situation. Perhaps in the future we will be changing that, but that is where we are at this time. Mr. Bucher asked if we get to that point in our future discussions, is there a sense if more dollars could be used beyond this additional \$28,000. Mr. McCorkle replied that they could, the amount of revenue for some of these businesses are down badly and some of them were really hit hard. We have businesses that are down 100% of their revenue since March. We could certainly look back at some of the applications and help some of the businesses that are hurting badly.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked if there are plans for other ideas that are being considered. Mr. McCorkle explained that some of the ideas that are out there include extending the DORA's hours and geographic boundaries. There are other communities that have been more aggressive. Our ReBOOT team met this past week and discussed the fair food event, and there were a couple of Old Worthington businesses that did very well with the DORA activated. We also continue to discuss closing off some public spaces for additional seating, whether that be a municipal parking lot area or potentially some small roadway areas. For the fair event, we used it as a pilot, bringing in more seating. Our Service Department went and picked up some picnic tables from the pool that were not being used and put them out. Having more events that drive people downtown and drive people to our businesses as been a common theme that has come up a couple times in recent meetings. Ms. Kowalczyk brought up something that Ms. Dorothy has discussed, which is looking at ways to increase public space by maybe shutting down streets or doing other things like that, considering the safest activities are those that are outdoors.

Ms. Dorothy expressed her thanks for working with our businesses here in Worthington. It is a tough time, so whatever we can do to help, it is appreciated. More people are walking outside, going outside, and that can definitely get people downtown. It would be awesome if we could increase the public right-of-way to be more than just cars and have people be able to hang around. It is so exciting to see the Village Green activated.

Mr. Myers shared that this seems like an appropriate time to revive a pitch that he has been making for 20 years, that the parking lot at New England and High would be a really nice outdoor plaza instead of a parking lot.

Mr. McCorkle said that is a good idea. Another idea that has been talked about is taking the electric vehicle charging stations and making them complimentary

through the end of the year to help drive a little bit of traffic to the downtown.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution 43-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

### **13. Resolution No. 44-2020 Consent for Guardrail Upgrades (ODOT)**

A Resolution Agreeing to Cooperate with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for D06 City NHS Guardrail Upgrade and Other Related Services and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into Agreements with the Director of Transportation Necessary for the Completion of the Project. (ODOT PID Number 111195).

#### **Minutes:**

**Resolution No. 44-2020 was introduced by Mr. Bucher**

**MOTION:** Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 44-2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Greeson detailed how this is common when the Ohio Department of Transportation does a project within our community.

Mr. Whited stated that this is very routine, allowing ODOT to do some safety updates to the guardrails and guardrail assemblies. This is very early in their process and allows us to cooperate with them to have this work done.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution 44-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

### **14. Ordinance No. 34-2020 Emergency Appropriation - Pipe Repair at Community Center**

#### **Minutes:**

**The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.**

**Ordinance No. 34-2020 was introduced by Mr. Myers**

Mr. Hurley detailed how the Community Center pool has remained closed since our initial COVID-19 shutdown in March. Once we closed, staff became aware of a piping issue that has resulted in a large project involving the replacement of underground piping loop. When they learned that there was a leak, we thought initially that it could be located and repaired routinely. However, once exposed and evaluated, we discovered that much of the piping had deteriorated and needed replaced. He came to Council in June and showed pictures of how badly the piping in that section had deteriorated. We originally thought that only a portion needed to be replaced, but then discovered that on down the line back closer to the other mechanical room, we still had some leaks in what was the original piping. We decided that while the system might be operable, it would just be wiser to go ahead and finish off the full run and basically replace the rest of the piping. Having the pool shut down originally due to COVID-19 was not much of an issue, but it would be a bigger issue if we were to lose that piping once we were back to more normal operations. Unfortunately, the additional phase of this project will require more funding, which is why we are here tonight asking for an additional emergency appropriation to

finish off the full project. The amount requested is \$135,000. We have representatives from American Leak Detection who are the lead contractor on the project and are also available to answer any questions along with Mr. Whited. Ms. Dorothy asked how long we anticipate this pipe to last. Mr. West with American Leak Detection responded that as far as the life span of the new pipe, they would expect that you would see as good or better life span than the original pipe. They have added a couple of sump pumps to keep water out of the ditch which will protect the outside of the pipe. The technology for wrapping the pipe has also changed since the original installation. The pipe manufacturers say that the expected lifetime is 15-20 years. Ms. Dorothy then asked whether someone needs to be keeping track so that in 15-20 years we have another \$290,000 to spend with whatever inflation we have during that period. Mr. West responded that is something that the City would want to keep an eye on. It is one of those things where the manufacturers are going to give you a number, but it should last longer than that. Ms. Dorothy explained how she just wants people to know that even though you cannot see it, those pipes are there and we have to take responsibility to maintain it whenever it pops up. She asked what type of pipe is it and what does it carry. Mr. West responded that it is a brand name called Perma-Pipe and it is an iron pipe that is wrapped in insulation. It is carrying the boiler water for heating the pool water as well as the facility that houses the pool. Ms. Dorothy said that she wanted to plant a sustainable seed, and brought up that it is quite efficient to do solar hot water heating. She knows it was not life-cycle cost effective to do some electricity due to how intensive our building is. However, if we ever go down that road again, solar hot water might be something we could look into.

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 34-2020 The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Vote results:** Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

**MOTION:** Ms. Dorothy made a motion to pass Ordinance 34-2020 as an emergency.

**Vote results:** Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

**Vote results:**

Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

#### **15. Ordinance No. 35-2020 Stafford Village Subdivision**

Approving the Final Plat for Stafford Village (Northeast Corner of East Stafford Avenue and Hartford Street.

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson for a Public Hearing on September 21, 2020**

#### **16. Ordinance No. 36-2020 Granting Easement to Quikrete**

Granting a Non-Exclusive Easement to The Quikrete Companies, LLC and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Easement Agreement to Allow for the Use of a Portion of the Huntley Bowl Park property.

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Mr. Bucher for a Public Hearing on September 21, 2020**

## Official Reports

### 17. Reports of City Officials

#### **Minutes:**

Mr. Greeson explained how it is his intention to provide a more robust report on a variety of administrative matters that have been worked on over the course of the summer break next week along with the financial report. Tonight he would like to focus on a couple of other things. It is pretty unusual in the life of government that we have to deal with what he would call the end of programs or events that result in us no longer performing a particular service. One was voted on tonight, which he appreciated the comments of President Michael and Mr. Myers about the intent of that program. He does not want this time to go by without focusing a little bit on the work of the people who are no longer going to be doing that role of SRO. We had a couple of gentlemen who worked diligently and others who were assigned to the schools prior to the SRO program performing similar duties. He wanted to personally and professionally express his thanks to them for pouring their heart and soul into the role and being committed to serving the youth of our community. He knows that they will do a great job in other roles in the Division of Police. He is thankful that they continue to be on our team.

Secondly, today is a big day in the life of the City as we have officially transferred the police 911 emergency dispatching and communications technician functions to the Northwest Center. As you know, the Division of Fire was transferred in July. This process began a number of years ago when we received a local government innovations fund grant to work with Hilliard, Dublin, and Upper Arlington where we studied the feasibility of consolidating those functions. The overall evaluation confirmed its feasibility and Hilliard went first, followed by Upper Arlington. About a year ago, after intensive evaluations and community outreach, Council authorized us to advance contracting with the Northwest Center and affect the transfer.

Implementation of this took approximately a year, and he could not be more proud of the many staff that worked on it. The transfer will have long-term benefits in technology capacity and service sharing which are important to note.

He wanted to take some time tonight to note the moment and offer his personal and our whole organization's gratitude to each of the communications technicians, both past and present who have served our community. We have always had excellent police, fire, and service operations that have effectively responded to the needs of our community. Underpinning and providing the foundation for all of that have been the dedicated members of our communications center. They have talked to our residents at their most difficult moments and have calmly relayed information to first responders. They have helped ensure through expert communications that service knows where the trees are down and where the roads

are bad during winter weather. Most importantly, that our police and firefighters, and service workers have the information they need to go home safely. We owe them our serious and sincere thanks. Our team of communications technicians have stayed until we successfully and completely made the transfer. He wanted to thank them from the bottom of his heart for their service to our city.

President Michael brought up how she had spoken with Mr. Greeson about having someone work with Council Members to try to come up with a date for our future retreat. She asked if an individual has been selected to work on. Mr. Greeson responded that he and Ms. Thress will work on that.

## 18. Reports of Council Members

### **Minutes:**

Mr. Robinson stated that he wanted to thank Mr. Greeson and his two colleagues, Mr. Myers and Ms. Kowalczyk for being part of an informal group investigating aspects of police policy and practice here in Worthington. He sent out a brief email yesterday giving an update, and they met again today for about an hour and a half at the Police Department. He would describe their work as being in a state of continued information gathering, but also a consolidation of thought. They will probably be able to bring before Council within a couple of weeks some ideas and an articulation of proposed actions and statements that we could make to the public to reassure them that we are taking issues of police policy and protocol seriously in these times.

Ms. Dorothy emphasized what Mr. Greeson said about of communications technicians for their service through the entire history of Worthington. She is thankful for the successful transfer. She expressed her thanks to Mr. Robinson, Ms. Kowalczyk, and Mr. Myers for their efforts in moving forward the potential reforms for our Police Department.

Mr. Myers reported that he would not be at next week's meeting.

Mr. Smith shared that he has been glad to have the opportunity to participate over the past month in different diversity training and programs.

Ms. Kowalczyk extended her thanks to everyone for everything they are working on, particularly in terms of the racial equity work that we are embarking on. She appreciated the implicit bias training and thought it was well done, and the conversations with the person we have asked to help us move forward in our conversations with the community, Mr. White. If you have not seen the webinar that the Community Relations Commission sponsored on the role of suburbs in perpetuating inequality, she highly recommends it as it has been posted on the website thanks to Anne Brown. There is also a list of resources that the CRC put together as well. She requested, for the next meeting some statistics about our streaming video. She does not recall ever receiving information on participation.

