



# City Council Agenda

## Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 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, January 19, 2021, via Microsoft Teams videoconference. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

**Minutes:**

**Members Present:** Peter Bucher, Rachael Dorothy, Beth Kowalczyk, Scott Myers, David Robinson, Doug Smith and Bonnie Michael

**Member(s) Absent:** None

**Also Present:** City Manager Matt Greeson, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director David McCorkle, 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, IT Director Gene Oliver, 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:**

There were no visitor comments.

## Special Presentation(s)

### 5. Oath of Office - Vice Mayor

**Minutes:**

President Michael congratulated Mr. Mas on his appointment to serve as Vice Mayor for the City of Worthington. She requested that Mr. Mas raise his right hand, and she then administered the oath of office.

Mr. Mas described how he would be remiss if his first words were not about the appreciation and the trust that Council has placed in him to serve as Worthington's next Vice Mayor. He described how the former Vice Mayor, Jim Lorimer is someone who has contributed so much to Worthington, Franklin County, and the State of Ohio over the past half century. He is an athlete, veteran, lawyer, and founder of the Arnold Classic. He did something decades ago that is taken for granted today, he successfully invested his energy in developing girl's and women's sports when there were none. As the father of two girls, and grandfather of three, his efforts are particularly appreciated. Men like Mr. Lorimer are a rarity today, and he called him today to thank him for his service to Worthington and to express how there are large shoes to fill in taking this position.

Mr. Mas described how all he can do is walk in his own shoes, he took an oath to become a US citizen in 1968, his grandmother was the only grandparent to make it out of Cuba, and she accompanied him to his naturalization ceremony where she expressed to him to, "Be a good citizen." He took another oath tonight, promising to serve the City of Worthington, his adopted city. He would like to think Council placed their trust in him because he has been a good citizen as he promised his grandmother. He thanked his wife, Linda Mercadante, his children, and grandchildren who are all watching tonight.

## Approval of the Minutes

### 6. Approval of Minutes

**Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Bucher moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 4, 2021, and Regular meetings of January 4, 2021 and January 11, 2021.

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

## Public Hearings on Legislation

### 7. Ordinance No. 01-2021 General Fund Approp - SwimInc

Amending Ordinance No. 44-2020 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for Appropriations from the General Fund Unappropriated Balance for the Purpose of Providing Financial Assistance to SwimInc.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Greeson explained how Council recently received a letter from SwimInc requesting support for the not-for-profit as it has faced financial uncertainty as a

result of the coronavirus. This discussion is separate from the discussion about the long-term assets of the pools including the natatorium and outdoor pool complex, and the idea of a Joint Recreation District. City staff reviewed this request, specifically Mr. Bartter with the Finance Department. He invited the SwimInc board representatives on the call tonight to share any comments they may have or answer any questions. Mr. Bartter described how he reviewed a number of financial documents that were submitted by SwimInc, and he affirmed their need for the grant funding.

Dr. Southgate expressed on behalf of the SwimInc board of directors, his appreciation for Council considering this request for support. As expressed in the letter sent to Council, Worthington Pools are a foundational part of this community. In 2019, over 1,000 summer memberships were sold, providing summer passes to over 5,500 adults and children. Over half of these members were residents of the City of Worthington, and the majority of the rest live within the Worthington School District. When it is sunny and warm, there is no better place than the neighborhood pool. SwimInc has largely been self sufficient since its inception in 1954, no money from the City was ever received before 1990 when \$100,000 was awarded for pool construction. Six years later, the City lent \$600,000 at 0% interest for a similar purpose. 91% of all capital expenditures over the years have been self financed. Summer season operations have always been entirely self-supporting. Due to the pandemic, self sufficiency has been a much greater challenge, with revenues between March and August being 77% lower than they were in the previous year. Worthington Pools reopened the indoor natatorium in August, with COVID increasing expenditures and limiting operations to 50% capacity. The possibility of lagging summer membership sales this year is a distinct possibility. Despite the financial hit taken, SwimInc fully intends to reopen outdoor operations this year. To support repairs, lifeguard training, and all the other required tasks to reopen, funding is needed. An explanation for the request has been submitted to Council.

Mr. Greeson noted that the City was pleased to provide SwimInc with a ReBoot grant for \$5000 and they were recipients of PPP dollars from the federal government last summer. The receipt of the PPP dollars were factored into their request and staff believes the request has merit.

Mr. Robinson asked if SwimInc intends to apply for the second round of PPP benefits. Dr. Southgate responded that they are having a board meeting next week and he imagines they would take that discussion up to submit for additional dollars. Mr. Greeson asked if that would affect their need for public money in any way. Dr. Southgate replied that is difficult to say. There are a lot of variables that go into getting the pools re-opened. There may be a revenue hit this year, similar to the 77% hit they took last year.

Ms. Dorothy described how there are not a lot of pools in the area, and we have had some pools close down recently. She asked if the pool was gearing up to have another summer season. Dr. Southgate responded that is correct, he is not as pessimistic as others, noting President-Elect Biden's pledge to vaccinate 100 million Americans in his first 100 days in office.

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 01-2021. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**8. Ordinance No. 02-2021 Modify PUD to Permit a New Mixed-Use Building at 121 W. Wilson Bridge Road.**

To Amend the Official Zoning Map of the City of Worthington, Ohio, to Modify PUD 01-2018 (Ordinance No.06-2019) to Permit a New Mixed-Use Building at 121 W. Wilson Bridge Rd. (Parcel #100-006792).

**Minutes:**

Mr. Brown overviewed how when we have a modification that requires an amendment to the PUD, that modification seeks a recommendation from the Municipal Planning Commission, then on to City Council for approval. This is for the Holiday Inn site at West Wilson Bridge and High Street. In 2019, when doing the original rezoning to PUD, we also did a subdivision creating three separate parcels with one fronting West Wilson Bridge Road, another at Caren and High, and the one under discussion tonight. This parcel is a little under two acres in size and is considered Lot #1 of the Worthington Gateway subdivision. The original PUD approved four buildings along West Wilson Bridge Road which are still to be constructed, that are a mix of office, retail, and restaurant. There was also a four story Hampton Inn and Suites approved originally, however that was then changed to a Tru by Hilton which was approved in February 2020. With the pandemic, that changed the hotel industry, and the likelihood of a hotel on that portion of the site dwindled. In September 2020, Mr. Spencer came to the MPC/ARB with the idea to modify the existing PUD to change it to a true mixed use building that would have a mix of retail, restaurant, and office, and possibly a boutique hotel on the forth floor. The PUD required that at least 20,000 square feet of the building be dedicated office. The footprint of the building also shrank more, and is half the size of what the original Hampton Inn was supposed to be. One thing that needs to be looked at, is the connections on the site that needs to be cleaned up with some pedestrian maneuverability and sidewalks, which will be cleaned up with the final PUD approval. This is a four story building, which was originally approved in 2019 for the hotel as part of the original rezoning, which matches up with the Wilson Bridge Corridor plans and districts.

President Michael asked what amenities are being put in place to connect this building with the out-buildings, giving people a sense of a space where they want to go. Mr. Brown responded that with what has been approved and the patio amenities, there also needs to be some pedestrian friendliness. There will be a lot of streetscape and patio improvements, along with the road realignment that will provide better vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian coordination. With Mr. Spencer's proposal, there are two balconies on it along with an outdoor plaza that will pull people back and forth between the sites. Some of the office employees will go to the northern portion of the site without having to get in their cars.

Ms. Dorothy expressed that overall the building and project looks really good. When looking through the PUD application, there was better indication of pedestrian access, more ladder markings in between sidewalks throughout the parking landscape. She

hopes there is more activation walking and biking in between projects. There needs to be well defined markers for where to walk in between all those spaces. She commented, when looking at that overall plan, the vast majority of the site is parking now, but she would like to incentivize people to walk and bike more.

Mr. Robinson asked for a definition of the criteria for when a PUD revision is required to come back before the full Council. Mr. Brown responded that with this project, the PUD said that the parcel had to be a four story use. If the PUD had been created to be broad in uses, it could have gone to MPC and they could then send it on to Council for review. With this one, the use itself was shown to be on this parcel as a hotel, and it was felt that it had to go through the amendment process and come back to Council for approval since it was not going to be a hotel. Mr. Robinson asked if it pertains to the use as well as the physical structure. Mr. Brown explained when it went from a Hampton to a Tru Hotel, despite the use staying as a hotel use, it was smaller and shorter. If it had gone higher or into the setbacks more, the MPC could have asked if it needed to go to Council for approval. With the sensitivity to the neighbors, staff would have asked for it to go on to Council for approval.

Mr. Myers commented that we all share in Mr. Patel's disappointment that we were unable to secure a flag for a hotel on this site. We do have some experience with Mr. Spencer, doing a great job with the 350 building. We also have experience with developers who are not quite so in tune with the sensitivities in Worthington. He does not have that reservation with Mr. Spencer. This building went through several iterations in MPC/ARB, and it is reflective of Worthington, adding a new element and character that we do not currently have. He highlighted that this is not a spec building, and they have a high value tenant in mind that we would like to attract to Worthington. Along with Mr. Patel's redevelopment of the out-parcels, there is the hope this helps to revitalize that area to coincide with what is happening at the mall. Maybe we will have another entertainment district to complement downtown Worthington.

Ms. Kowalczyk agreed with Ms. Dorothy about the need for pedestrian connectivity, which is particularly important on that side of town. She asked about the timeline to see things start moving on this property. Mr. Brown responded that once approved by Council, it starts the 60-day clock for a referendum period. The applicant in the meantime can be working on their construction drawings for review. He would assume after that 60-day referendum period, they will need to come back to MPC for final plan approval. The existing portions of the site with their building permits and zoning can begin work at anytime, but he would assume there would be some type of coordination with the amount of underground work that needs to be done. He would best guess late spring, but defers to Mr. Spencer and Mr. Patel for the exact dates. Mr. Patel announced that in December, they did sign their contract with the public improvement contractor and ordered the traffic signal poles which have a long lead time. That work is earmarked to start in May 2021, which is the drop dead date to make sure they are ready to start construction on the out-parcel buildings in coordination with Mr. Spencer. It really boils down to their financing, which is based

on achieving a leasing threshold. So far they have signed three tenants, but that is only 20% of what they need to get the bank to finance construction. COVID has been a major setback on getting tenants to make commitments and they are taking their time. Mr. Spencer stated that their goal is to resubmit to ARB for final approvals. There is still a grade change to address, but they do need to have every consultant do their final checklist. The goal would be to have some level of construction in the May-June timeframe. They want to wrap things up with the ARB as soon as they can. President Michael expressed how she is excited to be able to walk from Ville Charmante to this new development. Mr. Spencer added that the Class-A office space requirements have changed with COVID. You have to listen to tenants, and the buildings will be designed for the future. He would not be surprised to see business meetings being held outside on the patios at this space.

Mr. Robinson asked about the status of the High Street parcel. Mr. Patel responded that it boils down to continuing the construction going down Wilson Bridge, building those buildings, and then continuing on to High Street and developing that as approved. At this point, that is the path of least resistance in that we have buildings approved and construction already mobilized. We feel that is the most efficient way to go. If while building Wilson Bridge we get a user that makes fiscal sense and is the right fit, they would look at it. As of today, that is the most lucrative piece from a leasing standpoint. They are looking to see how the market plays out and then marketing accordingly.

Mr. Bucher asked if there were going to be any storm water implications with all the parking on this site. Mr. Brown explained how when this was going through the initial process, the quantity and quality of the storm water needed to be improved. Storm water plans have been approved, with a design with onsite bio retention that will go to underground storage and gradually release into our storm water infrastructure. You will see much improvement to the site. Mr. Spencer added that they took the previous engineering that the Witness Group had done, and they designed to that report that was generated. This building will generate less of an impact and this building was designed not to push the envelope.

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 02-2021. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

## **9. Ordinance No. 03-2021 Amend Code Section 121**

Amending Various Sections of Chapter 121 "Council" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington.

### **Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Myers seconded a motion to accept the amended version that was distributed with council materials.

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

Mr. Lindsey described there is the question of how much notice Council would want for an emergency special meeting. Currently, it requires 24 hour notice, the proposed amendment has a blank for the number of hours required for an emergency special meeting. The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) does provide for the concept of emergency

special meetings in less than 24 hours notice. It is a function of Council to decide whether to do so, and what the appropriate amount of time would be. He has seen anything from one hour to twelve hours used in other places. There was also some discussion regarding whether Council might want to make any changes to the definition of quorum in the ordinance. The language uses the phrase "Elected" to describe Councilmembers, which may leave out appointed Councilmembers filling a vacancy. However, the charter refers to those Councilmembers as being elected by other Councilmembers. The terminology could be changed if desired, but it is not a necessity to do so.

Mr. Robinson explained that regarding the number of hours for a special meeting, he believes there is a balancing between how much time would be reasonable to be notified before a meeting. He believes somewhere between four and eight hours would be adequate.

President Michael wondered under what circumstances would a Council meeting need to be held within four hours. Mr. Robinson expressed that from his perspective the precipitating issue was the mutual aid agreement relating to law enforcement. If there were a need for our police force to be deployed and we wanted to convene to discuss that, it could occur quickly.

Mr. Smith said his gut reaction was for there to be between four to six hours notice.

Mr. Myers described how the tension arises between a fairly remote potential to convene quickly, and part of the reason why the notice requirement was put in for all emergency meeting ordinances as to alert the public. We need to meet in open session and make sure people are aware of the meeting. That is why it is set at 24 hours, giving the public ample opportunity to participate. The other issue with shortening that, is if we have an event that arises at 3pm and want to have a meeting in 6 hours, there is the question whether we will have meetings at midnight. The ordinance currently provides the phraseology, "At least" so there is no reason we cannot provide notice within six hours for a meeting that would occur in 24 hours. Mr. Lindsey replied that he had not thought of it in those terms. Mr. Myers explained that hypothetically we have a precipitating event which would cause a Councilmember to speak with other Councilmembers and decide that a meeting is appropriate, and then call the Clerk to set the meeting, sending out notice to meet in 12 hours, which could have Council meeting in the middle of the night. He cannot think of a more covert way to have a public meeting than holding one in the middle of the night. If we read this as saying, "At least" and the precipitating event was at 3pm and Council had notice by at least 3am in the meeting, but the meeting was not set until 7am, that would seem to be more manageable. He is concerned that we may not give the public and press time to be available.

Mr. Robinson expressed that the time of the meeting is only partially governed or constrained by the time requirement. To eliminate the possibility a meeting be called at an odd hour, he does not believe the way to do it is by focusing on the amount of time required between notification and the meeting time. Mr. Lindsey said that based upon Mr. Robinson's comment that he would agree that the code provision does not

currently specify a timeframe of which a meeting can or cannot be held. The concern of meeting in the middle of the night for both the public and press without an extreme emergency would prompt a negative reaction. If you wanted to address that, language could be added that no meeting shall begin before or after a certain time. His concern about such a limitation, if there were an event that all seven Councilmembers felt the need to go into session to authorize action that is otherwise unavailable, to a set a time limit could cause harm. Mr. Myers said that as he read it, this is a notice provision, not setting the time of the meeting. If we had an event that occurred at 3pm, notice would need to be given by 9pm that night, but the notice could say the meeting is held at 7am the next morning. When reading this ordinance that way, there is the flexibility to eliminate the three o'clock meeting without having to put parameters on the time of day we meeting. Mr. Lindsey replied that the code currently does not require that special meetings have the time be different than the time of normal meetings. The language added provides that the person making a request for a special meeting, shall identify the time, date, place, and purpose, therefore someone requesting would need three Councilmembers to agree that 3am was an appropriate time to schedule a meeting. The notice requirement is the minimum time requirement that Councilmembers would be notified there was a meeting called.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked how much time is reasonably needed for notice of a meeting to take an official action, and what kind of emergency would necessitate calling an emergency meeting that requires a formal action of Council. It seems like six hours seems reasonable, but she has a hard time conceiving of a situation where this might take place and we would need to meet to take official action on something that is an emergency. Mr. Lindsey indicated that when Mr. Robinson first raised this issue, it was related to concern about our mutual aid and the ability to meet quickly. In drafting this, the language he chose is broader than just mutual aid related, and is similar to what is found in the state statute when you can have a special meeting with less than 24 hours notice to the news media. It is a determination as to the appropriateness, much like many of the actions Council makes. As to when it may be needed, he may not know, but there are many cities who have the ability to have meetings with less than 24 hour notice.

President Michael asked Council if it was felt that members needed to have the ability to have a meeting with less than 24 hours notice. Mr. Robinson answered affirmatively. Mr. Myers expressed that within the past twelve years, we have not had to. Mr. Bucher stated that it gives us some flexibility if we were to need it. President Michael conveyed that this has not been needed in her 25 years of service. Mr. Robinson expressed that the thinking is that this enables us to do something in the event of an unexpected emergency. This gives us flexibility. There is no argument that this would be bad public policy. President Michael responded that she has not been able to figure out a reason where we would need to have something with less than 24 hour notice. She understands that there may be some disagreement regarding the police situation, but she does not see the reason we need to have a



meeting with less than 24 hour notice. We have a very high quality staff, and if anything comes up that is that much of an emergency, they would be able to handle it. Mr. Smith stated that a lot of crazy things have happened this year, and to have the flexibility in the face of unforeseen circumstances solidifies Mr. Robinson's point that this is sound public policy.

Mr. Myers asked staff if we have a list of press or public that have requested notice. Mr. Greeson responded that we do. Mr. Myers asked how many are on it. Mr. Greeson said he did not have the exact number, but we have people who signed up through Notify Me and our Sunshiners who desire specific notification. Ms. Thress said that the Sunshiner list has one to two dozen included. Mr. Myers said that is his fear shortening the time too much, even a special meeting has to be open and available to the public. Maybe six hours is a little too short. He could live with eight or ten hours.

**MOTION:** Mr. Myers moved, Mr. Robinson seconded by to amend the Ordinance by adding eight hours into the section.

Mr. Smith brought up from a marketing perspective, you have the majority of your click and open rate within the first hour of sending an email. So, that may allay some of Mr. Myers' concerns about people not finding out about things.

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

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 03-2021 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

## **New Legislation to Be Introduced**

### **10. Resolution No. 02-2021 Grants for The Worthington Partnership and the Worthington Historical Society**

Approving 2021 Grant Funding for The Worthington Partnership and the Worthington Historical Society.

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Ms. Dorothy**

**MOTION:** Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Bucher to adopt Resolution No. 02-2021

Mr. Greeson described how this resolution supports the implementation of the budget that Council has already adopted. Staff recommends approval of this resolution.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked if this was something she should abstain from since she is a member of the board of the Worthington Partnership. Mr. Lindsey replied that in an abundance of caution he would recommend doing so.

**The motion to adopt Resolution No. 02-2021 passed by a voice vote with one abstention**

### **11. Resolution No. 03-2021 Authorizing the Transfer of Economic Development Funds**

**Minutes:**

President Michael described how Resolution 03-2021 was added and sent out before the Council meeting and she is now adding it to the agenda at this time.

**Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk**

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Myers to adopt Resolution No. 03-2021. Mr. Greeson explained how this helps implement something that Council already approved as part of the 2021 Operating Budget. We budgeted funds to transfer to the CIC in order to complete acquisition of two parcels that they have had under contract. This is part of implementing the long-term redevelopment efforts in what is the office section of the southside of East Wilson Bridge Road in our Wilson Bridge Road plan. When that plan was adopted, we were working with the owners of these parcels for quite some time. The CIC is prepared to close on those parcels, and staff agreed it would be appropriate to adopt this resolution so that in addition to the numbers in the budget, there is clear authorization to transfer the funds.

Mr. Smith asked if our standard operating procedure is to abstain if a Councilmember is sitting on a board. President Michael explained that by statute there must be a Councilmember or staff person sitting on the CRC. Mr. Lindsey said that the CIC is an agent of the City by agreement and that by statute is required to have public members as part of its board. For that reason he does not believe there needs to be an abstention.

Mr. Robinson asked for a description on what might be on the CIC's balance sheet, what assets do they currently have, and when these parcels are subsequently sold to a private developer, whether the funds realized from those sales revert back to the City or do they go to the CIC. Mr. Greeson replied that technically those funds, with the ownership of the CIC, he believes the proceeds of a sale would go into their funds. There are four representatives on that board, representing the City's interests and the purpose of that board is to pursue economic development and redevelopment in partnership with the City of Worthington. He would think those funds go back into economic development purposes, but probably in the coffers of the CIC. Mr. Lindsey stated that he believes Mr. Greeson is correct and there is nothing in the current agreement with the CIC that would require them to transfer the proceeds from the sales of those properties back to the City. There is also nothing that would prevent them from doing so. Upper Arlington's CIC was the temporary owner of a large parcel of the DeSantis property, which was why their CIC was created. As those parcels were sold off, the money was transferred back to the City. Mr. Bartter added that the balance sheet of the CIC indicates that they have \$159,470, and the two properties that have been previously purchased. Mr. Robinson expressed that these issues are complicated and will not argue that we should not approve this tonight, he believes we should approve this. He does think as a matter of sound policy, that the City should not be transferring taxpayer money to semi-autonomous agents that can then use funds without strict Council approval for the money going to them. He would like to talk about whether reverting back to the City would be good policy. Mr. Greeson expressed that is a conversation that could be had, in this particular issue there may be further acquisitions we want to affect and it may be wise to leave the dollars with them. It may be something that is somewhat situational.

**The motion to adopt Resolution No. 03-2021 passed unanimously by a voice**

vote

**12. Ordinance No. 04-2021 CIP - Rush Run Stream - Huntley Bowl**

Amending Ordinance No. 44-2020 (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 Rush Run Stream - Huntley Bowl Project and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 708-20)

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Ms. Dorothy**

**13. Ordinance No. 05-2021 CIP - Windows & Doors (Building Improvements) 713-21**

Amending Ordinance No. 44-2020 (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 Municipal and Griswold Building Windows and Doors Project and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 713-21)

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Mr. Robinson**

**14. Ordinance No. 06-2021 CIP - CC Pool Resurfacing (Project 706-20)**

Amending Ordinance No. 44-2020 (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 Community Center Pools Resurfacing Project and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 706-20)

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Mr. Bucher**

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

**15. Reports of City Officials**

**Minutes:**

Mr. Greeson stated that staff would be sending out the report from Mr. Jenkins on the recent Council Retreat. It would be beneficial to follow-up to reflect on the priorities that Council expressed and to get some clarification for staff and Council on what some of it means, and to discuss pragmatically how we sequence some of the work. We also want to share a series of questions we have that would inform a follow-up conversation at our next meeting. The reality is, when looking at the totality of the priorities, we found it difficult to accomplish all of them in addition to the activities we have in our work place. Part of the question will be seeking clarification on how we sequence things over time.

## Reports of Council Members

**16. Reports of Council Members**

**Minutes:**

Ms. Kowalczyk expressed how the virtual Martin Luther King presentation was very well done, she liked the community videos that were interspersed and the music.

Considering our circumstances, it was well done and much appreciated.

Mr. Myers reported that LC's initial presentation was at the last MPC meeting, and as anticipated it went smoothly and was tabled. We do not know when they will be back again.

Ms. Dorothy echoed Ms. Kowalczyk's comments on the virtual Martin Luther King presentation. She let everyone know that that if anyone wants to join WIFA, their membership fees have been waived. They are doing many things online and a benefit of being a member is having first choice signing up for Zoom virtual events.

Mr. Robinson expressed his thanks for everyone taking the issue of Ordinance No. 03-2021 seriously, thinking through it, and hashing it out. He found the topic to be a little difficult to talk about, because it admittedly speculative. However, given the motivating reason as he conceived it, he takes the issue seriously.

President Michael thanked everyone who worked on the Martin Luther King Day ceremony, it was a very well done program considering all the challenges. She also brought up how Council previously discussed doing something to celebrate former Vice Mayor Lorimer. There had been some plans that COVID ruined, but she hopes there could be a way to do something virtually.

## Other

### Executive Session

#### 17. To consider the appointment of a public employee or official and imminent pending litigation

**Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Bucher to enter into Executive Session for the appointment of public employee or official and imminent pending litigation.

**The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.**

Council adjourned to executive session at 9:19 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Kowalczyk moved, Mr. Smith seconded a motion to return to open session at 9:48 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

## Adjournment

### 18. Motion to Adjourn

**Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Myers moved, Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Contact: D. Kay Thress, Clerk of Council (Kay.Thress@worthington.org 614-436-3100) | Minutes

published on 01/28/2021, adopted on 02/01/2021

    /s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt      
Management Assistant

Attest

    /s/ Bonnie D. Michael      
President of Council