



City Council Agenda

Minutes

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:30 pm

6550 N. High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085

Virtual Meeting Information

Link through: worthington.org

Our Government - Live Stream

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Worthington City Council met remotely in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 16, 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, and Bonnie Michael

Member(s) Absent: Doug Smith

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 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.

Approval of the Minutes

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Meeting Minutes - February 1, 2021

Minutes:

MOTION Ms. Kowalczyk moved, seconded by Mr. Myers a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 1, 2021 as presented.

The Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

New Legislation to Be Introduced

6. Resolution No. 06-2021 Automatic Aid Agreement with Washington Township Fire

Resolution No. 06-2021 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with Washington Township for the Provision of Automatic Response and Mutual Aid for Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Minutes:

Resolution No. 06-2021 was introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

MOTION: Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to adopt Resolution No. 06-2021.

Mr. Greeson described how this is a standard update and renewal of our mutual aid agreement for Fire and EMS services with Washington Township.

Ms. Dorothy asked how often we update this automatic aid agreement with Washington Township. Mr. Greeson responded that there is no compensation associated with this, it is just a mutual aid agreement which we are updating at their request. Chief Zambito explained how Washington Township updates this more often than most agencies do because they are an accredited fire department and they are coming up on their ISO certification, which looks at mutual aid agreements. Ms. Dorothy wondered who else we have mutual aid agreements with. Chief Zambito responded that we have one with pretty much any fire department in Central Ohio.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 06-2021 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

7. Resolution No. 07-2021 Authorize Replacement of Selby Park Playground

Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Replacement of the Selby Park Playground.

Minutes:

Resolution No. 07-2021 was introduced by Mr. Myers.

MOTION: Ms. Dorothy moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to adopt Resolution No. 07-2021.

Mr. Hurley updated Council about the Selby Park Playground and how we are at the conclusion of a robust public input process, which was a challenge considering COVID. Between the online survey which we received 132 responses and 200 responses to a survey sent to Colonial Hills Elementary students, the input was taken and three design options were put on the City's website, which was then narrowed down to one recommendation. Earlier this evening the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the input and recommended the design option he will share tonight. He showed a

rendering of the winning option, which was favored by a 2:1 margin, and only a few tweaks were made based upon the feedback received.

Mr. Robinson asked about a large tree that is at the playground currently, and how he does not see it in the renderings, and wanted to know if it was going to be removed.

Mr. Hurley responded that there is a large split trunk oak tree there currently that will unfortunately go away. Staff has evaluated that tree over the past 15 years and it is slowly declining. We have been planting some trees in anticipation of that along the side of the park, and this design will add five trees in the area between the parking and the playground. Mr. Robinson asked if any of the new trees being planted are hardwood or large, shade trees. Mr. Hurley explained that the trees that will be planted will have to be able to survive in that environment, the arborist will choose them in conjunction with the Arbor Committee. The area between the park and the playground has been a bit of a mess with people walking through and it has been difficult to keep anything alive there. There has been some research done on applications downtown and there is a tree-well system that will allow us to plant trees in a well underneath pavers. We feel confident we will be able to grow some nice sized trees in that area. We have also added some shade in the seating areas where there has not been much shade in the area in the middle.

Mr. Hurley pointed out how there was a clear favorite in the proposed designs, but there were a few tweaks suggested. One of tweak was to add additional swings, and then there was feedback indicating the desire for more slides so we added a 6' tube slide in lieu of the step climber that was on the original design. The revised version also features a more natural, darker pattern for the color scheme that was a clear favorite in all of the surveys. The Parks and Recreation Commission has made a motion and recommendation to move forward. Once everything is approved, it will be a 6-8 week turnaround, with a goal of having the playground installed sometime in April or May. We are fortunate to utilize US Communities, which is a government cooperative purchasing clearinghouse that bids competitively to get a contract, similar to state contracts. We are able to go directly to the vendor and get their contract pricing without going through the bidding process, which is very efficient and flexible for us.

Ms. Dorothy explained how currently there is a water drinking fountain that has had many issues, she asked if that is going to be fixed. Mr. Hurley described how we had funding in a separate CIP line for drinking fountains, so that is queued up to be worked on along with the playground. He described how there was a lot of feedback on the shelter from the survey, so the other clarification put out along with the oak trees, there is funding in the CIP in 2022 to assess the shelter and to work with the community on the future direction for it whether that is renovation or replacement.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked how long it has been since this playground was last renovated.

Mr. Hurley responded that it was back in the mid-1990s. We used to think we could go 25-30 years before replacement, but a recurring issue has been the surfacing. We are going with an artificial turf surfacing here, the early returns on this surfacing are good and feels more natural like grass. Ms. Kowalczyk asked if we anticipate another 20 or

so years for this equipment. Mr. Hurley stated how we look at all of these playgrounds on a 20-25 year lifecycle, but it depends on the usage.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 07-2021 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

8. Ordinance No. 07-2021 General Fund Transfer

Amending Ordinance No. 44-2020 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the General Fund Unappropriated Balance in the Amount of \$285,000.

Minutes:

Introduced by Mr. Bucher

9. Ordinance No. 08-2021 CIP - Rush Run Stream and South and McCoy Slope Repair

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 – South Street/McCoy Slope Repair and Rehab Project and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 688-19)

Minutes:

Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk

The Clerk was instructed to give notice of a public hearing on said ordinances in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter unless otherwise directed.

Reports of City Officials

10. Policy Item(s)

a. Permission to Bid - McCord Park

Minutes:

Mr. Greeson described how last week Mr. Hurley and Mr. Kolwicz from POD Design, provided an overview of where we are at with McCord Park. This item tonight is to seek permission to bid the first phase of McCord Park.

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved, seconded by Ms. Dorothy to go forward with allowing staff permission to advertise for McCord Park.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

b. Retreat Report Adoption

Minutes:

Mr. Greeson described how there were two amendments to the retreat report proposed. The first was made by Council Member Dorothy who recommended that the report be amended to put “smaller housing options & more transit options” under the Sustainability priority, in addition to the Land use strategy for housing and economic development priority. Additionally, she suggested that “mental health services” be added to the Policing Strategies priority.

MOTION: Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Bucher to Amend page 3 of the retreat report to add to number 6. Sustainability the words “smaller housing options, more transit options” and to number 14. Policing strategies the words “mental health services.”

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Greeson described how the second amendment regarding how the City Council discussed the need to have a summarization of the priorities that were determined. Given the robust conversation that narrowed these priorities at the City Council meeting, staff recommends that the report stand as a reflection of the Council discussion at the retreat, but that the attached summary of the focused priorities be appended to the report to reflect the outcomes of the entire process.

Mr. Myers expressed that he wanted to put on the record what a retreat is and what comes out of a retreat. A lot of times, at least to him, a retreat is an opportunity to sit around, think big thoughts, get to know each other, and find out what each other's sensibilities and goals are. Sometimes the discussion that comes out of the retreat is much broader than a specific policy initiative. The first three priorities listed pretty much have uniform agreement that they will be moved forward on this year. The others are things that we want to get to, however they do not have quite the same import as the first three. Recognizing that we have a day-to-day city to run, and as we have discovered in the past, sometimes things pop-up that we have to address immediately and some of these priorities are put on hold or delayed. The last four priorities are not prescriptive, but they are aspirational and we would like to get those done. The first three are more prescriptive and definitely need to get those accomplished. He wanted to make sure everyone understood that a retreat is a little bit more freeform than what people may sometimes think.

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved, seconded Ms. Dorothy to append to the report the one-page document entitled FOCUSED PRIORITIES FROM 2021 CITY COUNCIL RETREAT AND FOLLOW-UP PROCESS to provide a succinct summary of the outcomes of the City Council's dialogue and those views expressed at the meeting this evening.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

11. Discussion Item(s)

a. Continued Discussion of Vision Worthington Implementation

Minutes:

Mr. Greeson overviewed how this is a continuation of a discussion that has been undertaken in recent weeks regarding how we move forward to implement the community vision recommendations. This will be an open ended conversation where we are making sure that the next step in the process enjoys consensus and agreement from Council, positively influencing the future of the community. It is important to have a continued conversation regarding what we are calling our "Transition to Actions" which means beginning work on strategies to implement the vision statements which are by nature, more high level. The ultimate goal is to adopt the vision statements and move forward and initiate a process to begin exploring how we implement our transition to action on the

vision statements. We need to have a resolution that adopts the vision statements, and a subsequent resolution that creates the process for moving forward.

President Michael suggested working down from the top of the resolution, asking if there are any changes to be made to the "Whereas" clauses that were sent out.

Mr. Robinson explained that this may be a good place to discuss his proposals. First of all, the changes that were sent out last week with the red and have now been incorporated into the resolution are very good changes. With his suggested additions, he believes it is very important that we state explicitly in the resolution what the visioning report is, but also what it is not, so it is not misappropriated or cited by individuals or groups as an authoritative document that is prescriptive. His hope is that we can include his first suggested WHEREAS right before the sixth WHEREAS. He does not like suggesting something that could be viewed as a qualifier, but that is exactly what it is. He hopes we can embrace this with the clarity of what it is, and then get to work on acting on it.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked if whether the data collected was the result of a statistically valid sample. It may have not been the 80% originally asked for, but is it significant enough to have merit. If it was, that should be clear. There was a significant amount of work done by the committee, and we do not want to devalue all of the tremendous effort that was put into collecting the data. They went above and beyond what they could have considering the pandemic. She wondered if there is a way to recognize the efforts put into it, and that we still did get a significant response from it. Mr. Robinson replied that no one is trying to diminish the effort, there are several WHEREASs that make it clear their effort was herculean and incredible. Nevertheless, when you consider the participants from a statistically valid perspective, we need to begin with the fact that those who participated in the survey and design meetings were self selecting groups of people, which going door to door may have mitigated. When you look at the raw numbers as a percentage of the electorate, those who participated in the design meetings amounted to less than 3% of the electorate. Those that completed the survey were roughly 17% of the electorate. It was not the 80% figure that had been discussed prior to COVID. Ms. Kowalczyk explained that typically 50-80% is not considered necessary for statistically valid samples. She is curious about whether we were anywhere close to something resembling a statistically valid sample.

President Michael read a statement from Mr. Smith who submitted comments to be read in his absence:

"I think that adding Mr. Robinson's additional statements or at least some variation makes sense. It will be important to provide context about how the Committee was able to work through COVID, but with less outreach than originally intended."

Mr. Bucher explained how something along these lines would be worthwhile to

discuss and include. In the report it does explain that some areas presented do not share consensus, such as density or parks and greenspace.

Mr. Myers stated that he is in complete agreement on the second proposed WHEREAS and how we need to make clear this is a guiding document and not code. The more he reads the first proposed WHEREAS, he wants to make sure it does not question the reliability or import of the report itself. He does not want to erode the validity of the report because we are going to take extensive action to implement it, which in his thinking does imply this is a valid report. Maybe we can soften the language, he just does not want to attack the validity of the report. Mr. Robinson agreed that he is not pleased with the language either. He has spent a lot of time thinking about the Comprehensive Plan for UMCH, thinking we should do something about that, and that has shaped his reaction to this resolution. In the Comprehensive Plan update, it talks about being a consensus document. He feels that operating on that basis has led to action and conduct, that if we hadn't tried to make it something it didn't need to be, we would not be where we are at today. In this resolution, that is why he is not wanting to overstate the weight and authority it bears as an adequate articulation of the public as opposed to a decision making tool for Council. He is open to alternative language, and would like to be able to point to a WHEREAS if someone is overstating what the visioning report is. He has already heard of a group referring to it as "The Worthington Vision" and he would like to be able to speak reasonably about what it is.

Ms. Kowalczyk agreed with Mr. Myers that the second proposed statement would resolve that issue in terms of what is this document and being able to point to something. She is not sure if the language in the first proposal provides anything other than a question as to whether we asked enough people of their opinion. She is concerned because there was a considerable amount of effort put into this report and those vision statements are a compilation of all of that work. This statement seems to question all of that work. She understands there is a difference between what we asked and what they were able to achieve, frankly she would have been surprised if we reached 80% even without COVID. If you want to turn it into a positive, despite COVID they were able to achieve a significant portion of the community's feedback, and a diversity of opinion, as opposed to a negative response to the report and the feedback obtained. Mr. Robinson said he likes that, and asked if we could have another week to wordsmith it.

President Michael said she did not see a reason why not. She then read another statement from Mr. Smith:

"During the retreat, we spoke at length about how the visioning statements did not need to be approved by Council, but staff mentioned it could be helpful for Council to approve a resolution to clarify the adoption of these visioning statements. As a result, he wants to make sure we are approving the statements as an aspirational document as Mr. Myers would say."

Mr. Greeson commented that the staff WHEREAS that is the second to the last one on the first page, says some of the same type of things and may be a little duplicative of what Mr. Robinson is trying to accomplish.

Mr. Myers suggested that after the WHEREAS Mr. Greeson just referenced, Mr. Robinson's first WHEREAS would be, "WHEREAS due to constraints and restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the participation rate was less than the original goal, though still represents a significant portion of the community and diversity of opinion." Mr. Robinson commented that he likes that language. Mr. Myers expressed that he is trying to make it positive rather than negative, acknowledging it was less than the goal, but still represents a significant portion.

Mr. Greeson stated that staff will take Council's words tonight and draft a modified version showing the edits, and a clean copy for the Council agenda packet next week.

President Michael asked how much the second proposed amendment conflicts with the second to last WHEREAS in the draft resolution. They are almost repetitive in some way, and she is thinking we do not need both of them. The question is what people want to see. Mr. Robinson offered rewording of the existing WHEREAS, "WHEREAS, the Visioning Committee's report notes that a vision statement is not prescriptive, but an aspirational statement of an idealist emotional future..." Mr. Greeson explained that he believes staff can package the two proposed amendments for consideration at the next Council meeting. Mr. Greeson described how in any of these exercises, it is around the question of what is the structure of the process we will use moving forwards, and what are the goals and principles of that process. On page 28 of the agenda package, we begin to outline that process architecture which contemplates a steering committee and that committee would take a series of steps outlined in the first paragraph of the possible process moving forward. This includes workshops with a series of goals such as cataloguing what is already underway, evaluating action ideas, identifying new ideas, and ultimately shaping the highest priority action that should be pursued to achieve the vision. As we wrote this, we thought those workshops would be opportunities to bring in knowledgeable and interested stakeholders. There might be issues that require more in-depth conversation, and the steering committee may create working teams around those. The action planning would focus on recommending steps that could be taken in the next 1-2 years, as well as the next 3-5 years. Council has discussed how there needs to be things that are actionable in the near-term, and then a roadmap for further out. In the last paragraph on page 28, it is a challenge to bring stakeholders together to have a robust conversation about ideas and opportunities that might be the best things to do in one area, especially if there are the questions of how to reconcile that with other priorities that may be the best under another vision area. The committee may need to seek public input to ascertain priorities, and we should be open to them doing statistically valid

survey work since we will be getting into the question of what we want to implement.

Guiding principles include the need for trackable performance metrics, there would be regular reports to City Council, they would categorize the activities already underway, use workshops to generate action ideas, check the level of community support for ideas, and prioritize ideas to prepare feasible recommended actions. The whole process is set up to engage groups and individuals that will be involved in implementing the actions to foster ownership. This memo is aimed at bridging a fairly independent Visioning Committee process, to building ownership amongst the variety of parties and people who will be tasked with implementing. The memo includes ideas for how the group may be structured, and may include some of the folks involved with developing the vision statements and some of our community partners who would work to implement them. Staff thoughts are that these people would not be delegates of those particular groups, but rather people Council wants to be engaged in the process.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked about how on page 28, working teams are referenced in one paragraph to more fully explore subjects, and then subgroups to host specific workshops are mentioned. She wondered if there is something she is missing and whether one of those does something the other does not, or are they options. Mr. Greeson replied he interpreted that as one being more formal and the other informal. Ms. Stewart described how they are slightly varying concepts, if the steering committee goes into the workshops and identifies particular areas that really need more understanding, they can create working teams for that purpose. The concept around a subgroup, is the steering committee themselves could break into various subgroups that choose to take a couple visions, hold workshops, and report back to the broader steering committee. There are a few different ways they could approach the work.

Mr. Robinson noted on page 28, the fourth bullet point reads to recommend to City Council the highest priority actions to be pursued to achieve the vision, asking how the committee will determine the highest priority actions. Mr. Greeson responded that they will need to check the level of community support for various ideas. We did not prescribe how they may do that, and may need to do some shuttle diplomacy with Council to determine whether what they are honing in on has political feasibility. Mr. Robinson brought up how on the top of page 29 it is stated that the steering committee will report to City Council regularly so they are informed. He asked who "they" is, and whether that is Council or the committee. Mr. Greeson answered that is the Council, and could be reworded to say, "report to City Council to inform them". Mr. Robinson explained how he is jealously guarding the relative role of Council and the committee, he does not want to be working for the committee. If they are coming to report to Council, he hopes it would be a two-way street and they are there to hear what Council wants and is directing them to pursue. Ms. Stewart

described how the concept here is just City Council and the steering committee keeping in contact, and Council has whatever role they want to have over the work of the steering committee. You can let the steering committee create their own prioritization structure, or Council can create the prioritization criteria. Likewise, this can be a simple reporting back, or a full blown dialogue to make sure everyone is in agreement on what the next steps are. Mr. Robinson asked for a comparison of this proposed process versus the mural task force. Ms. Stewart explained she was not a part of that mural group, so she does not know exactly how their role played out. Mr. Robinson recalled that their charge was to assess, study, and help Council understand what other communities are doing, as well as some of the legal dimensions, and to report back to Council without making a specific recommendation on a policy. Mr. Greeson stated that they framed feasible options. Mr. Robinson asked if that is what the steering committee would be doing or more than that. Mr. Greeson said that is up to Council, the way this is currently written, it states they will recommend to City Council the highest priority actions that should be pursued to achieve the vision. For example if there are a hundred ideas for sustainability, we would want the group to hone the feasible ones. There will need to be some clarity from Council about how far you want the steering committee to go. That is where some community engagement could be helpful. Likewise, Council may want to hear feedback and research before making your decisions.

Mr. Bucher expressed that his hopes are that this will be a policy framework of potential options for research to help prepare those for Council to have some input along the way. At the end of a process, he would not want to get in a situation where there are conflicting things in there. As much Council is able to influence it as it goes, he sees that as their role now. We will need help from staff, committee members, and community partners to vet options and ideas. Ms. Dorothy stated that she thought we were in agreement that we would go to our existing committees and boards and commissions to ask them what they thought about the visions. She is concerned about getting into a whole subcommittee with a 3-5 year focus. She thought we had consensus about just asking our existing boards and commissions and circling back. Mr. Greeson explained his understanding was to circle and familiarize all of the existing boards and commissions with the vision statements and is a critical first step. That is more familiarization as opposed to getting into the planning process. Ms. Dorothy explained how she thought we were to familiarize them, and then get feedback on what they are already working on that they thought fell into the visioning statements. Mr. Greeson said that is written into a section of the resolution. Ms. Stewart detailed how at the end of the memo, there is a statement about sharing the visions with boards and commissions, and discussing with them. Mr. Greeson said it would be normal to involve them, as well as staff in cataloguing what everyone is working on in each of these areas. President Michael read comments from Mr. Smith:

"If discussing the formation of a steering committee, he likes the idea of having a steering committee to review the staff project inventory, and identify and research other potential projects, not just capital improvement, to present to Council as options and identify how each project might meet a certain vision statement. His preference is they do not provide recommendation to Council, that is our job to make priority determination decisions."

Mr. Myers expressed how that was the point he was trying to make last week, that is different than the steering committee. We are the body that sets priorities. He looks at that last bullet point on page 28, and perhaps it is backwards. Council determines what the priorities are, and we charge the steering committee with following-up on those certain things, and it is reflected back when they report to us and seek direction from Council every month. In his mind, we need to take the visions and categorize them into specific things that we would like to get accomplished and have the steering committee explore different ways to get that accomplished. He does not want the steering committee to go out there and develop the priorities. Council ought to do that, but he is uncertain how to implement that. Mr. Greeson responded that he can imagine a number of times in this process where the committee or a subset of the committee workshops issues with the Council, where there is time for back and forth and engagement on both the process, as well as providing feedback on some of the big issues they are wrestling with. You want them to narrow down the issues, and help shape what is feasible, through helping to shape the public process. However, if we are getting to what the top three are, Council wants to have a lot of influence over that.

Mr. Bucher asked if we have any sense of timing for this, he wonders if the narrowing down of priorities would coincide with the annual retreats. He wonders how long this initial vetting may take. Mr. Greeson replied he does not have a defined answer at this point. Ideally if we come out of this with the vision implementation plan, which essentially would be a strategic plan for the City, the retreats could serve two objectives in the future, serving as an opportunity for idea generation and team building, and be a check-in for where we are in relationship to our plan. It would be a focused check in, and would be where metrics and tracking would be beneficial. This is a robust effort and will probably not be as long as the Visioning Committee process, but we could spend the bulk of the remainder of this year working on shaping a 3-5 year strategic plan.

Ms. Thress noted that Council received an email this afternoon from a citizen on this topic, and that Councilmembers may want to read it if you have not already. President Michael stated that she wrestles with the idea of how much we do top-down versus bottom-up. How much of this is Council telling the steering committee what to do, versus how much are we asking the steering committee to bring to us.

Ms. Kowalczyk conveyed how much she appreciates the work done on this and

likes the idea. When thinking about the point of this work, the vision statements help inform us as to what the community wants. There are some issues where details are in dispute, but these visions are what people want. It is a check on us, and is a more validated effort on what the community wants. When discussing what our priorities are, they should be informed by these vision statements. Anything outside of those parameters really does not have the same value. When thinking about what sort of things meet the goals of the vision statements, she values the opportunity to learn new ideas and ways to do this. She would love to be in on these working groups, even if it is just sitting in and listening to ideas. When thinking about something like the Age Friendly Initiative, she bets there will be a few that if you did a Venn-diagram would be in the sweet spot that crosses all of them. The challenge is what is in the report that we get from the steering committee and where are we as Council involved in the process. She wants to be involved somehow. Then when the report comes, what do we do with it, and what do we expect from it. She would like to have maybe 3-4 vetted options to look at and in a ranking system of some sort. There is value in having an evaluation of options to narrow things down.

Mr. Myers expressed how he keeps getting back to the question of feasibility and what it accomplishes. Ms. Kowalczyk said that when looking at the vision statements, there is one about Worthington's leadership being open, forward-thinking, and collaborative, noting that would be what are the thing we could do to promote that. Other folks may perceive something about how we operate as leaders that we may not see. Mr. Greeson said that he looks at that vision, and it conveys how we believe in practicing good governance, and is an opportunity to catalogue what we are currently doing and then generate ideas and look at other best practices on how we can improve that. That will be an area with a lot of Council engagement, reviewing our approaches to things.

President Michael asked Councilmembers their thoughts on adopting this as a general concept of how things would operate, not the composition of the steering committee. Mr. Greeson brought up how he does not hear resolution on the role that Council wants to play. There is any number of ways of doing things. We may need to play with that piece if Council is not comfortable with the way it is currently outlined.

Mr. Myers explained that it seems to him that there are seven categories of things, corresponding with seven vision statements. Under each vision statement, there is a statement about what we are. What he needs to know first, is an inventory of where we are and that should be the steering committee's very first charge. That would be accomplished in concert with staff, coming back to Council with a very detailed written report and oral presentation cataloguing where we are. In that process, they will find the holes, and can then report back on what is being missed. That would begin to frame where we go next, then we will have a good idea of what we think is important for the City. His other question is about how there will need to be a lot of work and research done for

this group, and that will fall on staff and he does not want to push the work off on to them. He asked if this is a way for us to use one time money on a one-time endeavor to seek out an intern or consultant who could help. Mr. Greeson replied that from a workload standpoint, this would be ideal work for an intern to be helpful. There may also be opportunities for us to continue our work with Poggemeyer or another facilitator at various junctures. There is the tendency to determine so many priorities, it is difficult to accomplish them. Honing priorities to those that are doable, feasible, high-impact, and enjoy community support is important. In his opinion, all of that is a good use of one-time money to set the tone and support this effort. There were three staff members heavily involved in supporting the Visioning Committee, and we will probably have more involved with this. Outside of the administrative support provided, there was relatively little engagement from them in the visioning process. It was truly citizen-led. Now we need to bridge that to the organization and he wants to see more staff involved in supporting this, and making sure the best of their ideas are incorporated into this. He wants people bought into this process, and engaging their careers in achieving some of these activities. Mr. Myers welcomes that engagement from staff, but there will be some work that would be appropriate for an intern to work on. Circling back around, he thinks we need to assert the right degree of control over this organization so it comes out as our priorities and we use them as a thinktank to help us with that. The first thing he needs will be a inventory. He wants to break this effort down into chunks for the steering committee. Mr. Greeson stated how the Visioning Committee created a subcommittee to work weekly to talk with the consultant and staff to tweak and adapt the process as they went along. He would assume we will have the same creativity and commitment for this with the goal of moving towards more actions. There are a variety of ways how Council can touch this with thoughtful ways of being engaged throughout the process. Mr. Myers asked if we start with the manageable task of doing an inventory, as they develop that, they will then come up with their own processes and have a better handle on how they want to move forward when they report back to Council. Mr. Greeson responded that from a practical standpoint, staff will do much of that inventory. Mr. Myers stated he would hope that the steering committee would meet with staff and review it all. The more they get into the work with a manageable task to start with, they will be able to develop their process with that task.

President Michael asked if Council now wants to look over the suggestions for the composition of the steering committee. We may need to put together a job description for steering committee members, that explains what the expectations for work will be. There is a question about whether we should begin tackling the question of who should be on this committee so we can get this moving forward. Mr. Greeson responded that this was a creative exercise to serve as a starting point to discuss this process. This is not intended to be delegates from these organizations, Council may treat it like boards and

commissions, having conversations about who might be best from various groups. The idea was that it may be helpful to have people from the Visioning Committee to participate, to bridge the two processes. Secondly, some of our major charter commissions will be integrally involved in long-term implementation of this. Others fit into some of these vision statements, they have roles and responsibilities and may not be one of the big charter commissions, but squarely fit into specific vision statements and would be implementation partners in those. Then, staff examined the vision statements to determine what community partners would likely be involved in trying to achieve these vision statements and what community partners are integrally involved in achieving success in Worthington. It is ultimately up to Council on how to shape this. The next step will be discussing with Council who would best represent this perspective, or be able to influence these community partners and bring their perspective and knowledge.

President Michael asked how we get to this point, and whether we should be creating a visioning process steering committee so it can be a City board and commission, so when speaking about who should serve it can be an executive session. Mr. Greeson responded that this would be a City committee created by resolution, just like the Visioning Committee. President Michael described it would be helpful to have a job description written up for committee members about what to do and not to do, and give them direction. She asked staff to do a first draft based on the discussions we have been having. There also needs to be a timeline of how to get this committee up and going. Mr. Greeson replied that staff can draft a resolution that would create it, built off of this conversation and the memo. That would not be totally different than the Visioning Committee resolution, and would be a basis to begin talking about who fills that slot.

Mr. Myers agreed with the visioning steering concept and the composition as laid out in the memo. The only thing he might tweak, is dropping the Visioning Committee members from four to two, because we may not be able to get four to re-enlist. He does not want their influence to be disproportionate. He might also add someone from the McConnell Arts Center, representing the arts community. Mr. Greeson responded that it could be a staff member, or board of directors person. Mr. Myers explained how the arts are important in this community and it makes sense to have someone representing that interest here. Mr. Robinson agreed.

President Michael asked staff to work on a resolution, and for Council to begin thinking of names for these committee member spots.

Ms. Kowalczyk mentioned that before she comes up with names, it is important to understand what is the job of the position. When looking at each of the commissions, she thought that they would decide to pick somebody committed to the process. There needs to be some thought of how people are selected, this is a working group, not just someone facilitating something. We want to have people with knowledge in these areas. Having the job description would help her

understand how this group should be put together. The other thing we risk of, is that it represents the people in the community with different lenses, and not excluding a lens because people are not thinking in that way.

Mr. Robinson concurred with Ms. Kowalczyk's comments about needing a job description. He asked where will the committee itself be described, and if staff is developing a second resolution that will spell that out. President Michael explained that she suggested staff put together a job description, and then Council can review the job description and determine how to approve it. Mr. Robinson clarified that the job description might include a description of the committee itself.

Mr. Greeson commended the Service and Engineering staff who have been working hard to combat the snow and the ice. It is important to acknowledge their hard work during this season, as they play a critical role in keeping our streets and public amenities, safe, clean, and passable.

Reports of Council Members

12. Reports of Council Members

Minutes:

Ms. Kowalczyk brought up how the Worthington Partnership has engaged in a new initiative called Worthington Dollars, which is a e-gift card that can be used to patronize Worthington businesses. She encouraged people to check it out because it is a great initiative to help support our local businesses.

Mr. Myers explained how Council received an email from Ms. Stewart regarding the demolition at UMCH that was approved by ARB and is separate and distinct from any PUD application that may come before ARB or Council. The criteria for approving a demolition permit was codified in reaction to what was leftover at the Holiday Inn site, so they need to have a restoration plan, which they filed as part of their application. Just because the demolition permit was approved, it does not have an impact on any subsequent item pending before ARB. The second item coming before ARB is the mall redevelopment, because of their timing, it is going to be on a fairly quick schedule. There are thoughts that there may be a separate application to go forward on the reconstruction of the mall separate and distinct from the PUD. It is probably going to be fast-tracked, and some parts of it will come up in April.

Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. Myers for his comments on those two vital issues.

Other

Executive Session

13. To consider the appointment of a public employee or official

Minutes:

MOTION Mr. Myers moved, Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to go into Executive

Session to consider the appointment of a public employee or official.

The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Council recess at 9:36 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION Ms. Kowalczyk moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to return to open session at 9:41 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Adjournment

14. Motion to Adjourn

Minutes:

Mr. Bucher moved, Ms. Kowalczyk seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Contact: D. Kay Thress, Clerk of Council (Kay.Thress@worthington.org (614) 436-3100) | Minutes published on 03/09/2021, adopted on 03/15/2021

/s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt
Management Assistant

Attest

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
President of Council