



City Council Agenda

Minutes

Monday, April 19, 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 Monday, April 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.

Approval of the Minutes

5. Approval of Minutes - April 5, 2021, and April 12, 2021 (Special)

Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Bucher moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to approve the April 5, 2021, and April 12, 2021 (Special) meeting minutes as presented.

The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Public Hearings on Legislation

6. Ordinance No. 13-2020 CIP - Community Center Pool (Diamond Brite)

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:

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Myers to remove the ordinance from the table.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Dorothy moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to amend to the ordinance as included in the packet, including in Section 1. to include \$130,000 and Section 2. to insert Aqua Pools Construction as the company.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Greeson explained how this ordinance will waive the bidding requirements, because in the past we have had a hard time getting bidders and we have been able to negotiate a contract with Aqua Pools Construction for the price reflected in the amendment.

Mr. Robinson asked if the price is roughly what would be expected if this had gone out to bid. Mr. Hurley responded that it is. We were already familiar with Aqua Pools Construction and their work. It is very difficult to find bidders interested in a resurfacing project.

Ms. Dorothy asked how long this resurfacing will last and when will we begin work. Mr. Hurley replied that the pool opened in 2003 and this is our first resurfacing. We anticipate the life expectancy to be 15-20 years. The work is expected to be completed during the shutdown of the Community Center during the last week of August.

Mr. Lindsey brought up how the amendment does involve the waiving of the normal procurement process. He recommended that the motion to amend be to amend to the amended version included in the packet, encompassing all of the changes. Ms. Dorothy and Mr. Robinson agreed to amend their motion to do so.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 13-2020 (As Amended).

The motion carried by the following vote:

Vote Results: Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

7. Ordinance No. 10-2021 Amend Code - Section 1147.01 (Dog & Cat Day Care Center)

To Amend Section 1147.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington to Add Dog and Cat Care Center as a Conditional Use in the General Industrial (I-2) Zoning District.

Minutes:

Mr. Brown explained how from time to time we need to make tweaks to our zoning code that was first adopted in 1971. We received a request from Pathways to Independence of Central Ohio that is moving from one of our I-1 districts to our I-2 district at 6400 Huntley Road, requesting to add dog and cat day care center as a conditional use in the I-2 zoning district. In any zoning district, we have a list of permitted uses and conditional permitted uses. If you meet the criteria for conditional use from the Municipal Planning Commission, you can go forward with that type of use. Those uses look at the impact on things such as traffic, public facilities, sewers and drains, utilities, safety considerations, noise, odors, hours of use, screening for neighbors, and appearance and compatibility with the general neighborhood. When staff looked at this, we examined the current conditional uses. In the C-1, C-2, and I-1 district, we currently allow dog and cat care centers as conditional uses. When looking at conditional uses in the I-2 district, we noticed there is instruction that matches Pathways to Independence's primary use, but we also looked at how nurse schools, preschools, and day care centers are conditional uses in this district, and this seems somewhat fitting. On April 8th, the MPC did recommend approval to Council to add dog and cat care centers as a conditional use in our I-2 zoning district.

Ms. Dorothy asked if we had an idea of how many dog and cat care centers we have. Mr. Brown replied that we probably have a handful, most are associated with our veterinary care resources throughout the City.

MOTION: Mr. Bucher moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to amend the ordinance as distributed.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 10-2021 (As Amended).

The motion carried by the following vote:

Vote Results: Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

8. Ordinance No. 11-2021 Rezoning - PUD at 7227 N. High

To Amend the Official Zoning Map of the City of Worthington, Ohio, to Change Zoning of Certain Land from C-2, Community Shopping Center to PUD, Planned Use District (7227 North High Street).

Minutes:

Mr. Greeson detailed how this is the PUD for the High North project that has been progressing for quite some time.

Mr. Brown described how there are a couple of items on the agenda tonight relating to the mall redevelopment. He overviewed the rezoning process moving from the applicant stage, through staff review, on to the MPC and Council. A PUD has a number of steps and public hearings that the process goes through before coming to City Council to approve the rezoning to a PUD. With that PUD you have a text and

development plan, and that preliminary plan establishes the uses and development standards for the property with detailed drawings and texts. If City Council were to approve a rezoning, it is then subject to a 60 referendum period where it then comes back to MPC to ensure the plan matches what Council approved, and that is also when we dive in to final Architectural Review Board approval. This proposal went before MPC five times and was recommended unanimously at the March 25 meeting for approval to rezone the property.

The mall was originally constructed in the 1970s and has been added to and renovated several times over the years. What we are looking at tonight is how to take the mall into the next generation, with two different proposed phases. The first phase will include a 100,000 square feet mixed use, office space that is 8-10 stories with public parking and a max height of 120-145 feet.

Mr. Robinson asked whether this is mixed use, it was his understanding it would be office. Mr. Brown replied that it is office but would have the opportunity to have other uses in the building, with a restaurant space or other amenities that could go in the upper floors. The primary 4-5 floors would be the garage, and then the upper 4-5 floors would be office, but with the opportunity for other uses.

Mr. Brown explained how the first phase would have approximately 21,000 square feet of the existing mall demolished at the beginning of Phase One. The ARB approved the demolition of that northern part of the mall and is coming back in the next few meetings to look at the removal of the skylights and what the interior space will look like. There will be several improvements to this site including both vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycling. In the future there will be some restriping of the parking area in front of Kroger, and the area in front of the east side of the mall will become a two-way northbound and southbound movement to allow for better maneuverability on the site and provide access to the northern office building. There will be some interior improvements once the skylights are removed. Part of Phase 1B looks at the removal of an additional 35,000 square feet of the western portion of the mall, along with some realignment of the roadways there. There will be public amenities added throughout. Initially there was a discussion about having roadways going through the site from east to west and north to south, which has evolved. Phase Two looks at the southern portion of the site for a potential six-story office building. The first three floors would be parking garage, and the upper 2-3 floors would be office. With this phase, we looked at the Wilson Bridge Road corridor plan and the comments we heard from the community, and the height of the proposed building was lowered.

Approximately 16,500 of the existing mall would be demolished and public amenities will be added through this phase. In the future, there will be a northern office building, improvements along the spine of the mall, the mall being opened up, east-west connectors, more focus on pedestrian and restaurant uses, and then a Phase Two with a southern office building. There will also be a lot of improvements along High Street coming in from 270 to Wilson Bridge Road, improvements at the intersection, and along Wilson Bridge Road. This will also match up with the realignment from the Holiday Inn redevelopment to the south. As part of this you are looking at creating a

1.8 acre lot for the northern office building that will be a separate parcel and separate ordinance tonight. There will be improvements with new gateway signage to line up with what we have been doing over the past few years, in addition to landscaping improvements, fencing, and brick pillars. On West Wilson Bridge Road there will be enhancements as you enter the mall site along with new signage.

Ms. Dorothy asked about the entrance that is even wider than she thought with no pedestrian island, she does not see any high visibility crosswalks either. It would seem that it would take a long time for someone to be able to cross with plenty of vehicles to run someone over in that time. She wondered if there was any way to protect pedestrians. Mr. Brown responded that if we go forward tonight, when going over the final plan additional plans for safety measures can be looked at as part of this.

Mr. Brown explained how this plan still will need to go to ARB for final approval. The interior space is what the MPC and ARB have been focusing on at the past two meetings, and how that interior space is going to be activated. The spine of the mall is 40 feet in width, and east-west is 20 feet. He displayed a visual of the office building. The PUD has a text associated with it that will list the heights.

Ms. Dorothy asked if we would have bike parking around there, somewhere eventually. Mr. Brown replied that they will come back for final PUD approval, and the exact details of those types of amenities will be marked out on the screens. As this has evolved overtime, Direct Retail Partners knows that those are some of the things we are going to want to see. It is not just about vehicles, it is about the bicycle and pedestrian experience. Hopefully with a new office people will be able to come up the Olentangy Trail from where they live to directly access this site for work or play. Ms. Dorothy emphasized how we have existing bike routes that pass right behind and wraps around. She brought up how on the west side of the garage, there would be lights shining towards the apartments. She asked if there has been any consideration about that. Mr. Brown expressed that they have not had that conversation, but when it goes to the final plan we can see where the headlights hit the wall. They have proposed some screening, and that is a key point to note.

Mr. Brown explained how the Phase Two office building is a maximum height of six stories, and showed a graphic on the screen.

Ms. Dorothy brought up how she does not see where there would be cart parking at the Kroger. She is all for reducing car parking, but there will be a lot of carts in the parking lot. Mr. Brown said that there will be some improvements throughout the site, and will be able to scatter in the cart corrals.

Mr. Brown explained how the Phase One office building has a 25 setback from the Old Wilson Bridge Road right of way. There is a large waterline that runs through the City and Columbus asked for a setback that far. He highlighted the parking lot striping in the Kroger lot for pedestrian movement. There will be improvements to help both motorists and pedestrians trying to navigate the site. There will be a lot of landscaping and lighting improvements that will mirror what is going on at the Holiday Inn site to the south. There will also be a request for new signage on the site to be reviewed and approved by the ARB. By opening the western side of the mall,

they are wanting to activate that portion on the mall, drawing you onto the site.

Ms. Dorothy asked how far along things are with the City's realignment to the far west of this that is not within the zoning at Corporate Hill. Mr. Brown replied that study is still underway, looking at possible ways to extend that and the overall costs to extend the roadway to Old West Wilson Bridge Road. That would serve as a front door to a lot of our businesses on Old West Wilson Bridge Road as part of this.

Mr. Brown pointed out that we did have a traffic study completed as part of this. When the evolution of the project shifted, we asked for a new traffic study to be done to adequately reflect what is being proposed now. The updated numbers came in a lot lower than the previous study. The study did state that the road network has enough reserve capacity to accommodate the proposed redevelopment. Going through this process we looked at all the land use plans we have and the Wilson Bridge Corridor Study. When we did the Wilson Bridge Corridor Districts in 2016, it was originally proposed to match up with the height recommended in the corridor study, but what was eventually proposed by Council brought that down to four stories in height for the corridor. In looking at our Comprehensive Plan update, one of the key goals of that document was to encourage the renovation and redevelopment of the Wilson Bridge Road corridor, promote the amenities to make them more attractive, and the potential for structured parking such as decks or garages with redevelopment. The PUD allows for more creative planning and design, and a greater range of uses than our traditional straight zoning categories. If this is approved tonight, after the referendum period, the applicant will have to come back in for a final ARB approval and will also create the separate parcel on the northern portion of the site. After multiple meetings with the applicant, staff did recommend approval to MPC, and they did recommend approval to rezone to Council.

Mr. Greeson added that large scale redevelopment projects like this happen in conjunction with a public-private partnership. We have been working with Direct Retail and the school district on economic development incentives. We will be talking about the development agreement with the schools in May and the associated TIF and venture grant arrangements.

Mr. Bucher asked whether the garage would be for public use or just the tenants. Mr. Brown replied that it would be for the general public.

Mr. Robinson asked how many units are in the Heights Apartment building. Mr. Brown answered that there are 193.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 11-2021.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Vote Results: Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

9. Ordinance No. 12-2021 Subdivision of 7227 N. High St. and adding to Architectural Review District

Approving the Subdivision of Property at 7227 N. High St. and Amending Section 1177.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington to Revise the District Boundaries of the Architectural Review District. (DRP Worthington LP)

Minutes:

Mr. Brown described how the request is to split out 1.8 acres for the northern office building. All cross access easements and parking agreements stay in place. This is subject to the PUD passing approval and will not be able to be reported until the 60-day referendum period has occurred. It does satisfy all statutory requirements and MPC recommended approval to Council.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 12-2021.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Vote Results: Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

Mr. Stevenson with Direct Retail Partners expressed that this has been a very pleasant experience and staff has been awesome to work with. There has been a lot of give and take, and they appreciate all the help from everyone going through this process. They look forward to coming back in May as this continues to move forward.

10. Ordinance No. 13-2021 Additional Appropriation (Gen Fund & 800 Proprietors TIF)

Amending Ordinance No. 44-2020 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the General Fund and 800 Proprietors Road TIF Fund Unappropriated Balance.

Minutes:

Mr. Bartter stated how this ordinance appropriates \$5,000 from the General Fund to account for some unanticipated fees assessed by the county auditor for a surprise estate tax distribution. In 2012 the General Assembly abolished the estate tax, however there are some estates that are slowly moving themselves through the system. Secondly, this appropriates for the 800 Proprietors TIF fund, that is for the Kemper House, which we need to account for.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 13-2021.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Vote Results: Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

11. Ordinance No. 14-2021 IAFF Collective Bargaining Agreement

Approving the Provisions of a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Worthington, Ohio and the International Association of Firefighters Local #3498, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Same on Behalf of the City and Providing for an Appropriation from the General Fund Unappropriated Balance.

Minutes:

Mr. Greeson detailed how this ordinance will allow him to execute a new collective bargaining agreement with the IAFF that reflects language that accomplishes the terms we are outlining today. That will be approved by both our labor attorneys and Law Director before his signature and the signatures of the Lodge. This is for years 2021-2023 and we generally negotiate three year labor agreements. We worked diligently with leaders of the IAFF to come up with something that was mutually beneficial and fair to all involved. The first thing is that this agreement provides for wage increases. There is 0% for 2021, 2.5% for 2022, and 3.5% for 2023. In 2021 we will provide a one-time non-pensionable lump sum payment of \$5,000 per member

minus any applicable withholdings. This payment will not be calculated with any overtime or other payments. We are also adding language related to new hires or the promotional probationary periods in cases an employee is on extended leave or light duty. The only thing he would note is that we are entering into an MOU regarding a title change where the title of Captain will be changed to Battalion Chief, which has been used in the past for that role and responsibility. This ordinance will also be appropriating \$165,000 from the General Fund that will cover the cost of the 2021 contract ratification bonus. He noted the remarkable services that the Division of Fire and EMS has provided Worthington citizens over the past year during this pandemic. **There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 14-2021.**

The motion carried by the following vote:

Vote Results: Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

12. Ordinance No. 15-2021 Food Waste Pickup

Temporarily Waiving Section 945.02 of Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington for Curbside Collection of Household Food Waste.

Minutes:

Mr. Lindsey stated that the City has been involved in various food waste collection efforts, and two different companies have assisted in that regard. One through a partnership with the Worthington Partnership is proposing a curbside collection of food waste in buckets with sealed lids, preventing animals from getting into them. After the pilot program, if successful, the company will continue with a subscription-based service that individuals would pay for to have that collected at their curbside. When looking at this, it does involve an aspect of our current solid waste code, where we require anyone picking up solid waste to have a contract with the City. Because this is initially a pilot project, we have proposed a temporary waiving of that code requirement for approximately one-year. Council does have the authority in the proposed ordinance to extend or terminate early if they decide to do so. This is limited to the two companies that we have done business with, and determined it was appropriate to include them both since we did not go through any type of bid process with this.

Ms. Dorothy asked if it was correct that the City pays for waste and recycling pick-up, and does not require households to pay for those services. Mr. Lindsey said that is correct. Ms. Dorothy mentioned how other communities do this differently, and multi-family housing has to take care of their own refuse at this point. Mr. Lindsey confirmed that is correct. Ms. Dorothy explained how we are looking at the different ways we spend our money and collect revenues, and she knows we have talked about putting fees on different things. She appreciates we are trying new things and she hopes that this food waste pick-up becomes an ongoing commitment that the City collaborates with and it is okay that people have to pay for the service and we might also have to pay trash and recycling at some point.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked how many people participate in the drop-off program right now. Mr. Whited responded that he believes it is in the range of 200. Ms. Kowalczyk

mentioned how 300 people have signed onto this pilot program. She is curious if that interest is maintained when people have to pay a small fee for it. The idea is to be forward thinking and encourage people to reduce their waste.

President Michael explained how people in Bexley have to pay for their own trash and recycling. If they want to add food waste pick-up, they are adding it on to their existing bill. With Worthington paying for refusing collection from the General Fund for all of its residents, to add this on is something different. It is wonderful to have this as a pilot program, and if people are willing to pay extra for this service she is okay with it.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 15-2021.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Vote Results: Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

Mr. Watson with Direct Retail Partners apologized for not being online earlier to make comments about the High North Project. They are really excited and have never had a process that was as collaborative as this. The input from other stakeholders has been greatly valued and that will bear out over time in the project itself, fitting the community and the community fitting this project. The City has a great staff here.

New Legislation to Be Introduced

13. Resolution No. 15-2021 Right of Way Permit Renewal - US Signal

Approving an Agreement and Permit for and between US Signal Company, LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability Company, 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:

Introduced by Mr. Bucher

MOTION: Ms. Kowalczyk moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to adopt Resolution No. 15-2021.

Mr. Greeson said this is a routine renewal.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

14. Resolution No. 16-2021 Adopt Job Descriptions, Amend Staffing Chart, and Pay Resolution

Adopting Job Descriptions for the Positions of Recreation Programs Manager and Recreation Operations Manager, and Amending the Staffing Chart and Pay Resolution to Accommodate Said Positions.

Minutes:

Introduced by Mr. Myers

MOTION: Ms. Dorothy moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to adopt Resolution No. 16-2021.

Mr. Greeson explained how we are always looking for ways to be effective and efficient in order to best accomplish the goals of Council and our citizens. The pandemic along with other matters has caused us to look at how we organize ourselves, Mr. Hurley brought forward some recommendations to change some job descriptions in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Hurley said that they have looked at their organizational structure due to retirements and COVID. They have assessed roles and policies that have been taken on and the Superintendent role has been shifted to be more of an Assistant Director and Parks Superintendent. There was also a goal of bringing together the Community Center and Griswold Center operations, as they have become more siloed over the years. The Superintendent role was recently given to Colleen Light with the Griswold Center. This should enhance, not harm the Griswold Center. The next level is for our managers, and to have a program manager to oversee all of our programs at both facilities to better serve everyone in the community, and an operations manager to oversee both memberships and both facilities.

Ms. Kowalczyk commented that she has an interest in our Age Friendly initiative and serving older adults in our community. She believes this is a great move and encouraged them to make sure to include the perspective of the people they are serving, including older adults, maintaining an Age Friendly lens.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote

15. Resolution No. 17-2021 JEDD Board Appointments

Joint Economic Development District Board Appointments

Minutes:

Introduced by Mr. Bucher

MOTION: Ms. Kowalczyk moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to adopt Resolution No. 17-2021

Mr. Greeson described how we created a Joint Economic Development District with Sharon Township and there is a requirement to appoint two representative to that board. One of them has to be an employee of that district.

Mr. McCorkle said that this is a five member board with two appointed by the township, two appointed by the City, and those four then choose a chairperson. Of the two city representatives, one is a true representative of the City, and the second is an owner located in the JEDD. The Township made their appointments this evening, selecting John Oberle, and an employee of the district who works at the retirement center. The two people before you tonight are Ethan Barnhardt of the City, and Andrew Montooth of Continental who will represent the ownership group.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

16. Ordinance No. 16-2021 Amend Code Section 529.07(c)(7) DORA (Open Container)

Amending Section 529.07(c)(7) of the Worthington Codified Ordinances to Be Consistent with State Law Regarding Opened Containers of Beer and Intoxicating Liquor Within the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area

Minutes:

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

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

17. Reports of City Officials

Minutes:

Mr. Greeson brought up House Bill 157 and how he distributed to Council documents that included a staff memo covering what the bill is and a resolution that would oppose that.

Mr. Lindsey described how this is a resolution opposing Substitute House Bill 157 for a variety of reasons as set forth in the memo as well as a whereas clause stating that it does not address the needs of municipalities for certainty in their collection. At least the end of the year date does provide some certainty. This resolution would indicate opposition, and the bill is scheduled for a fifth and final hearing for tomorrow afternoon. The clerk is prepared to send a copy of this to the appropriate parties.

Mr. Bucher asked if we have formally discussed this with our state representative. Mr. Greeson responded that we have previously communicated by letter. He has not spoken with her personally yet, but she has communicated with at least one Councilmember.

Ms. Dorothy moved to introduce Resolution 18-2021 as distributed

MOTION: Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Bucher to adopt Resolution No. 18-2021.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote

Mr. Greeson explained how we received a call from the Ohio Municipal League urging cities to adopt resolutions and send letters. He moved on to explaining how MORPC has requested for letter to be sent to the federal rail administrator in support of Amtrak's looking at adding passenger rail routes in Ohio. Ohio is one of the largest states in the country without passenger rail service from Amtrak. They previously looked at the 3-C corridor in 2009, and the Council adopted a resolution then to express support of that. Now, they are looking at Ohio again and a number of organizations, including MORPC, are encouraging and supporting that. Our region has not only supported the 3-C route, but also spent a lot of time studying the Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh route which also would go through Columbus. MORPC has encouraged its members to write letters supporting passenger rail in Ohio, and in particular the two routes mentioned. He asked that he and the Council President be authorized to execute a letter that we would send in support of that effort. President Michael mentioned how we strongly supported the 3-C rail, but that effort was "de-railed".

Council generally expressed support of this effort.

MOTION: Ms. Dorothy moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to authorize the Council President and City Manager to send a letter supporting passenger rail.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Reports of Council Members

18. Reports of Council Members

Minutes:

Mr. Robinson expressed how he read through the staff memo on the DORA and wanted to challenge staff on the way the issue was presented. This is an important issue that deals with nothing less than the character of our historic downtown and clear communication with the public about this issue is very important. When reading the executive summary, if he did not know better, he would think this would just be about us becoming compliant with state law. In fact, that is not what this is about. This ordinance would allow open container carry of alcoholic beverages in the historic district, seven days a week, from mid-morning to late-evening. He urges that staff look at the presentation of this issue when it is up for public discussion on May 3rd and to not use talking points from proponents of this action, and to use more value-neutral terminology.

Ms. Dorothy described how the cemetery has gone through creating a permanent pedestrian opening in the fence for the cemetery on West Stanton. They did a good job of putting door hangers up on the closest houses, and the majority of people expressed that they wanted it. Normally there can be vehicles on special occasions, but now there will be a permanent pedestrian opening.

Ms. Kowalczyk brought up how the Farmers Market is going to be starting up in May in Old Worthington with lots of precautions. There is a lot of information on the Experience Worthington website. She is looking forward to the opening of the outdoor market.

Mr. Bucher commended staff, we went through a lot tonight, and he appreciates the thorough presentations.

Other

Executive Session

19. Executive Session

Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Bucher seconded a motion to go into Executive Session to consider board and commission appointments, appointment of personnel, pending litigation, and economic development negotiation issues.

The clerk called the roll on Executive Session.

The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Council recessed at 9:01 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION: Mr. Myers moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to return to open session at 9:56 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Adjournment

20. Motion to Adjourn

Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Bucher seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Contact: D. Kay Thress, Clerk of Council (Kay.Thress@worthington.org (614) 436-3100) | Minutes published on 05/19/2021, adopted on 05/17/2021

 /s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt
Management Assistant

Attest

 /s/ Bonnie D. Michael
President of Council