

# Worthington, OH

## Worthington City Council & Sharon Township Trustees

### Joint Meeting Agenda

Minutes

Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

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

Our government - Live Stream

#### 1. Call to Order

**Minutes:**

Worthington City Council and Sharon Township Trustees met remotely in Joint Session on Monday, May 3, 2021, via Microsoft Teams videoconference. Council President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

**Minutes:**

**Members/Trustees Present:** Peter Bucher, Rachael Dorothy, Beth Kowalczyk, Scott Myers, David Robinson, Doug Smith and Bonnie Michael, Lindsay Duffey, Laura Kunze (Arrived at or around 7:30pm), and John Oberle

**Member(s)/Trustee(s) Absent:**

**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, Personnel Director Lori Trego, Chief of Police Robert Ware, Chief of Fire & EMS Mark Zambito, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress, Management Assistant Ethan Barnhardt

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

**Minutes:**

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

#### 4. Introduction of Legislation

**a. Resolution No. 19-2021 Levy tax for the cemeteries**

Levying Tax for the Maintenance of Union Cemetery dba Walnut Grove and Flint Cemetery for the Tax Collection Year 2022.

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Mr. Oberle**

**MOTION:** Ms. Dorothy moved, seconded by Mr. Myers to adopt Resolution 19-

2021.

Mr. Greeson stated how Worthington and Sharon Township have been longtime partners in the Walnut Grove and Flint Union Cemeteries. Elected officials have the privilege to appoint individuals as Cemetery Board of Trustees and consider renewing the levy that helps to support the operations of the cemetery at 5/10ths of one mill. As part of this, it is customary to hear from the chair of the Cemetery Board of Trustees, and Mr. Courtney Chapman is here with us this evening.

Mr. Chapman described how this long relationship goes back to 1859, when the Village of Worthington and the Township of Sharon joined together to manage the cemeteries. He is appreciative of the opportunity to share an update on the Walnut Grove and Flint cemeteries. Due to increased sales and receipt of anticipated intergovernmental taxes, the Cemetery Budget was stable in 2020. In the face of COVID, the cemeteries were designated as essential businesses. This allowed the Cemetery to continue to provide excellent care for Worthington, Sharon Township, Riverlea, and area residents. They were able to maintain regular hours for visitors to the Cemetery, with office staff available by appointment, phone, and email. Staff do such an excellent job listening to people, expressing compassion, and helping people who are in need. Sales for burial spaces continued with appropriate social distancing and cleaning procedures in place for appointments. During the past year, burials have increased and grave space sales requests are quite robust.

Mr. Oberle discussed how they do more than just be a cemetery, and they honor those who make cemeteries possible, and remember the people that the community has lost. He showed a slide paying respects to David Bachelor, who passed on November 22, 2020. Mr. Bachelor served as a Sharon Township and Cemetery Trustee for over 25 years. He was a mentor and served our community for a long time. He thought the cemeteries were an important part of the fabric that makes us special. We also want to remember our lost comrade, David Mierzejewski, who served Worthington and the Township for well over 25 years as a firefighter and paramedic. It was a privilege of the cemetery to honor him. The Walnut Grove and Flint Union Cemeteries provide places that are respectful of the passing of life as well as its continuation, a peaceful environment in which persons may grieve, meditate, and be renewed, and a staff that provides high quality cemetery services.

Mr. Chapman overviewed the Flint Office/Gardner Homestead and how through the support of the Township and City, they were able to acquire this historic property several years ago. They are in the process of restoring it. It is going to be their office and he believes this is their one-hundred year office, that will be used for that long. The latest project is working on masonry repair, doors, and window restoration. They are starting now on the interior work as well, for example they met with engineers to discuss leveling the floors. It is a historic home and their goal is to work for having this recognized with a historical plaque

and as part of the Network to Freedom. Kate LaLonde with the Worthington Historical Society has put together a program on the history of African Americans in Worthington. The Gardner Home was included in that. Another activity this past year was the tree replacement program and there were 21 placed in Walnut Grove and two in Flint. These trees are a resource to the community and the Trustees have an obligation to maintain the cemetery and the trees. Lastly, the Advisory Committee is hard at work and has been able to meet socially distanced. They are delighted to be back together and working. Mr. Greeson explained how included in the agenda packet are the financial statement and their financial report for 2020, along with financial information for 2021.

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

Mr. Robinson explained how he received an anonymous letter with a return address of 885 Evening Street, which is Evening Street Elementary, and the letter included a list of questions regarding the running of the cemetery. He forwarded the letter to Ms. Dorothy and Mr. Oberle, who provided answers to the questions. He wanted to ask the person who had these questions to contact him so that he can forward the very thoughtful answers to the questions.

**5. Other**

**6. Adjournment**

**Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Bucher moved to adjourn the Joint meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

**President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55pm**

Mr. Oberle noted for the record that Ms. Kunze has been on the call the entire time.

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Contact: D. Kay Thress (kay.thress@worthington.org (614) 436-3100) | Minutes published on 05/13/2021, adopted on 05/17/2021

/s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt  
Management Assistant

Attest

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
President of Council