



# City Council Agenda

## Minutes

Monday, December 20, 2021 at 7:30 pm

6550 N. High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085

### 1. Call to Order

**Minutes:**

Worthington City Council met in-person in Regular Session on Monday, December 20, 2021. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:54 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:**

**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 Planning & Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Police Robert Ware, Chief of Fire & EMS Mark Zambito, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

**Minutes:**

President Michael did not lead the pledge of allegiance as it was said before the Joint Meeting.

### 4. Visitor Comments

**Minutes:**

There were no visitor comments.

## Public Hearings on Legislation

### 5. Ordinance No. 63-2021 Approving Revised Final Plat (6700 N High St)

Approving a Final Plat for the Subdivision, Platting of an Access Easement, and Dedication of Land Currently Used for Public Right-of-Way on a Property at 6700 N. High St. (Advanced Civil Design/Worthington 17 LLC)

**Minutes:**

Mr. Lindsey detailed how this is the result of a finding from the Franklin County Engineer's office and there was a piece of right-of-way that had not been formally

dedicated in the past. As the new plat was being reviewed by them, they discovered that and requested that there be a dedication of that right-of-way. This is mainly a technical clean-up that the staff wanted to bring back in a timely way.

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll of Ordinance No. 63-2021. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

## **New Legislation to Be Introduced**

### **6. Resolution No. 71-2021 General Fund Transfer**

Adjusting the Annual Budget by Providing for a Transfer of Previously Appropriated Funds.

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Mr. Bucher**

**MOTION** Ms. Kowalczyk moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Resolution No. 71-2021.

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

### **7. Resolution No. 72-2021 Recognizing Rachael Dorothy's Service to the City of Worthington**

Expressing the Appreciation and Best Wishes of the Worthington City Council to Rachael Dorothy for her Outstanding Service as a Member of City Council and for her Service to the Community.

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk**

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to adopt Resolution No. 72-2021

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

Mr. Greeson detailed how it has been an honor to serve with Ms. Dorothy over the past ten years and on behalf of the City staff, he wanted to thank her for her support and dedication to this community. In his experience, every Councilmember brings something different to the job based upon their personal and professional background. We have appreciated the approach that she has brought to the City government. In addition in the desire to do what is right and best for the community, there are a number of things that have been appreciated about the tenure of Ms. Dorothy. We have appreciated the instinct of Ms. Dorothy that leading does not happen just in the Council Chambers and we are part of a network of important institutions that work together to help our community succeed. The more involved we are with community organizations, the more insight we have into community needs, and the more likely we are to collaboratively solve problems. As a staff, we have appreciated all of the work that Ms. Dorothy has done in the community and the time invested, away from family, to serve the City.

President Michael shared how when Ms. Dorothy first shared she was thinking about running for City Council and how it was wonderful. When she was elected, it was appreciated to have another intelligent and driven female on the Council. Every time she thinks of bicycles and pedestrians in the City, she will be thinking of Ms. Dorothy. President Michael read the text of Resolution No. 72-2021 and the text of a citation

from Senator Kunze recognizing Ms. Dorothy for her service.

Ms. Dorothy expressed how he is so happy to have served on the Worthington City Council as the third woman to do so. Without her family and friends, nothing she has advocated for would have become a reality. In 2008 and 2010, her sister ran for office in Philadelphia, and at the same time, she was becoming more involved in the Worthington community, becoming president of the Colonial Hills Civic Association, and an active PTA member among other things. When two Council seats became available, she was inspired to apply for the appointment to both vacant seats, however, she was not selected at that time. She decided if she was not going to be appointed to a seat, she would then run for Council. She began meeting with Councilmembers to ask what advice they had about running and why they were on Council. President Michael was the most helpful and advocated for her on her first campaign. Bonnie was the second female elected to Council, was the only sitting female member, and was eager to help another person navigate their way into public life. On Council, she has worked on improving active transportation networks with Mr. Smith, helping form a steering committee to help with bike and pedestrian improvement, and creating a standing advisory committee. She shared why she is so focused on the transportation equity issues, growing up they were relatively poor in a small town, and having one vehicle for a family of seven, it was essential to thrive by bike and walking on her own as a kid. This has been highlighted by her adult life as well. Since her sister married her husband who is a world-class astrophysicist, and he discovered some information about the early stages of the universe, he also has to ride his bike back and forth to work every day because he has epilepsy and will never be able to have a drivers license. Being able to help improve everyone's lives by making connections easier, is something she is most proud of accomplishing during her time on Council. it is an equity issue to be able to move around an area without the need for a car. In many places around Columbus and Worthington, it is dangerous to get around without a vehicle, which is something she has been dedicated to helping transform. She is so grateful to have served alongside her fellow Councilmembers and to have helped to create the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. She cannot wait for the next chapter in our shared history as we move together with forward-thinking, collaborative leaders, making decisions for Worthington that will strengthen our foundation for a diverse and equitable community with housing and transportation options available for all people.

Ms. Kowalczyk shared her first memory on Council with Ms. Dorothy was her showing how to use the microphone. Since then she has been an inspiration, mentor, and friend. Worthington is so lucky to have had her serving in so many different ways. A Leslie Knope level of passion has been brought to local government and service that she does not believe she has seen in anybody.

Mr. Robinson expressed his thanks for Ms. Dorothy sharing her autobiography and he wish he has known more of that over the years, which would have helped him with a depth of understanding of her commitments. It is great to hear them now. He shared his thanks and it has been eleven years that they have known one another and he

appreciates her service to the City.

Mr. Smith explained how he and Ms. Dorothy came on to Council together and spent a lot of time in orientation with each other. It has been valuable hearing her insights over the years and has brought a different edge to the City that has been helpful.

Mr. Bucher echoed his thanks and she may not remember, but she was one of the first people he spoke to when considering a run in 2019 while volunteering at the Worthington Arts Festival. He thanked her for her levelheadedness and passion for contributing to the community.

Mr. Myers echoed Ms. Kowalczyk's sentiments and explained how they may not have always agreed on things, but he has never questioned her commitment and passion, and belief. You cannot argue with someone who believes in what they are doing and willing to put the effort into accomplishing it. It has been a privilege to serve together and he is proud to be her friend.

## **8. Resolution No. 73-2021 Recognizing Scott Myers' Service to the City of Worthington**

Expressing the Appreciation and Best Wishes of the Worthington City Council to Scott Myers for his Outstanding Service as a Member of City Council and for his Service to the Community.

### **Minutes:**

#### **Introduced by Mr. Robinson**

**MOTION** Mr. Bucher moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to adopt Resolution No. 73-2021

Mr. Greeson expressed the staff's deep appreciation for his service and support. We have greatly benefitted from Mr. Myer's keen intellect, sense of humor, understanding, and abiding respect for the processes, systems, institutions, and people who are a part of the government. For 21 years, he has spent time working to make sure we made the right decisions about how we grow, developing a reputation for seeing the issues clearly, balancing competing interests, and being fair in his determinations. For the last 12 of those years, he has committed about five nights a month between the MPC and Council making sure we got things right. The staff has appreciated that while there were things Mr. Myers wanted to personally accomplish, he recognized his role as a member of the MPC/ARB and liaison to those bodies, it was not to serve his ends, rather help facilitate good governance so we arrive at the best decisions in a way that best serves Worthington's democratic values. He has shown a great appreciation for city servants, particularly those who work at night plowing snow, or wearing uniforms getting the work of the City done. We know that he valued our work and value the trust given to us. He extended to Mr. Myers' family thanks for sharing his time with the City for all of these years.

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

President Michael expressed her thanks to Mr. Myers for his service and how his ideas and thoughts have been from the heart and he has a great mind that has made a difference working to get the Council out of many a logjam.

President Michael read the text of resolution No. 73-2021 and the text of a citation from Senator Kunze recognizing Mr. Myers for his service.

Mr. Myers shared how he thought this would be easy, but it is not. He is not sure how many people realize how many talented people it takes to run this City. You have seen the Councilmembers up here knocking doors for elections but are the tip of the iceberg. The real work is done by staff, who are the people who support Council. We are blessed to have the staff we have and it is not an accident, it is due to Mr. Greeson's leadership. He sets an example and a culture that is second to none. He is blessed to have been able to work with a group that is so single-minded in its dedication to public service, that you cannot help but get caught up in it. He thanked Chief Ware and Chief Zambito for keeping us safe. He thanked Ms. Trego for keeping our labor negotiations short. He thanked Mr. McCorkle for making us money and Mr. Bartter for keeping our money. He thanked Mr. Lindsey for keeping him out of trouble. He thanked Mr. Hurley and charged him to build a world-class softball facility at McCord Park. He thanked Mr. Brown and Ms. Bitar for their work. He thanked Ms. Thress for her friendship, being a Blue Star Mom, and for laughing at all of his jokes. He thanked Ms. Stewart for her patience and for being the best editor he has ever had. He told Mr. Greeson there is no simple phrase to sum up the gratitude he has for him and what Worthington owes him for his leadership. What he will miss the most are the rambling discussions about what good government means. He thanked the citizens of Worthington for investing their trust in him for the past 12 years, it is with great gratitude that he has served. He thanked his family for being here tonight, it means a lot. He made a choice to run for City Council, but his family did not make the choice to give him up as much as they did. The people here understand how much time this takes. There are many meetings that are a lot more than five meetings a month and it is the family that helps in that endeavor of which he is forever grateful. We all search for purpose in our life, and the purpose is less about happiness than it is about being mattered, being productive and useful, to have made a small difference in life and the world is better for you having been here. This endeavor, this place, and these people he is about to leave give him that purpose. He wanted to leave with a reminder, there are two new Councilmembers to begin their terms, they do not know him and what he has tried to accomplish. Within a few election cycles, many of the staff will have retired and there may be a new Council up here, and he will be a faded memory and that is okay. That is the way it is supposed to be. This grand experiment of democracy is not about people, it is about ideas, ideals, institutions, processes, and the rule of law. In the past few years, those processes and institutions have come under attack, even here in our town of Worthington. We have heard disparaging remarks at our meetings when talking about land use. We have had school board candidates and their supporters have their tires slashed. We have seen an influx of outside money in local elections. His hope resides in the seven people who will sit up here and the staff that supports him. You have been and he hopes will continue to serve as a beacon to all of those wondering how it should be done. It has been proven that you can disagree without being disagreeable. You have governed based not on what is best for you, but what is best for Worthington. If you want to honor Ms. Dorothy and himself, do not do it through platitude and cookies, do it with an

unwavering dedication to the ideals of democracy that makes all of this possible. Do not let Worthington go the way of national politics. We may not be perfect, but we are decent and we should be the model of decency.

Mr. Smith explained how he sat next to Mr. Myers for his first two years on Council, and one of his first conversations was about what we are doing here, and he responded that all we do here is approve the budget. He feels misled for all the reasons mentioned about what Mr. Myers has done and led the way to get there. It is a lot more than just approving the budget.

Ms. Kowalczyk thought back to when she first started and how she did not know how things would go between the two of them. In the end, she has had the greatest of respect for Mr. Myers and his ability to put things into perspective when looking at difficult issues. Such an impression has been left on Council, that she will continue to be thinking about what Mr. Myers would say about an issue. She thanked him for all of his time serving our community and how we are much better for it.

Mr. Bucher explained how Mr. Myers has had the ability to sift through the broad debate that has occurred, to get us back to the decision at hand. He has the ability to spar in debates but do it politely and with purpose.

Ms. Dorothy thanked him for his time of service. She has always been impressed at his ability to formulate new legislation on the fly, which is absolutely amazing. It has been a delight to serve together.

Mr. Robinson shared an on-the-fly poem he wrote to Mr. Myers, "There once was a man, a public servant, a citizen named Scott Myers. Who served his City, his neighbors with depth, sharpness of mind, wisdom, while avoiding the shallowness of campaign flyers. He more than once saved the day, I saw it, I know. At a meeting when a poor decision was about to be made, he would call us all back to the heart of the matter, the core of who we are and aspire to be, at just the right moment through his words and ideas. he was our compass, a reminder of Worthington's north start. So you will be missed, but remember this in spite of what you say, Scott Myers, whether you are near or journey, thank you, Scott."

President Michael shared a Ralph Waldo Emerson poem that reminds her of both Mr. Myers and Ms. Dorothy, "To laugh often and much: To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded." These are two of the most successful people she knows based upon what is in this poem. It has been a pleasure to serve together.

## **Reports of City Officials**

### **9. Reports of City Officials**

#### **Minutes:**

Mr. Greeson reported that we received a liquor permit transfer notice for the

American Legion recently, it was the notice of the awarding of a D-5 liquor permit. We have until January 10th to respond and there is only the organization between then and now, so staff recommends requesting the Division of Liquor Control give an extension of that timeline in order to have the time to review and discuss that liquor permit.

**MOTION:** Mr. Myers moved, seconded by Ms. Dorothy that we request the extension.  
**The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote**

## Reports of Council Members

### 10. Reports of Council Members

**Minutes:**

There were no reports of Council Members.

## Other

## Executive Session

## Adjournment

### 11. Motion to Adjourn

**Minutes:**

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

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

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Contact: D. Kay Thress, Clerk of Council (Kay.Thress@worthington.org (614) 436-3100) | Minutes published on 01/13/2022, adopted on 01/18/2022

/s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt  
Management Assistant

Attest

/s/ David Robinson  
President of Council