



City Council Agenda

Minutes

Monday, April 18, 2022 at 7:00 pm

6550 N. High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Worthington City Council met in-person in Regular Session on Monday, April 18, 2022. President Robinson called the meeting to order at or about 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Minutes:

Members Present: Katherine Brewer, Peter Bucher (Via Microsoft Teams), Rebecca Hermann, Beth Kowalczyk, and David Robinson (Bonnie Michael arrived shortly after roll call)

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

There were two members of the public in attendance.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

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

4. Visitor Comments

Special Presentation(s)

5. Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Award Presentation

Minutes:

Ms. Stewart explained how the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association provides an award program where they strive to recognize a number of high-quality programs throughout the state of Ohio. This year over 125 programs and projects were nominated for awards with twelve of them receiving first place awards. We were one

of the twelve.

Mr. Hurley detailed how we were fortunate enough to win this award and it was not just a Parks and Recreation effort. It was also a Division of Police effort so they wanted to be able to share this with the Police tonight. The event was conducted jointly between Parks, Police, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, at the Mirolo Pavillion at the trail and it helped to connect the community with the Police in an informal way.

Chief Ware thanked the Parks and Recreation staff and explained how it is crucial for law enforcement success to build relationships with the community, and we cannot do that without our community partners. He described the vital role of the Worthington Police Citizens Academy Alumni Association and the volunteers who are the backbone of a lot of what they do in the community. The Division of Police greatly values the relationship with the alumni and partnership with them.

Ms. Hermann asked if the Worthington Police Citizens Academy would be starting up again in the coming year. Chief Ware explained that it would and that he encouraged every Council member to participate. Once you see how and why the Division of Police do what they do, it gives a better appreciation for the challenges of the job. Ms. Hermann noted that registration is free and the program lasts up to ten weeks.

Mr. Robinson shared his thanks and explained how this example of the Parks and Police's work exemplifies the best of Worthington civic life. This is something to be proud of.

New Legislation - Resolution(s)

6. Resolution No. 19-2022 Guidelines Regarding the Display of Flags on City Property

Adopting Guidelines Regarding the Display of Flags on City Property

Minutes:

Introduced by Ms. Brewer

Ms. Stewart overviewed how this item was previously discussed with the City Council and is coming back for additional consideration. This topic stemmed from Council's interest in the opportunity to display Pride flags during Pride Month. Before getting into that discussion, staff wanted to have a more general discussion about flying commemorative flags and laying out a framework before getting into more specific flags. She overviewed the proposed guidelines on how the City would handle commemorative flags and when to fly them. This resolution explains that any commemorative flags to be flown would need to be requested by a member of the City Council and would need to be approved through a resolution of the Council. Two flags that would be prohibited are the flags of a particular religious movement or of a particular political party or candidate.

Ms. Kowalczyk clarified that the policy being looked at is regarding how to fly the flags, not which flags or where they are flown at this point. It is really the initial authority to fly the flags and set out guidelines. Mr. Lindsey replied that is correct, it is intended to set forth the policy for there to be a framework for any future discussion

by the Council, who has the ability to make a request to fly a flag and it is not available for members of the public.

Ms. Hermann wondered about a scenario if there is ever a time where there are two flags that are important, but contentious to fly at the same time and whether there is anything in this to help in that scenario or if we will deal with it at that time. Mr. Lindsey explained that there is nothing specific in this other than it would be Council making that decision in the future.

Ms. Stewart noted that staff did leave at Council's place a listing of the flag poles that exist on City property. Mr. Robinson followed up and asked if there were other locations that we might consider posts, such as the Historic District area or light signal posts. Ms. Stewart replied that may be the green street lights that often fly the Tree City flags or American flags throughout the year. We would need to understand how any commemorative flags may interrelate because there are many months of the year where American flags are designated to be flown, so we would need to figure out how that would relate. There are quite a few of those posts, so the numbers would get pretty high when talking about wanting to fly flags since there are two on each flag pole, which would get into a more budget and labor-intensive situation.

Ms. Kowalczyk said that we did get an email with feedback on the policy and potential flags, and she does not know enough about the various flags we could choose to fly. It would be interesting to hear if the Community Relations Commission has any input on this, that may be helpful. Ms. Brewer brought up that she is meeting with Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Pauline next week and that can be one of the topics that she discusses with them. Ms. Michael brought up how there is a multitude of different Pride flags, and that could be something for the CRC to discuss rather than Council spend the time researching. Ms. Kowalczyk mentioned that Juneteenth has been brought up as well, and while the policy says that a Council member is to bring forth a suggestion, the CRC is the perfect vehicle to bring that to us as Council if they have any recommendations on various flags to be flown commemorating certain things. Mr. Robinson explained that he was surprised by the content of the email from the resident, and he asked if it was reflective of CRC policy and discussion. Mr. Pauline clarified that the CRC was never tasked to create a flag policy and has not spent any time discussing what a policy would look like. In their- priority document submitted earlier in the year, they had suggested acknowledging Pride Month by flying the Pride flag but did not elaborate on any details. The CRC was pleased to see Council move the discussion forward. He has no issue sending the issue back to the CRC for their thoughts.

Ms. Michael asked about the budget for paying for these flags and who pays for them. We could probably find flags for every week of the year and there is a question on how to prioritize what flags to fly and how to pay for them, and then where to display them.

MOTION: Ms. Kowalczyk moved, seconded by Ms. Brewer to adopt Resolution No. 19-2022

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote

7. Resolution No. 20-2022 Amending the Personnel Rules and Resolution No. 63-2021

Amending the Personnel Rules and Regulations of the City of Worthington and Amending Resolution No. 63-2021.

Minutes:

Introduced by Ms. Hermann

Ms. Stewart detailed how this resolution amends the personnel rules for the City. With our recent contract with the Fraternal Order of Police, part of that was to allow for a lateral hiring process, that enables us to hire a new employee at any point on the pay scale. Additionally, we are requesting that this ability be allowed for positions across the City based upon certain requirements being met.

MOTION: Ms. Michael moved, seconded by Ms. Brewer to adopt Resolution No. 20-2022

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote

8. Resolution No. 21-2022 Accept State Capital Funding for McCord Park

To Accept Capital Improvement Award Funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for McCord Park Phase I and Authorize City Staff to Execute the Necessary Grant Documentation.

Minutes:

Introduced by Ms. Michael

Ms. Stewart stated that this is some administrative clean-up regarding the state funding that we received for the first phase of the McCord Park project. This resolution gives all the official approvals to finalize paperwork so that the City can be reimbursed.

Ms. Michael asked about the dollar amount awarded. Ms. Stewart replied that it was \$400,000.

MOTION: Ms. Kowalczyk moved, seconded by Ms. Brewer to adopt Resolution No. 21-2022

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote

Ms. Michael asked about the status of this year's State Capital Funding and the possibility of funding. Ms. Stewart replied that we did submit for funding for phase two of McCord Park, we have made it through the first few hurdles and made it on several lists submitted. We are hopeful for funding.

New Legislation - Ordinance(s)

9. Ordinance No. 09-2022 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Appropriation

Amending Ordinance No. 53-2021 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for Appropriations from the Coronavirus American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Unappropriated Balance.

Minutes:

Introduced by Ms. Hermann for public hearing on May 2, 2022.

10. Ordinance No. 10-2022 McCord Park Caboose Renovations Appropriations

Amending Ordinance No. 53-2021 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Special Parks Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Costs of the McCord Park - Phase 1 - Caboose Renovations and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 716-21)

Minutes:

Introduced by Ms. Michael for public hearing on May 2, 2022.

Reports of City Officials

Reports of Council Members

11. Reports of Council Members

Minutes:

Mr. Bucher noted that the State Capital Budget bill was HB 597 and was signed by the Governor on April 1st.

Ms. Kowalczyk reminded Councilmembers to RSVP for the cemetery tour and the Partnership annual meeting. Mr. Robinson asked if it was possible for there to be a weekend tour. Ms. Kowalczyk expressed that a tour could be scheduled when possible.

Ms. Michael explained that she attended the MORPC meeting and a new leadership board was elected and discussed a variety of regional issues and upcoming events.

Ms. Brewer provided an update on the previous meeting of the MPC/ARB.

Mr. Robinson overviewed how he sent out to Councilmembers a preparatory statement as a preamble to May being National Historic Preservation Month. He became aware of this several years ago and it was eye-opening and inspiring. This month has been used to be able to tell the full American story, which is an aspect he had not thoroughly considered before. History is a way of keeping alive, clarifying, and making aware of our current reality and it is often those people who have previously been marginalized that are quite interested in celebrating and preserving their history and historic places. He thought that this May could be a good time to formally recognize via mayoral proclamation, the work that was done ten years ago to get our historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He has spoken with people involved in historic preservation in this community, and a priority would be for the City to update its code in regard to demolitions. The essence is that prior to demolitions of buildings of historical significance, the Historical Society has the opportunity to document the home. That was not done a year or so ago for a house built in 1875 that was just outside of the Historic District. He proposed that this legislation be introduced and forwarded to the MPC for consideration, in conjunction with the mayoral proclamation in May.

Ms. Michael brought up the possibility of encouraging developers to replicate the architecture of buildings that are torn down.

Ms. Hermann expressed that there were some things mentioned last week and at the previous CIC meeting, and she realizes that we will not be discussing the retreat follow-up until later, but there were items discussed such as assessing the housing and community market with future needs and to look at the City carbon footprint with any housing at the UMCH site. She wanted to highlight there have been conversations

about where to put some different housing, she really wanted to stress and bring up finding a way to do a housing study in the City. With all of this discussion, we are dancing around the proverbial elephant, which is a housing study. We really need to give that some consideration. Mr. Robinson replied that it is a topic that touches upon many facets of things we talk about. Ms. Michael said that if we are going to talk about that, we need to see what the costs are and to do it right. Ms. Stewart noted that the staff has been working on all of the ideas brainstormed at the Council retreat and coming up with strategies on how to tackle them.

Other Business

Executive Session

12. Executive Session

- a. **To consider the purchase of property for public purposes or the sale of City property at competitive bidding.**
- b. **To consider negotiations for economic development assistance.**
- c. **To consider the appointment of a public official.**

Minutes:

MOTION: Ms. Hermann moved, Ms. Kowalczyk seconded a motion to go into Executive Session to consider the purchase of property for public purposes or the sale of City property at competitive bidding, to consider negotiations for economic development assistance, to consider the appointment of a public official, and to conference with an attorney for the City concerning disputes involving the City that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

The clerk called the roll on Executive Session with the motion carrying unanimously.

Council recessed at 7:51 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

Council returned to open session 8:57 p.m.

Adjournment

13. Motion to Adjourn

Minutes:

MOTION: Ms. Michael moved, Ms. Brewer seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote.

President Robinson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Contact: D. Kay Thress, Clerk of Council (Kay.Thress@worthington.org (614) 436-3100) | Minutes published on 05/24/2022, adopted on 06/06/2022

Attest

/s/ David Robinson
President of Council

/s/ Ethan C. Barnhardt
Management Assistant