



City Council Agenda

Minutes

Monday, June 20, 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, June 20, 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, Rebecca Hermann Beth Kowalczyk, Bonnie Michael (virtual), Doug Smith, David Robinson

Member(s) Absent:

Also Present: City Manager Matt Greeson, City Manager Robyn Stewart, Assistant City Manager Economic Development Director David McCorkle, Law Director Tom Lindsey, Service & Engineering Director John Moorehead, Planning & Building Director Lee Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Fire & EMS Mark Zambito, Chief of Police Robert Ware, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress

There were seven members of the public in attendance.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

President Robinson invited those in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Visitor Comments

Minutes:

President Robinson shared that the first and third Monday monthly meetings provide a time when visitors can speak up to five minutes on a topic of their choice. He invited Mark Gideon to share with Council.

Mark Gideon, 91 Chaucer Ct. shared an old saying that says you can't fight city hall. He doesn't think that should be necessary if there is good will, cooperation, and respect. Unfortunately, he doesn't always feel that he has received those things from the city and its representatives. Worthington does a great job in most things, and he is grateful to those who help make Worthington a great place to live. Unfortunately,

he takes issue with one matter which has not been handled well and for which he respectfully asks for Council's attention and consideration.

Mr. Gideon shared a story of how Worthington approved construction of a sewer system in 1920, which made it possible for Village residents to install indoor plumbing. The sewer was installed across the Lewis Fruit Farm, which is a premier fruit orchard just south of Worthington and present day Riverlea. It was built in 1920 with two very unusual features: it was constructed on the surface of the ground and there was no easement of record filed. In the 1950s and early 1960s the farm was sold, plat developed, streets and so forth. His parents bought a lot in 1965 and built a house, which was their lifelong dream. After they moved in, they turned their attention to the yard. Since the city had never provided any instructions, restrictions, or guidance they assumed that they were allowed to cover the exposed sewer with fill dirt, which they did, intending to create a level ground, plant grass and have a nice yard. In 1967, the City rebuilt the sewer. There was a peat bog on the property and as a result the city needed to construct a wooden platform on which the sewer would rest, thereby creating a floating sewer. The city filed a lawsuit against his parents afterwards, which was extremely upsetting. The situation in which they had to live until the lawsuit was settled, without merit, a couple of years later. Over the next four decades the city wrote many letters to his parents and neighbors attempting to obtain an easement. In 1999 his mother passed away and he purchased the home from his father in 2010.

Mr. Gideon stated that the Northbrook sanitary sewer is a brand-new sewer. There is no reason why the sewer must follow the existing path. The proposal is for it to follow Hartford St., Riverglen and High. He asked that the City move straight down High St., as it is already proposed all the way to Kenyonbrook. At Kenyonbrook it should go on to Selby Blvd. and from Selby down to Northbrook. The City cannot demonstrate necessity to rebuild the Northbrook Sanitary Sewer across all the private properties, destroying property and disrupting lives. The City already can relocate the sewer on public right-of-way under its own control. He respectfully requests that the City abandon this decision to cross these multiple private properties and reroute the Northbrook Sanitary Sewer on public right of way.

Aaron Shearer, 6875 Bowerman St. E. reported that two weeks ago the question was asked, What is the agenda of Council? What are the priorities of Council? He is curious because he is not familiar with any sort of publication. Of any sort of priorities, legislatively or agenda wise and if those are published. He was under the impression that most of the Council supported the idea of transparency on these issues. He is here to say that he wants to see action on planning for our city. We have taken this approach of piece meal planning far too long, far past its useful life. We need comprehensive planning. We need to continue the process that was started when the visioning process was commissioned. He is reminded of the words of Theodore Roosevelt who said, "words count for nothing except so far as they represent acts." This is true everywhere. His question is, where are the acts? Where are the acts on planning for our City?

Special Presentation(s)

5. Special Presentation

Minutes:

President Robinson stated tonight's Special Presentation relates to firearms. The background is that Council wrote a letter to elected officials; Representative Liston, Senator Kunze, and Governor DeWine. He extended an invitation to Representative Liston and Senator Kunze to come to this council meeting to share their thoughts about firearms legislation in Ohio, specifically in the observations about the dynamics at the statehouse. Senator Kunze had an engagement tonight related to Juneteenth celebrations. He extended the invitation to any of the three meetings in July. Representative Liston was able to join us this evening. He invited her forward to share with Council.

Representative Liston said she is happy to be here and share what happens in Ohio in the statehouse regarding gun legislation. She is a little disappointed Senator Kunze could not be here because she thinks there are certainly differences in approach on gun legislation in the state and her view is not completely the majority view. She appreciates the opportunity to talk. Probably everyone in this room knows that in Ohio there has been a trend towards expanding gun access. Despite the concerns that she is hearing from citizens and from constituents regarding gun safety and ensuring that our children are safe at school, she thinks there has been a very different approach to that in the statehouse.

Background: although the Ohio Constitution does specifically protect home rule in cities and municipalities and townships, this is an area where guns have been carved out and that has been upheld in court. According to the Revised Code, local communities in Ohio cannot enact legislation that changes gun control laws locally. At their last session in June, they passed a bill that was initiated in the Senate and then passed through the House that expanded that to also include knives, pointy things because knives were defined broadly as well. Local communities could not specifically prohibit knives in the same way the previous statute had included guns. Since she has been in office, there has been a continuing trend to expand gun access issues. In January 2021, probably one of the major gun law changes occurred and that was removing the duty to retreat. Previously, anyone who was in their home and felt threatened might not have that duty to retreat but in a public place someone simply could not say they felt threatened and could shoot an individual that they felt threatened by, that they had to retreat if retreat was available. Now, no one would have that duty to retreat. The concept of concealed carry has been another area of contention. Prior to June 13, 2022, individuals in Ohio were required to obtain a license to carry a concealed gun. June 13th a law was enacted that removed that requirement. We now have permit list concealed carry, so anyone can carry a gun, concealed anywhere without training, without licensing. That bill also removed the requirement to tell police if someone is carrying a weapon at the time they are

stopped unless the police officer asks. This is something that was very concerning to law enforcement in addition to many of us who were against it. She voted “no” on both bills.

In response to the Uvalde shooting, the Ohio House passed a law to decrease training for teachers, to increase the access of guns in the classroom such that school districts could increase gun presence in teachers with very minimal requirements. The previous law required extensive peace officer training type program. The new law only requires what appears to be a maximum of 24 hours of training. That did not have much public support that was heard, nor did it have support from teachers or law enforcement agencies because they did not feel this was going to provide enough training for teachers who might find themselves in very difficult situations. She again voted against this bill, but it did pass into law, and she thinks speaks to the trend in our state.

Representative Liston shared that although she does not serve on the committee that hears gun legislation, she thinks in Ohio there has been a movement towards expanding gun access. She shared how those leading the movement are frequently in the statehouse speaking with legislators. While many of us speak about common sense gun safety measures, such as background checks and red flag laws, she had a bill last general assembly simply to ask gun shops to provide information on suicide prevention and that is not something that the General Assembly has been interested in hearing. In fact, all the bills that have been introduced that include measures that have been in the news related to gun safety issues have not had any hearings except one, that was introduced by a democrat member on child safety storage issues, to try to make sure that guns stored at home have a locking measure. That is the trend in the State, and she thinks it is one that is certainly very challenging for many of us and for many cities and municipalities that are trying to look at what they can do to protect people in their cities.

Ms. Kowalczyk thanked Representative Liston for coming and sharing. It was very informative, if not discouraging. She asked what citizens can do if we don't agree with what is happening with these laws. Representative Liston replied that on most issues, legislators only hear from those who speak to them. She doesn't believe that the majority members who think their constituencies want all of these bills, represent a majority of their constituents, but they hear from people who feel very strongly. Currently in Ohio there is a concerted lobbying effort from an organized group that says people really want access to guns. They want teachers to be able to carry more weapons in schools. Everyone who is hearing this or listening need to make sure their legislators know the specifics of what they believe and know to be true for their lives and why is helpful. She shared that Senator Kunze did vote no on the bill related to teacher gun training. She added that she welcomes everyone's input. If you feel that the way she voted was incorrect, please tell her. If you have strong opinions and beliefs on what would be helpful for Worthington that she has not mentioned or that you don't feel are being heard, please reach out.

Representative Liston knows that the city of Columbus and Worthington have been

working on legislation to try to make sure that within the current legal structure there are still places that one can try to improve safety. She would be happy to help facilitate those conversations even if she is not the expert on what those ordinances might look like across the state. Any challenges to the home rule component in this area of Franklin County would likely go to the Franklin County Court of Appeals. She is not the expert, but she knows the members that are running for the Franklin County Court of Appeals are very well versed in the gradual erosion of home rule that she thinks many cities have felt so there are opportunities there as we look to 2022 and who is going to make up that Franklin County Court of Appeals.

Ms. Michael knows we can't do anything that goes against Ohio law that is currently in place. But some national things that kind of puts measures in place for gun safety, by ensuring people properly lock up their guns is one way of reducing gun violence. She thinks she heard that Representative Liston has done something along that line, and she is curious as to what happened. Representative Liston agreed that gun storage should be looked at because there is a large number of accidental shootings that occur and kids may be around guns that may not be safely stored. Pediatricians see those deaths and suicides. She thinks that is actually the leading cause of gun deaths so during the last general assembly she introduced to try to get information to gun owners about suicide prevention resources. It did receive a hearing and there was some positivity about it but she thinks that any bill that is viewed as preventing people from getting guns as quickly and as freely as possible is often not supported. Jessica Miranda introduced child protective locks and safe gun storage legislation several times. The current bill has had one hearing so it is something that people can advocate for. The success of bills that do that is low in the current makeup of the general assembly, but the more people can make that voice known, even with people they don't expect to agree with them, the better.

President Robinson asked if a teacher could choose to carry a firearm in the classroom if their local school administration does not want that to happen and conversely can a school board or administration compel teachers to carry a gun if they do not want to. Representation Liston replied that she doesn't know the answer to those questions. She believes teachers could carry a gun to school if the board and the district had determined that as a policy and in doing so they had more extensive peace officer training in place and notified the families in the district. She doesn't believe that currently teachers would be carrying guns in schools legally without that process, this simply narrowed the process. Instead of having the 180 hours, it was several hours of hand/gun training and a total of up to 24 hours including some situational awareness training. Districts do not need to do this. They can choose not to. The second part of the question was can a teacher be compelled, she doesn't believe so. She thinks that is something the OEA, OFT and Teachers Unions would be negotiating as part of contracts in terms of what was required on them in the workplace.

Mr. Bucher thanked Dr. Liston for being here tonight and for her service to our community. He knows with our extremely gerrymandered statehouse it can often be tough on issues like we assessed tonight. Thank you for representing Worthington in

the statehouse for us. Dr. Liston thanked members for their service to Worthington. She appreciates it. She appreciates that they are looking to tackle this tough issue because it does sometimes lead to strong opinions, but she believes that most people can agree with some of the more common-sense measures if we really sit down and talk about what that looks like.

President Robinson thanked Representative Liston for coming. In some ways writing a letter or even having her come here tonight, there is a certain sense of futility in terms of what actual effect this is going to have but his guiding thought is talking about it is necessary and if we are silent we are acquiescing and, in some ways, complicit in the situation so while he applauds her getting up and going down to the statehouse every day that she does and fighting a tough fight and he is glad that we are here this evening speaking about it, he thinks if this is ever going to change, this must happen. Representative Liston agreed. She goes back to legislators only hear from the people they hear from. The more people talk about it the better, even if it feels like your voice is not currently being heard. It takes a long time for the culture to change, and it takes a lot of voices continuously speaking up to do it, so this is a part of that, and she is grateful for it.

Ms. Hermann asked if an email is just as effective as a phone call or is there anything we should let our public know if they would like to reach out. Representative Liston replied the more personalized the communication the better. A coffee where people sit down and talk with you and have a conversation is more effective than a phone call, which is more effective than an email, but an email is more effective than nothing. Everyone has busy lives, and your time will ebb and flow but the more personal the connection the more your message is often heard.

When asked by Ms. Michael who the best people are to contact on these issues, Representative Liston replied that in the statehouse we want to make sure those we represent are heard but it is not uncommon for her to receive emails on contentious issues from people all over the state. She suggested contacting everyone. She further suggested contacting those who serve on the committee where a bill that you have concerns about is being heard, particularly the committee chair, vice-chair, and the ranking member. So, your representative and then the committee. The chair of that committee is the one who decides whether that bill is going to receive additional hearings so the chair is someone you should speak to. As a Worthington city council member, you can usually get an audience. A concerned citizen will still generally receive a response because we are smaller than federal and generally more accessible. If you are looking for someone who might have a different perspective, the ranking member is the minority party member that is the leadership in that committee and those are the people that you should start with.

When asked by Ms. Michael if you should send a letter to the entire committee, Representative Liston replied yes. It is not harmful to send it to everybody but the entire body unless it is up for a vote will not necessarily know the bill while everyone on the committee should know that bill and should be looking for different perspectives across the state because it isn't just their constituents that they are

making decisions for.

President Robinson stated there are two other dimensions to firearms tonight. The first would be the draft of the letter that we are planning to send to our federal elected. The third element will be an update from Law Director Lindsey on his investigation and possible ordinances for here in Worthington.

President Robinson asked about the draft to our elected. He put pen to paper this weekend and sent his thoughts to Ethan who he believed disseminated the letter to everyone. It is what he would say but this is coming from council, and he could either retreat to the prior draft or embrace everything he wrote. He opened the floor for discussion.

Ms. Kowalczyk expressed how she would like to go back to the original one since that is the letter members vetted and is very similar to what we talked about. Mr. Robinson's version would not necessarily be the way she would say it so she thinks it might be better to stick with what everyone agreed to. She suggested he send his letter too or send it separately. It is well written but not her voice. Ms. Brewer stated that she would probably go with the letter that members discussed last week.

President Robinson requested the original draft be finalized and then sent to Congressman Balderson, Senator Brown, and Senator Portman.

Mr. Lindsey clarified that the letter in the packet was a modification of the letter that was sent to the state representatives and the discussion sounded like it was the same. We will finalize it and have it available through Ms. Thress for signatures.

At Ms. Kowalczyk's suggestion, a letter will also be sent to Joyce Beatty.

MOTION Ms. Michael moved, seconded by Ms. Hermann to send a letter to our federal officials that were mentioned.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Robinson requested an update from Mr. Lindsey. Mr. Lindsey said he didn't have much of an update since his contact, Ms. Tobias-Hunter is currently out of the office. She is the representative at the Columbus Prosecutors Office that would provide the most information about the number of cases that was files, types of cases, and impacts. He will follow up with her in hopes of having updated information in July. While he does not anticipate the numbers of actual convictions being significant, he wants to know the impact they have had as a prosecutorial office in terms of whether it has been a useful tool for them. Once an update is provided, we will work towards having a draft for council to consider but that may not be until after the August recess. The goal is to obtain the information so that members can discuss the issue to determine whether it is worth pursuing.

Approval of the Minutes

6. Approval of Minutes - April 4, 2022, April 11, 2022

Minutes:

MOTION Mr. Bucher moved, seconded by Ms. Brewer a motion to approve the minutes of April 4, 2022 and April 11, 2022 as presented.

There being no additions or corrections, the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Public Hearings on Legislation

7. Ordinance No. 17-2022 Additional Appropriation

Amending Ordinance No. 53-2021 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the General Fund and Capital Improvement Fund Unappropriated Balance.

Minutes:

President Robinson reported this ordinance was introduced on June 6, 2022 and will need amended.

MOTION Ms. Brewer moved, seconded by Ms. Michael to amend Ordinance No. 17-2022 in Section 1. to insert the amount of \$150,000 for HVAC Improvements.

There being no additional comments, the motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Greeson reported the request for additional appropriations comes from both the General Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund. Periodically additional appropriations are needed because costs exceed the appropriated amount that members approved with the budget. In this instance that is necessary in retirement pay, where we have had a number of long-time employees retire that exceeded the estimates. We have some increase costs in our insurance policy, cost associated with repainting both the pickleball court and fitness floor where the quotes were higher than what we budgeted. Additionally, there is a request for an appropriation that we will be reimbursed for through insurance related to one of our fire apparatuses. The fourth item relates to the amendment that members just passed related to our HVAC improvement program. We have studied our HVAC equipment within city buildings and need to appropriate funds for the design work. Those funds are included in the adopted Capital Improvement Program, but we wanted to go ahead and use this ordinance as the vehicle to get them appropriated.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 17-2022 (As Amended). The motion carried unanimously by the follow vote:

Vote Results: Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

Ordinance No. 17-2022 (As Amended) passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

8. Ordinance No. 18-2022 Granting Easement to Columbia Gas

Granting Easements to Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. through Property Owned by the City of Worthington at 26 E New England Avenue and 50 W New England Avenue.

Minutes:

President Robinson reported this ordinance was introduced on June 13, 2022. He invited Mr. Greeson to comment.

City Engineer John Moorehead shared that this request is to grant easements to Columbia Gas of Ohio at two locations in our Central Business District: one at 50 E. New England and the other at 26 E. New England. Columbia Gas is in the process of replacing a number of lines in that area of town to help improve the safety of their

services and also reduce their liability. He believes they are installing roughly 10,000 feet of new line and abandoning around 11,000 feet of mixed aged/mixed condition line. There are no current gas services on the properties that the city owns but Columbia Gas' goal is to extend service through those properties onward to those commercial users in the area. We are a link in a chain of easements that help them accomplish that. This ordinance would allow us to grant temporary work easements and would also kick off an effort where the City Manager and he would help manage the conditions of their work on those properties. At the termination of the work, we will draft a final easement over the location of that service line. This is a larger project for Columbia Gas as it will affect a significant amount of the Central Business District south of StRt 161 so we can expect to see them out there in the upcoming weeks and months. The plan start time is July. He believes the businesses and residents in the affected area have received notice of a meeting which Columbia Gas will host virtually on July 6th. Anyone with an interest in the project can tune into that. He asked the City at large to bear with the workers as they proceed with this improvement.

Ms. Hermann reported living in an area where there are aging gas lines that led to a small fire in the grass. She is excited to see that they are being proactive. She asked if he could confirm that letters were sent. Mr. Moorehead believes the letters have gone out, although he does not have confirmation that has been completed. He knows they are in that process. Ms. Hermann said she hopes the process goes quickly, with few road closures. Mr. Moorehead replied they will focus their efforts outside of the road, but there may be disruptions to sidewalks and lawn areas. There will be roadwork, but they are trying to stay out of the way.

To President Robinson question about what the citizenry will see, Mr. Moorehead explained that the work will be on High Street, between StRt 161 and New England, along New England, on Oxford and Hartford. There will also be work along the southern Village Green Drives. Initially there will be markings of other buried utilities. They will then proceed into the installation of new pipeline that may be accomplished through open trenching, or boring operations where possible. Once that is done, they will be transitioning services to the new main line. For that they will be coordinating with the residents and business owners to make sure that is happening at a time that is convenient for those folks. Once all the work is done, they will focus on restoration to ensure things are put back the way they were or better and then move on out of the area. There will be some limited disruption. You may see plates in the road, temporary detours around work vehicles. There may be plates in the sidewalk potentially where they are working.

President Robinson asked if the Partnership is aware of all of this? With the Farmers Market, have they thought through all of this? Mr. Greeson replied that staff talked about that, and he believes Mr. McCorkle has made them aware and we plan to use them as a force multiplier to get information out to our businesses and make sure they are aware of the impacts and timing of the issue.

Ms. Kowalczyk noted the potential for sidewalk disruption and observed that occurs

often around construction sites. She asked if there is a way to assist walkers to navigate that better because it is challenging. Mr. Moorehead thinks that is a good and astute observation. Often the sidewalk is disrupted without warning. As part of the pre-construction meeting and our work for right of entry agreement with Columbia Gas and this project, especially in this location, we are going to require them to post advance notice of sidewalk closures ideally at the nearest adjacent intersection crossing so that folks who don't have a destination within the block under construction can cross and bypass the area. We will work to accomplish that on this project, and he will seek for his department to do more of that.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 18-2022. The motion carried unanimously by the follow vote:**

Vote Results: Ayes: 7 / Nays: 0

Ordinance No. 18-2022 passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

New Legislation - Resolution(s)

9. Resolution No. 30-2022 Board and Commission Re-Appointments

Re-appointing Members to Various City Boards and Commissions.

Minutes:

Introduced by Ms. Hermann

Mr. Greeson reported this being a standard re-appointment.

MOTION Ms. Michael moved, Mr. Smith seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 30-2022 as presented.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 30-2022 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

10. Resolution No. 31-2022 Amend Job Descriptions (Court Clerk and City Clerk)

Amending the Position Descriptions for Court Clerk and City Clerk and Amending the Staffing Chart of the City of Worthington to Provide for two Court Clerk Positions and two City Clerk Positions for up to a One Year Period.

Minutes:

Mr. Greeson reported that periodically we review our job descriptions but particularly when there are known retirements that we need to plan for. We have done that for the position of Court Clerk and City Clerk where our two longtime employees will be reaching the point where they can retire, and we are happy for them. This resolution does a couple of things. It approves some relatively minor modifications to the job description of both positions. It also increases the staffing chart because we plan to hire for both positions prior to the retirement of the individuals. They are one of one meaning there is one full-time court clerk and one part-time court clerk and there is one city clerk, and we believe an overlap in the position is important for training purposes. This will help us accomplish that and get the jobs advertised this summer.

MOTION Mr. Bucher moved, Ms. Michael seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 31-2022 as presented.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 31-2022 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

11. Resolution No. 32-2022 Amend Job Description (Fleet Maintenance Technician)

Amending the Position Description for Fleet Maintenance Technician, Amending the Staffing Chart to add one Fleet Maintenance Technician Position and Amending the Staffing Chart and Pay Resolution to Delete the Position of Mechanic in the Department of Service and Engineering.

Minutes:

Introduced by Mr. Smith

Mr. Greeson shared how we have a retiring individual who is in the mechanic position. That job description will be deleted and replaced with another one, Fleet Maintenance Technician. As a note, this is the retirement of Pete Shapter who has served the city for 47 years as a mechanic and whose father served for at least a decade as city manager. So, it is a notable change in the city operations. Like the prior item, it is customary that we update older job descriptions and reflect the duties that we anticipate hiring.

MOTION Ms. Brewer moved, Ms. Hermann seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 32-2022 as presented.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 32-2022 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

New Legislation - Ordinance(s)

Reports of City Officials

12. Policy Item(s)

a. Permission to Bid - Community Center Windows and Doors

Minutes:

President Robinson reported that staff is seeking permission to bid the community center windows and doors replacement project.

Mr. Greeson shared that this project was included in the Capital Improvement Program to replace some of the interior doors and windows in the south end, which is the original portion of the community center that have gone beyond their useful life.

Mr. Hurley reported this project was in the 2021 program with other CIP projects that were delayed because of COVID but we are ready to move forward. The replacement is being done in phases as we work to systematically replace some of those older windows and doors. We have \$102,000 in the CIP and we are asking council for permission to bid. We will be back with an appropriation and bid award later.

MOTION Ms. Michael moved, seconded by Ms. Hermann authorizing staff to bid the Community Center Windows and Doors project.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

13. Information Item(s)

a. Perry Park Playground Final Design

Minutes:

President Robinson reported that based on community input, staff has finalized the design for the Perry Park Playground Replacement Project.

Mr. Hurley shared that this was a robust project for the playground design. He wanted to share the final design with members since the appropriation was done at the same time as the bid request. Surveying nearby residents helped with the creation of three designs that we took to an open house during a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting in May and invited the public to attend. We received feedback from those in person and from the city's website. We received between 30-40 online responses and roughly 35 and 45 people stopped by the open house in addition to our Commission members. Design #3 of the three options was the most popular. We don't always stick exactly with the options, but often take feedback and add elements while trying to stay within budget. We believe we have a final design that he wanted to share with members this evening.

Mr. Hurley walked members through several renderings of the new playground equipment and layout. A cut-through will also be provided in the middle of the playground with the hope of creating a clear path to the parking lot that people will use. We feel good about the design. He had a conversation with council Hermann about a particular swing so we still have a little flexibility to address those things, but we would like to move forward quickly to beat the fall and winter weather. He doesn't think there is a need for any formal action, he just wanted to share the design to make sure council feels good about this project moving forward since it is a significant investment on behalf of the City and Council, a \$280,000 playground.

Ms. Hermann thanked Mr. Hurley for all the time he has put into this project. A concern that she has always had is helping children with special needs getting to enjoy certain aspect of parks and we did discuss that, and she appreciates his openness. This group does have the ability to help with some need. Moving forward she might be asking for a little more but for right now she is pleased with how this came out and she supports moving forward with this.

President Robinson thinks it looks outstanding. He is struck by how far playgrounds have come from his day when it was galvanized steel and cement, so this is exciting to see. He is not familiar with this specific park and asked if this playground is situated in a grassy field. Mr. Hurley replied that it is located between the transition from the parking lot towards our ball diamonds. The ball diamonds, some of which also serve as soccer fields are located just past the swing set in the rendering.

President Robinson asked if there is any possibility or desirability for some trees in the area. Mr. Hurley replied that unfortunately, the rendering does not depict that but there is some pretty significant shade. As a matter of fact, the end coming towards him, there are some trees that sort of pinch the design on both sides so there is some shading there. We always ask the arbor committee to look at these sites and have planted trees, not only for the benefit of the

playground but if you have kids or grandkids that play sports you often see them huddled under the trees. We are dealing with that at McCord park as well. Ms. Kowalczyk seconded Ms. Hermann's comments about disability and opportunities for children with disabilities to fully enjoy the playground. She hopes that we can include that in future RFPs that we put out for our playgrounds. Mr. Hurley shared that an interpretation board like the one at Selby Park will also be added but will be ordered from a different vendor. He added that since we have Bike & Pedestrian committee member Michael Bates here this evening, we also received a request for a bike rack as part of this planning process so we will be adding that adjacent to the playground as well. Mr. Greeson noted members will find a memorandum that he wrote at their places this evening as a follow-up on retreat reports and ideas around how we move forward with that as well as some of our visioning process. The memorandum also ties back to the documents that were distributed last week. Please review and when we have the opportunity, he would be glad to speak with you individually and then talk collectively, maybe in July about it.

Reports of Council Members

14. Reports of Council Members

Minutes:

Ms. Kowalczyk shared that she attended the Juneteenth celebration at the St. John A.M.E. Church that was supported by the Community Relations Commission. It was a lovely event. She hopes that we can continue that tradition in the future. The Arts Festival was this past weekend. It was great weather, and it was well attended. She appreciates the MAC bringing that back. With regards to the Building Inclusive Communities work, we continue to discuss having speakers come in September and October on different issues related to housing. Then some discussion about potentially supporting and developing a housing communications tool kit that would enable public officials and members of the community to really take the information that has been presented and be able to have informed conversation with the community so that we are all using the same words, in the same way, and understanding what they mean when we have these communications because she thinks, even with some communications that she has had people are not fully understanding the conversation. She thinks having a tool kit would be helpful. She is conversing with some who serve on other city councils that she knows to join the effort because she thinks they would appreciate that as well. We are just starting the conversation and she will bring more back when it is a little more fully jelled. President Robinson thinks what she is calling a tool kit would be very valuable. His understanding of the BIC, when we supported it really was an educational effort. He thinks common language would be very helpful. He thanked her for working on that. Ms. Michael shared that she had attended the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission meeting prior to Council's last meeting but she will send out some notes to everyone

as to what happened in that meeting. She also wanted to encourage people to attend the Partnership picnic coming up in a week or so. Tickets are still available, and it is always a great event that supports the Partnership, who does so much for our community.

Other Business

Executive Session

15. 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.**

Minutes:

MOTION Ms. Brewer moved, Ms. Hermann seconded a motion to meet in Executive Session to consider the purchase of property for public purposes or the sale of City property at competitive bidding and to consider negotiations for economic development assistance. The motion carried by a roll call vote.**
The clerk called the roll on Executive Session with the motion carrying unanimously by a roll call vote.

Council recessed at 8:14 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

Council returned to open session at 8:44 p.m.

Adjournment

16. Motion to Adjourn

Minutes:

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

President Robinson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Contact: D. Kay Thress, Clerk of Council (Kay.Thress@worthington.org (614) 436-3100) | Minutes published on 08/02/2022, adopted on 09/06/2022

/s/ D. Kay Thress

Clerk of Council

Attest

/s/ David Robinson

President of Council