



# City Council Agenda

## Minutes

Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm

6550 N. High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085

### 1. Call to Order

**Minutes:**

Worthington City Council met in person on Monday, May 15, 2023. President Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

**Minutes:**

**Members Present:** Katy Brewer, Pete Bucher, Rebecca Hermann, Beth Kowalczyk, Bonnie Michael, Doug Smtih, David Robinson.

**Member(s) Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Acting City Manager Robyn Stewart, Assistant City Manager and Economic Development Director David McCorkle, Director of Law Tom Lindsey, Director of Finance Scott Barter, Service & Engineering Director John Moorehead, Planning & Building Director Lee Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Fire & EMS Mark Zambito, Acting Chief of Police Eric Grile, Clerk of Council Grace Brown

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

**Minutes:**

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

### 4. Visitor Comments

**Minutes:**

Mr. Mark Gideon, 91 Chaucer Court, spoke about the Northbrook Sanitary Sewer. He discussed actions that he thought City had not taken in the process. He emphasized that the City should use the public right of way for the project in phase two and that it was not too late to do so.

Mr. Michael Duffy, 645 Farrington Drive, was next to speak before Council. He offered comments about the former United Methodist Children's Home property. He encouraged Council to find out how the property was sold (through a legal discovery process) to Lifestyle Communities.

## Special Presentation(s)

### 5. Franklin County Auditor's Office

**Minutes:**

Mr. P.R. Casey, Deputy Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the Franklin County Auditor's Office gave an update on the reappraisal process. Mr. Casey shared that the Auditor's Office was trying to reach all communities within Franklin County about the appraisal project. He shared that there was an informal appraisal and updated property values in 2020, but that 2023 would be a formal appraisal with an effort to reflect the current real estate market via mass appraisal.

Mr. Casey explained that mass appraisal was different from the appraisal done by banks at the time of a purchase of a home. The mass appraisal was done without entering homes. He offered that questions regarding home values and appraisal could be found on the Know Your Home Value website homepage. Mr. Casey mentioned that if home or business owners were unhappy with their appraisal, they could schedule a review session in August with the Auditor's Office online and that they would be scheduled to happen in person throughout the month of September. He highlighted that it was not a mandatory process though.

Councilmember Brewer asked how physical characteristics, such as new additions and fences, would be valued and how they would look at things on the property for valuation decisions. Mr. Casey responded by saying that by law, the office is permitted to make adjustments every year for people's property. He called it an annual maintenance review via permits sent to their office by municipalities.

Mr. Casey shared that Franklin County was continually rated as one of the hottest real estate markets in the country. He added that the reappraisal for 2023 would likely affect property taxes. He noted that it is not the case that just because property values would go up that taxes on that property would do the same. He stated that the formula was 35% of the auditor's value for a property multiplied by the taxing district rate is the amount (if any) of increases. Mr. Casey also provided the example that if a property value change decreases more than the average in the taxing district, one would see a small decrease in taxes. He again referenced the Know Your Home Value website for frequently asked questions.

Councilmember Bucher expressed his thanks for the work the Auditor's Office is doing with several communities in Franklin County and for Mr. Casey's presentation.

Councilmember Michael asked if residents in Worthington would see an increase in taxes and value. Mr. Casey replied that it was likely that most property owners would see some type of increase.

Councilmember Kowalczyk asked Mr. Casey to explain the Homestead Exemption. He shared that it was a law/program for older homeowners to get a tax credit, or tax break on their homes. He further explained that it was created to keep older citizens from being priced out of their homes.

Mr. Casey thanked Council for their time and the opportunity to present.

**6. Resolution No. 31-2023- Retirement of Lori Trego, Personnel Director**

Expressing the Appreciation and Best Wishes of the Worthington City Council to Lori Trego for 32 years of Outstanding Service to the City of Worthington.

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Ms. Michael.**

**MOTION:** Ms. Michael moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to adopt Resolution No. 30-2023.

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

Resolution 31-2023 honored Lori Trego, Personnel Director for her more than 32 years of outstanding service to the City of Worthington. Ms. Trego began in 1990 as an assistant in the Service Department and rose to the rank of the City's first Director of Personnel in 2009. Council President Robinson presented Ms. Trego with the official Resolution and thanked her for her service.

Ms. Stewart then presented Ms. Trego with a shadowbox containing her dais nameplate and spoke of her many years with the City. She recognized Ms. Trego's work in bringing the community and neighbors together via grants and programming. Her work on the bi-centennial wagon train celebration in 2003, her humor, and all her achievements during her time at Worthington.

Ms. Trego thanked Ms. Stewart, Council President Robinson, Councilmembers, and City Staff for the opportunity to work with them. She highlighted her time with hard-working dedicated employees and shared that she was confident the city was in good hands. She also thanked the Worthington community for the honor of serving them and her husband, for 32 years of support on her journey.

## Approval of the Minutes

### 7. Approval of Minutes

April 03, 2023, April 10, 2023, April 17, 2023, May 1, 2023 (Joint Meeting), May 1, 2023, & May 08, 2023

#### Minutes:

**MOTION:** Ms. Brewer moved, seconded by Ms. Michael to adopt the minutes of April 03, 2023, April 10, 2023, April 17, 2023, May 1, 2023 (Joint Meeting), May 1, 2023, & May 08, 2023 as presented.

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

## Public Hearings on Legislation

### 8. Ordinance No. 07-2023- Funding Project Number 720-21 HVAC Improvement Program

Amending Ordinance No. 39-2022 (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 HVAC Improvement Program and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 720-21)

#### Minutes:

**MOTION:** Ms. Michael moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to remove Ordinance No. 07-2023 from the table. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Stewart added a background that the ordinance had been tabled as a result of only receiving one bid in the prior round. She then asked that Mr. Moorehead offer additional details. He shared that there were three bids in the second round and asked the ordinance be amended to include the name of the contractor and the amount of appropriation.

**MOTION:** Ms. Hermann moved, seconded by Mr. Smith that the ordinance be amended to insert the amount of the appropriation (\$2,012,000.00) and the name of the contractor (ABM Building Solutions).

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

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 07-2023**

**The motion carried unanimously by the following vote:**

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

**9. Ordinance No. 12-2023- Municipal Motor Vehicle License Tax Increase**

To Levy the Additional Five-Dollar Annual License Tax for Operation of Motor Vehicles as Authorized by Section 4504.173 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**Minutes:**

Ms. Stewart offered background that when the Capital Improvements Program was adopted in the fall, it was contemplated at that time to increase revenue from the license tax by raising the rate by \$5. She then asked if Mr. Bartter had additional comments or background.

Mr. Bartter shared that historically, the city used the funds to offset the cost of the Street Improvement Program. He added that there were no big improvements in the program but that costs continued to go up. Mr. Bartter commented that the dollars collected with the increase would yield an estimated \$120,000 a year.

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 12-2023**

**The motion carried unanimously by the following vote:**

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

**10. Ordinance No. 13-2023- Acceptance of Sanitary Sewer Improvements for Stafford Village**

Accepting Sanitary Improvements Constructed in a Public Easement Located at the Stafford Village of Worthington Subdivision.

**Minutes:**

Ms. Stewart offered that the ordinance was for the redevelopment of Stafford Village and the construction of a new sanitary sewer line that would serve the property and was built by the developer which had gone through inspections and reviews.

Mr. Moorehead shared that this was a common occurrence in the City. When constructing public infrastructure, the developer paid for the installation, and then when done they turned over the property to the city. They requested a maintenance bond that covered 10% of the improvements for the next year and maintenance costs.

**There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 13-2023**

**The motion carried unanimously by the following vote:**

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

**New Legislation - Resolution(s)**

**11. Resolution No. 32-2023- Appointment of Angela Harris to Central Ohio Health Care Consortium Board**

Resolution Appointing Angela N. Harris as the Principal Representative to the Board of the Central Ohio Health Care Consortium.

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Ms. Michael**

Ms. Stewart shared that the City was part of a healthcare consortium with other local governments for the provision of health insurance benefits to its employees. As Lori Trego was the primary representative with Mr. Bartter as the alternate, it was appropriate that Ms. Harris take over the primary preventative role as the new director of personnel.

**MOTION:** Ms. Hermann moved, seconded by Mr. Bucher to adopt Resolution No. 32-2023

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

**12. Resolution No. 33-2023-Acceptance of Grant for Cardiac Monitors and Source Capture**

To Accept a Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Administration – Assistance to Firefighters Grants for Cardiac Monitors and a Source Capture Exhaust System and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Necessary Grant Documentation.

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Ms. Brewer**

Ms. Stewart said the resolution related to the acceptance of grant funds from the federal government and they would fund two items within the Fire and EMS Division, the first was cardiac monitors to be used for emergency medical services, and the second was an exhaust system for the bay where the fire and emergency medical equipment resided to create cleaner air. Chief Zambito added that he was excited to get the equipment and clean the air.

**MOTION:** Ms. Michael moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to adopt Resolution No. 33-2023

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

**13. Resolution No. 34-2023- Vision Implementation Teams**

Creation of Vision Implementation Teams and Appointment of Team Leaders.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Aaron Shearer of 6875 Bowerman St. East, provided comments in support of taking immediate action for increasing housing in the city. He emphasized his belief that it was a matter of when and how and not if the issue would come to a head. Mr. Shearer provided examples of problematic properties as he deemed them. He requested that Council lead the project and solutions.

**Introduced by Ms. Brewer.**

Ms. Stewart recapped the development of the Vision Teams over the last several weeks before the meeting noting that it was a combination of work. She noted that the staff was also talking to a consultant which was previously discussed providing materials and process support for the teams. Ms. Brewer expressed appreciation for everyone's work on the teams and highlighted Ms. Stewart's efforts. She added notes of thanks for her fellow council members' willingness to start the work and process.

**MOTION:** Ms. Michael moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to adopt Resolution No. 34-2023

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

## **New Legislation - Ordinance(s)**

**14. Ordinance No. 14-2023-Street & Sidewalk Maintenance Program 748-23**

Amending Ordinance No. 39-2022 (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 2023 Street and Sidewalk Maintenance Program and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 748-23)

**Minutes:**

**Introduced by Ms. Brewer and set for public hearing on June 5, 2023.**

## **Reports of City Officials**

**15. Policy Item(s)**

**a. Flavored Tobacco**

**Minutes:**

Ms. Stewart introduced Mr. Sam Roberts, Public Policy Intern for the City of Worthington, who was actively involved in policy research on the initiative.

Mr. Roberts thanked Council and staff for the opportunity to present and for their support in his time with Worthington. He began his presentation by defining what flavored tobacco was and the populations (youth and African American) in which the sale and consumption were most affected in the US. He added that the sale of flavored tobacco was already banned in many states and that Governor DeWine was taking the initiative to prepare legislation in Ohio (First by permitting bans at the local level). Mr. Roberts continued by sharing licensing guidelines by Columbus Public Health. With licensing, he also outlined fines for illegal sales.

Ms. Brewer asked about nationwide state bans and Ms. Kowalczyk asked about higher penalties in comparison with Tobacco 21.

Mr. Edward Johnson, with Columbus Public Health, highlighted the rationale behind the higher penalties for illegal sales from what was introduced in Tobacco 21 He added that original fines were insufficient for them to change their sale behaviors.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked about updating the Tobacco 21 policy. Ms. Stewart said that it would be likely that the City would go along with the action of Columbus Public Health.

Mr. Smith asked if wholesalers would be affected by the updated policy, and Mr. Johnson responded that they would not as they sell to businesses.

**MOTION:** Ms. Michael moved and Ms. Hermann seconded a Motion to direct staff to prepare legislation.

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

**16. Discussion Item(s)**

**a. Deer in Worthington**

**Minutes:**

Worthington residents Ms. Val and Mr. Bill Knapp, of 290 Highgate Avenue, were the first of two guest speakers to speak before the Council regarding deer in Worthington. They shared their desire to have a deer task force to help control the deer population in Worthington. They shared that in their more than 25 years of living in Worthington, they have seen a large increase in the deer population. Especially as the deer seemed to have been finding their primary food sources in neighborhood properties. They provided Council with photos of deer on their property and asked that a task force be created to help find a solution.

Ms. Nancy Foust declined to speak after mentioning that Knapps converted her talking points.

Mr. Robinson spoke about the failed attempt to do a thorough deer count in the winter due to low snow accumulation and lack of subsequent sufficient snowfalls. (The fly-over helicopter counting process). He went on to say that the count was only part of the process. He wanted to have a formal task force created administratively. He suggested that police, parks and recreation, residents, and council members comprise the force.

Mr. Smith expressed support for the makeup of the team suggested by Mr. Robinson. He shared his thoughts that it may be part of education, to have drones do flyovers or other modes of counting the deer. He expressed interest in being part of the task force.

Mr. Bucher shared that Council should seek the advisement of an ODNR representative and resources from them would benefit the taskforce.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked about the expectation of public comment. Mr. Robinson said that the public should be able to comment. Ms. Michael asked that the comments be limited to possible solutions and not complaints or problems.

Ms. Stewart urged consideration for Vision Teams to get started on their work followed by the Deer task force in the third quarter.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked about posting education for citizens regarding fawns in season. Ms. Stewart said she would work with communications staff.

## Reports of Council Members

### 17. Reports of Council Members

#### Minutes:

Ms. Michael reported that she attended the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Committee meeting, and updated on new staff and ongoing initiatives. She also added that Riverfest would be June 10 and 11 with free kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boarding.

Ms. Brewer provided an update from the ARB/MPC Meeting which included a fencing denial, no meeting on May 25, and an approval of landscaping modifications.

There were no other updates by Councilmembers.

Ms. Stewart noted that it was National Public Works Week and that there would be a need for an Executive Session.

Ms. Brown provided an update that she attended a 3-hour public record training on behalf of the Council.

## Other Business

## Executive Session

### 18. Executive Session

#### Minutes:

**MOTION:** Ms. Brewer moved, seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk to enter Executive Session for the purposes of considering the appointment of a public official and conferences with an attorney for the City concerning pending or imminent litigation.

**The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.**

**City Council entered Executive Session at 8:49 p.m.**

**Members returned to open session at about 9:38 p.m.**

## Adjournment

**19. Motion to Adjourn**

**Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Ms. Michael moved, seconded by Ms. Hermann to adjourn.

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

**President Robinson declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:38 pm.**

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Contact: Grace Brown, Clerk of Council (grace.brown@worthington.org (614) 436-3100) | Minutes published on 06/01/2023, adopted on 06/05/2023

Attest:



Clerk of Council



President of Council