CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

September 18, 2006 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Lester at 8:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

After a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was called and the following members were present:

Maria Klemack *Richard Lester* *Richard Stage* *Ted Berry*

1. Mr. Stage moved to excuse Mr. Corbin; seconded by Ms. Klemack.

Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Stage	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

2. President Lester recognized the Mayor for a Presentation. The Mayor introduced Mr. Doug Lay, Director of the Franklin County Veteran's Association, who presented Mr. Ray Rouff with a Plaque and an American Flag that has been flown over the U.S. Capitol. This was done in recognition of Mr. Rouff being the 2006 Grove City Hometown Hero.

   Mr. Rouff expressed his many thanks and said this is something he will never forget. He expressed his pride in accepting these gifts.

3. Ms. Klemack moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 8/30 and 9/5 meetings and approve as written; seconded by President Lester.

Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Stage	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes

4. President Lester read the agenda items and they were approved by unanimous consent. Mr. Stage moved to add Resolution CR-62-06; seconded by Ms. Klemack.

Mr. Stage	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes

The Chair recognized Mr. Stage, Chairman of Finance, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-59-06 (Appropriate the Outstanding Fund Balances for Certain Project Funds for Current Expenses) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Stage moved it be approved; seconded by President Lester.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Stage	Yes

2. Ordinance C-60-06 (An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of Tax Increment Financing Revenue Bonds, Series 2006 in the maximum aggregate principal amount of $17,500,000 for the Purposes of (A) Retiring Certain Outstanding Bond Anticipation Notes of the City originally issued for the purpose of paying the costs of (1) Improving Stringtown and White Road by Widening, Repaving and Constructing Drainage Improvements and Related Infrastructure with Landscaping, Traffic Control Devices, and Lighting and (2) Improving Buckeye Parkway by Widening, Repaving and Constructing Drainage Improvements and Related Infrastructure with Landscaping, Traffic Control Devices, Lighting and Related Improvements, (B) Funding a Bond Reserve Fund and (C) Paying Costs of Issuance of those Bonds; Authorizing Various Related Documents and Instruments, including a Trust Agreement which Provides for the Rights of the Holders of, and Pledging Revenues and Funds to Secure, the Bonds, a Bond Purchase Agreement and a Continuing Disclosure Certificate) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Stage moved it be approved; seconded by President Lester.

   Mr. Stage commented that he would not be voting in favor of the ordinance, as he believes there were pieces of it that could have been financed through General Obligation and saving about 75 basis points on the financing costs. He said he is in favor of it, just not in favor of the way it is being done.

   There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Stage called for the vote.

Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Stage	No
Mr. Berry	Yes

3. Ordinance C-61-06 (Authorize the City Administrator to enter into an Agreement to Purchase 3387 Park Street and Appropriate $151,000.00 from the General Fund for said purchase and closing costs) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Stage moved it be approved; seconded by President Lester.

   Mr. Jim Hale, resident, encouraged Council to give great consideration to the purchase of this property and the development of a parking lot and voiced his support for it. He explained that he works at the Visitors & Conventions Bureau and there is very limited parking. He believes that taking down this house and putting in a parking area would clean up the entire alley area and improve what he feels is a traffic hazard (no visibility when pulling out of the alley onto Park St.). He feels this parking area would benefit the entire city.

   Ms. Karen Dover, member of the Economic Restructuring Committee for the Town Center Merchants, stated that they have received signatures from local residents and business owners, particularly in that area, who feel it is critical to have more parking there. She noted that the visual appearance of the area is poor. The alley is one of the worst in the Town Center. They feel it is more of a commercial district and believe it would be very helpful to the whole area.

   Mr. Berry asked about surfacing the parcel the city owns east of the Library and how many spaces that would generate. Mayor Grossman commented that they are working on a conceptual plan for green space in that space for the Town Center. There is no layout for parking on that parcel. Ms. Dover commented that their group is looking for parking within 300' of the Town Center and the lot in question is outside that footage. She said they believe that areas beyond 300' are too far away for parking spaces to service the Town Center businesses. She said there isn't a good understanding of where to park to get into businesses and people will park in the alley and block it, in order to be in close proximity to their destination. Mr. Berry said his primary concern was spending about $273,000.00 for eight (8) parking spaces. However, in light of the information provided by Dr. Bostic and Ms. Dover, he suggested that it be postponed to the next meeting so he could further consider it and discuss it with some of the residents. Mayor Grossman stated that the option for the purchase of the property will expire before the next meeting. She asked Mr. Boso, Dir. of Dev., to relay his conversations with contiguous property owners. Mr. Boso explained that he has had a discussion with the property owner directly south who is elderly and willing to sell. If that were acquired, it would add an additional 30 spaces.

Mr. Berry moved to postpone this ordinance to 10/2/06; with no second. Motion died.

Mr. Stage said the preliminary drawing showed a dumpster and asked for additional information. Mayor Grossman said the goal is to eliminate the series of trash cans that line the alley. They are working with EMH&T to come up with an aesthetic dumpster design for each business along the alley to use. Mr. Stage asked if they had a commitment from all the business owners. Mayor Grossman said they have a partial commitment, but haven't had time to get it from all of them. Mr. Stage asked if Council can assume that the Administration will do everything possible to get all the business owners to agree to use the dumpster. The Mayor said Council has their commitment to do so. Mr. Stage said he is in agreement with the purchase because it was one of the properties identified in 1988 Town Center Plan to be converted and to put in a dumpster for all businesses.

After additional clarification over the area in question, Dr. Bostic commented that if we miss this opportunity, we will miss the chance to clean up this area and allow for the reconfiguration of the space between Park Street and Civic Drive. Mr. Berry voiced concern over taking property out of the Town Center that could be used for commercial use.

There being no additional questions, the vote was called.

Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Stage	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes

4. Ordinance C-64-06 (Appropriate $5,600.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of the Implementation of a Transitional Work Program) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 10/2/06.

5. Ordinance C-65-06 (Appropriate $46,150.00 from the Community Environment Tree Fund for the Current Expense of Tree Installation) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 10/2/06.

6. Resolution CR-60-06 (Appoint Charles Hirth to the Audit Committee) was given its reading and public hearing and Mr. Stage moved it be approved; seconded by President Lester.

Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Stage	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes

7. Resolution CR-61-06 (Urging the Ohio Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury to continue taking swift and responsive Actions to Halt Unlawful Barriers to Fair and Free Trade) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Dewitt Zemp, attorney representing the Manufacturing Industry, explained that this is to show a public display of support for the manufacturing jobs and families in the community. It is an effort, State wide to show support of the manufacturer's that support a strong middle-class. A loss of a strong middle-class leads to a negative impact on the economy. It also asks the National Leadership to stand by the negotiated trade agreements that are in place to enhance the ability for local manufacturers to be successful in a global market place.

Mr. Stage asked if this was a national effort. Mr. Zemp said yes. He represents a group of manufacturers from across the country. He is in Ohio for the next six months garnering support.

In light of the City's Sister City relationship, Mr. Stage moved to amend the fifth Whereas statement to remove the words "to foreign nations"; seconded by President Lester.

Mr. Stage	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Stage moved it be approved; seconded by President Lester.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Stage	Yes

8. Resolution CR-62-06 (Accepting the Amounts and Rates as determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Behlen, Dir. of Finance, explained that this resolution keeps the tax rate the same. It just reallocates the millage to adjust for the change in the city's newly required contribution to the Police Pension Fund.

Mr. Stage stated that this resolution had considerable discussion in caucus, particularly because we have significant dollars in carry-over. He explained that this sets the rate for next year. It is one of the few things that Council manages each year, as to revenue flow. He suggested it be postponed to a date sometime before October 1. It was clarified that a specific date must be given in order to postpone. Mr. Stage said this legislation has significance to all the taxpayers and is a little uneasy approving it with so little time to review. He noted that this item was just provided today. He said he would be willing to move forward by reducing the millage.

Mr. Stage moved that the millage be reduced by .50 (noting that it may very well need to go back up next year); seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Behlen stated that this would reduce the income by $400,000.00. Mr. Stage stated that the arrived at that figure by adding the $282,000.00 overage and the $150,000.00 sewer project that won't be done this year. Mr. Behlen stated that the City has a large project in S.R. 665 and other Capital Improvement projects that this money could be used for.

There being no additional questions, the vote was called.

Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Stage	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

Mr. Behlen asked for clarification of the motion. Mr. Stage said he didn't want to take money away from the Police Pension Fund. In whatever way was necessary to change the numbers to arrive at a reduction in .50 mills, he would leave that to Mr. Behlen to decide.

There being no additional comments, Mr. Stage moved the resolution be approved, as amended; seconded by Ms. Klemack.

Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Stage	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes

The Chair recognized, Ms Klemack, in the absence of Mr. Corbin, Chairman of Lands, for discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said committee.

1. Ordinance C-62-06 (Approve the Plat of Pinnacle Club, Section 2, Phase 3) was given its second reading and public hearing and Ms. Klemack moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Stage.

Mr. Stage	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes

2. Ordinance C-63-06 (Approve a Special Use Permit for Franklin County Residential Services for a Day Care Center located at 4196 McDowell Rd) was given its second reading and public hearing and Ms. Klemack moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Stage.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Stage	Yes

The Chair asked that any new business to be brought before the attention of Council be done so at this time.

The Chair recognized members of Administration and Council for closing comments.

1. Mayor Grossman provided an update on the road improvements. She thanked Jim Hale for taking over the Arts-in-the-Alley Parade on such short notice and hoped Mr. Furr was better. She expressed condolences to the family of Gary Sigrest.

2. Council congratulated Mr. Rouff and expressed their condolences to the Sigrest Family. They also complimented everyone on Arts-in-the-Alley and expressed their pleasure in being able to give some money back to the taxpayers for this year.

3. After additional comments from the Mayor, Council and other Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Richard D. Lester

Richard D. Lester
President