CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

ugust 30, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting

The meeting of the Council Finance Committee was called to order by Mr. Holt at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall - 4035 Broadway.

After the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the fallen & stranded soldiers in Afghanistan, roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke *Aaron Schlabach* *Christine Houk* *Randy Holt* *Ted Berry*

1. Mr. Holt welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.

2. Mr. Holt recognized Mr. Tony Collins & Mr. Doug Stickel, YMCA, for a presentation. Mr. Collins explained how he had been meeting with Ms. Conrad, Dir. of Parks and Rec., and the Mayor to update them on the YMCA's next steps. Mr. Collins said the Grove City YMCA is thriving and doing well, being in full operation with 7,000 members since the pandemic and 12,000 prior. He said Grove City has the largest membership in Central Ohio. He then shared how they are now asking themselves how they can better serve the Grove City Community. He said there is a need for more space and they need to strategize on what the Y could look like in the future. Mr. Collins suggested a stronger partnership with Grove City to do more, and compares their partnership with the City of Reynoldsburg in building their community center to being a "perfect model" for Grove City. He said they plan to conduct surveys and do some outreach in the community to find out what the needs are. He also wants to find out how the Council feels about partnering to build a Community Center, with the Y operating it. Mr. Stickel reiterated the vibrancy and growth of the G.C. YMCA, and its predicted growth in the near future. He shared that today was one of the YMCA's busiest days so far, as it is now a place for socialization along with being a workout facility. Mayor Stage asked Mr. Collins about the debt and lease agreement with the YMCA. Mr. Collins explained the initial agreement with the City.

   Ms. Houk commented that reaching out to the community is the right path to take, and that feedback is key to determining the needs and wants for a Community Center.

3. Mr. Holt recognized Mr. Turner, Dir. of Finance, who shared the 2021 actual accounts as of 8/2021. He showed the Fund Summary and explained that finances are in good shape, however, some funds are tight and will come back to Council to reduce the appropriations of these funds. Mr. Turner moved on to the 2021 Projections for the year's end. He believes it will be better than the projections and assumptions. The Income Tax collections are above estimates. Moving on to the 2022 Tax Budget assumptions, the City is looking at almost a $3 million gain from the projected left over balance at the end of this year.

4. Mr. Holt moved to Capital Improvements, where the 2021 Capital Improvement projects were reviewed.

   Mr. Holt stated, if there are any capital improvement items that are not on the existing list, to please get those suggestions to him.

   Mr. Schottke mentioned he would like to see a change in the sidewalk program that would include grinding and lifting to expand the program and focus specifically on trip hazards.

   Ms. Houk agreed that a conversation is needed o take a look at the sidewalk program.

5. Mr. Holt moved to discussion of the 2022 Capital Improvements Capital Plan Budget.

Upon reviewing the Capital Plan Budget for 2022, Mr. Holt asked if the City still needed the Stormwater Program. Ms. Fitzpatrick, Dir. of Service, answered yes, there is still need for the program as there are still homes that are eligible.

Mayor Stage commented that this is on their list and will have the Stormwater Program in the budget for Council to consider.

On behalf of the Library Park, Mayor Stage said they are creating a survey that will be handed out at the next two events; to get started on collecting community feedback. He stated that they are still working with the Chamber for a more extensive survey. He said he feels it is too soon for budget, and will ask for an appropriation later in 2022.

Moving on to Stormwater Infrastructure, Mr. Chuck Boso, City Admin., said that they are looking to use the American Rescue Plan for funding. Mr. Boso said this will be based on EMH&T's report before deciding.

Discussing Downtown Events, Mr. Holt suggested to study, design, and engineer routing for tractor trailers away from Broadway. Mayor Stage said Broadway will be shut down for some events such as Alumni and Boo on Broadway. He also stated he has asked EMH&T to look at the pinching points and update the traffic report from 2005. Mr. Vedra, Dir. of Safety, commented that the volume of traffic put on the residential streets is a rising concern, with 27,000 cars intersecting at Columbus Street and Broadway each day. Mr. Holt said he has heard clearly from residents their passion for events on Broadway and that we need to find a way to accommodate them. Ms. Houk said that is it important we look at this from all perspectives, and have a real understanding on the traffic issue and the closing of Broadway for events. Ms. Houk stated it is more complex, and change is not easy. The Council and Mayor Stage shared their thoughts on this subject. Mr. Holt concluding that is doesn't seem to need dollars budgeted at this time.

Mr. Berry commented that he has asked several times for connectivity of bike trails in Grove City to Metro Parks and Columbus. He shared that he wants to start a Greenways Committee to look into areas for this development.

6. Council reviewed Non-Capital budget items for 2022.

A new Sustainability position: Mayor Stage said the Keep Grove City Beautiful Committee is our core group to work with through sustainability. They plan to work with Linda Rosine to see if she needs help, or needs additional staffing. The Mayor anticipates a part-time position for Sustainability at this time.

Council Communication Line item: Council will continue to determine what is appropriate and include any line item directly into the Council portion of the budget.

Community Center: Mr. Holt suggest that we move forward in the discussions and planning of the community center, as we have the need and a funding source already for the project. Mr. Berry said we need money for general concepts and suggested: public engagement; general concepts; and a proforma. Mr. Schottke said the 2012 study should be resurrected and updated in relation to concepts and pricing for a community center. Ms. Houk states we have paid for studies in the past, and the key is feedback from the community and hearing from the residents. She said we must identify what the community wants before moving forward. Mayor Stage commented that the Sapperstein study is in and a community center tied with wanting a college space.. He is continuing to gauge community input on this, and describes it is a mixed bag. Mr. Schottke agreed with previous comments, that we need community input and a concept to share to move forward. He feels the public should be asked how they want to pay for the operation of a community center.

After closing comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Randy L Holt

Randy Holt
Committee Chair