CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

August 6, 2012 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Berry at 7:00 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:

Jeff Davis *Maria Klemack-McGraw* *Ted Berry* *Steve Bennett* *Melissa Albright*

1. Ms. Klemack-McGraw moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting and approve as written; seconded by Ms. Albright.

Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Albright	Yes

2. Mr. Bennett moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from 7/14 and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Albright	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes

3. The Chair read the agenda items and they were approved by unanimous consent.

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

1. Ordinance C-35-12 (Appropriate $1,018,403.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund and $347,562.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of the Hoover/Holton Roads Intersection Improvements) was given its second reading and public hearing.

   Mr. Boso noted that $630,000.00 is a grant and $388,000 is an interest free loan.

   Ms. Albright asked about sidewalks on the southwest corner, up to the proposed intersection. She asked if this included installing sidewalks in that area. Mr. Boso said yes, on the west side of the street. Mayor Stage asked about the east side of Hoover. Mr. Keller, EMH&T, said that was covered too.

   There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Bennett moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Albright	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes

2. Ordinance C-36-12 (Amend Section 139.05 of the Codified Ordinances titled Bidding Purchases and Procedures) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, explained that the State raised the bidding threshold for themselves to $200,000.00 and for Villages and Townships, which are smaller than us, to $50,000.00. He said we have had a few items that would have helped with a higher threshold and many municipalities have increased their own thresholds. He said this doesn't take away any oversight. Appropriation authority will still be needed and other oversight is in place.

Mr. Berry asked Mr. Smith how many times this has been an issue. Mr. Smith pointed to the last agenda where Council waved provisions for the Police Division. Mr. Berry asked Chief Robinette if this was an issue and if there was a timing issue. Chief Robinette said Council certainly acted quickly, but if it had to go to bid, it would have taken a long time to get their cruisers fitted and ready for use. Mr. Berry asked why it could not have been approved ahead of time. Chief Robinette said it is unknown until proposals are received. He said you can break up the work to get below the bid threshold, but he felt that was an attempt to get around the bidding process.

Mr. Bennett commented that he is aware of local businesses that get shut out of work because of the bidding threshold and timing.

Mayor Stage noted that putting a bid together is not cheap for the city. There is a cost involved and a bureaucracy in the bid process. Adding another layer to come to Council adds to that bureaucracy.

Mr. Berry said he can argue this from both sides. However, he understands that bidding was put in place to protect the consumers and the public dollar. He said the question is what the right threshold amount is.

Ms. Klemack-McGraw said there is a notion that the economy is improving slightly. She said she hasn't heard from anyone asking for this to be loosened. She felt that $50,000.00 would be more appropriate. Mr. Davis agreed.

Mr. Bennett moved to amend Section I to replace $75,000.00 with $50,000.00; seconded by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Albright	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

Mr. Bennett asked Mr. Smith if he could see any way that this would get out of control. Mr. Smith said no. Council controls this from the budget/appropriation process.

Mr. Berry asked for another example, other than the police. Mayor Stage said there is an issue when there is a sense of urgency and you have a reliable vendor that you can only use up to $30,000.00. He said snow removal is a good example. Ms. Conrad reminded Council that they waived the Bidding provisions for her Dept. in February of this year for playground equipment.

It was explained that the City does get several quotes/bids for projects for many purchases/services under the threshold. That goes on without going through the bidding process. Mr. Smith read a section of the Code that requires that quotes be received for anything over $10,000.00. Mr. Boso commented that he believes that the bidding process is also expensive for the company and it can shut out small, local vendors. Mr. Berry said he is just a true proponent of collective bidding.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Bennett moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Ms. Albright	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes

3. Ordinance C-41-12 (Appropriate $50,000.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of the Town Center Commercial Revitalization Grant Program) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on August 20, 2012.

The Chair recognized Mr. Davis, Chairman of Safety, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-37-12 (Amend Section 903.16 of the Codified Ordinances titled Fireworks, Firearms and Weapons) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Davis moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Albright	Yes

Ordinance C-38-12 (Authorize the Charitable Solicitations Board to Issue a Permit to the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society per Section 371.06(b)(2) of the Codified Ordinances) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Davis moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

Ms. Stephanie Noltemeyer, applicant, was present to answer any questions. She explained that last year they raised over $2,500.00 and all proceeds go to Central Ohio patients.

There being no additional questions or a comment, the vote was called.

Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Albright	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes

The Chair recognized Ms. Klemack-McGraw, Chairman of Lands & Zoning, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-39-12 (Approve a Special Use Permit for McDonalds for Outdoor Seating located at 3370 Broadway) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Ms. Lynsey Ondecker, representing McDonalds, was present to answer any questions. Ms. Klemack-McGraw noted the stipulation set by Planning Commission. Ms. Ondecker agreed to this stipulation.

Mr. Bennett noted that the restaurant on S.R. 665 has mulch around the area and has seen it on fire several times. He asked if there was mulch next to the seating area. Ms. Ondecker said she wasn't sure, but she would pass that on to the proper person.

There being no additional questions or comments, Ms. Klemack-McGraw moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Albright.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Albright	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes

2. Ordinance C-40-12 (Approve a Special Use Permit for Quality Market for Outdoor Sales located at 3556 Grove City Road) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Bennett voiced opposition of this Permit. He said he doesn't feel it is appropriate in this area.

Mr. Berry asked Mr. Chuck Boso what he thought of this request. Mr. Boso said they agree with Mr. Bennett. He said the Development Dept. recommended disapproval to Planning Commission and they, in turn, voted to recommend denial. Mr. Berry said he, too, didn't believe this was appropriate, especially with all the things they are trying to improve in the Town Center area.

There being no additional questions or comments, Ms. Klemack-McGraw moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Albright.

Mr. Bennett	No
Ms. Albright	No
Mr. Davis	No
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	No
Mr. Berry	No

3. Resolution CR-23-12 (Approve the Development Plan for Lamplighter Senior Housing located on the south side of Lamplighter Drive) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Todd Valentine, representing developer, was present. He said after the last Council Meeting they reviewed their landscaping across the front and amended it to try and meet the desires of Council. Mr. Bennett said he apologized if he was unclear over his concerns. He said he didn't want to hide the building; he is more concerned over shielding the cars and their lights. Discussion took place over the proposed revision with blue spruce trees. Mr. Bennett said he thought this was overkill and would be a maintenance problem in the future. He suggested a three foot (3') mound with a hedge row on top and additional landscaping to fill in the area and keep heavy opacity. Mr. Valentine said they believe they can get a three foot mound between the drive and asphalt path. He said they can add that to the original landscape plan and place the 24 inch hedge on top with the other deciduous trees and plantings in that area.

Mr. Bennett moved to amend Section 1 to remove the words "as submitted" and include "with the following stipulation: *1. A three foot (3') mound shall be added to the landscape area between the curb cuts along the North property line, with the existing proposed hedging, to achieve a minimum five foot (5') height*"; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Ms. Albright	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes

There being no additional questions or comments, Ms. Klemack-McGraw moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Albright	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 Stage said he had statistical information for the Building Division and requested it be approved. Mr. Berry moved to accept the Building Division portion of the Mayor's Report; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Albright	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes

In closing he said we had a wonderful alumni softball tournament and many class reunions going on during the weekend.

2. Mr. Boso, City Administrator, passed out a chart to show the projects funded from the Town Center Commercial Revitalization Grant Program.

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

Council adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Ted A. Berry

Ted A. Berry
Chair