CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

<u>December 14, 2016 Special Meeting</u>

The special meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Davis, Chair of Finance at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Laura Lanese *Roby Schottke* *Jeff Davis* *Ted Berry*

1. Mr. Schottke moved to excuse Mr. Bennett; seconded by Ms. Lanese.

Ms. Lanese	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

Mr. Davis, Chairman of Finance, began discussion under said Committee.

1. Mr. Davis explained that this meeting is to continue discussions of the proposed Budget for 2017. He said tonight they will not take testimony from the remaining Departments. He said they would take questions about the rest of the budget and any line items from Council. Then, they will discuss Capital Improvements.

Mr. Schottke said he had some questions that he got answered today by Mr. Turner.

Mr. Berry said he noticed that there have been large unencumbered sums in a number of funds in the last several years that add up to about $1 million. He said he feels some of this could be used for one-time expenditures rather than over-appropriating these funds. Mr. Turner said there is always money not spent at the end of the year which show that staff spends what they need to spend to operate the City, rather than spending all of it in order to inflate budgets from one year to the next. Mr. Berry agreed and explained his statement by pointing out that we have some Capital Improvement items that are not being funded this year and just felt that some of those dollars could be moved into the Capital Improvement account to be able to do some of those one-time items. Mr. Boso, City Admin., said there may be some misconception about the unencumbered amounts. He explained that if $20 million is budgeted and only $18 million is spent, the balance doesn't go into a separate pot. It just increases the balance for the next year. He said they already consider this in terms of their allocation and budget forecast. Mr. Berry said he thinks he is saying, primarily the same thing. He is looking to encumber less in order to allow more money to be used on Capital. Mr. Boso said, in essence, that is what happens, but it is longer than a 12 month period. Mayor Stage said to do what Mr. Berry is asking would mean going through the Departments line-by-line to determine what is to be cut. He said he has submitted his budget and it is not as easy as saying reduce the overall budget by a certain percentage. He said we always have unencumbered balances. He said there may be a tendency to have budget frenzy's, where people go in and spend so their budgets for the next year don't get cut. We have never had that attitude or operated that way.

1. Council moved to the Capital Improvements. Each Department Head explained the capital items under their Department.

Mr. Berry asked how much one-time money is in this Budget. Mr. Turner said $12,646,160.00 in capital improvements and capital purchases. He said they are highlighting those tonight, but the same numbers are already included within the overall accounts and not an extra request. Mr. Berry asked how much more this appropriation is from last year. Mr. Turner said he would have to check. Mayor Stage said the Total amount was about $31 million and this budget has $36 million, which is the quick way to look at it.

Ms. Lanese asked how much is for the Mt. Camel parking garage. Mr. Turner said $4.5 million, with $800,000.00 for park land acquisition.

Mr. Schottke asked if Mayor's Court is self-supporting. Mayor Stage said no. It is about 60/40. It is not meant to be a money generator. It was also noted that keeping the officers here for court rather then going to municipal court is a time and money saver.

During the IT Capital Improvements, Mr. Berry asked Mr. Hurley if an appropriation is for fire service, are the Townships paying us back for this. Mr. Hurley said this is our part for equipment within our facility. The Townships must supply their buildings with equipment to interface with this. Mr. Berry said there are increases in Mr. Hurley's operating budget due to fire department issues also. He said it seems we are paying more than our share. Mr. Hurley said we are getting some return from the fiber optic agreement. Mr. Boso and Mayor Stage said this is what the Fiber Optic Agreement states. They believe we are receiving benefits for all the residents. There is revenue sharing, but in a bit of a different form.

Mr. Berry asked if there was enough money in the budget to get the grounds, barn, house and carriage house at Grant Homestead in usable condition for the public. Mayor Stage said it depends on the use, but there is enough to get the home done, the barn for walk thru and the carriage house first floor open.

Mayor Stage said there is $250,000.00 is for a model retention pond for developers to see what we expect for them to build from now on. Homewood Corp. will be assisting with this cost.

Mr. Berry asked if we have a proposal for the Town Center Public Realm Vision. Mr. Rauch explained that this is for street-scaping as outlined by the Edge Group study. He said there would be corridor improvements and street-scaping in the Town Center. Mr. Berry and Ms. Lanese voiced concern over funding this without having something tangible to show for the monies. Mr. Berry and Mr. Davis asked for a presentation before spending anything. Mayor Stage and Mr. Rauch said they would come back to Council with detailed plans before spending any money for this project.

Mr. Berry commented that he is always looking at how much we are doing for economic growth. That's why he started this evening with suggesting adjusting funds to allow for more Capital Improvements. Mr. Schottke said he would like to do that once we get Beulah Park settled. He said he would like to see reserves built up until we get past some of the big items and then look at reducing the inside mileage for our residents. Mayor Stage said he feels the Administration does and has done what Mr. Berry suggests. He referenced a couple of projects to show this.

3. Mr. Davis asked for any Public testimony. He called on Mr. Bill Ferguson who had signed up.

Mr. Ferguson offered some history on how TIF's were started. He provided a copy of his statement for the file. He said the cost of TIF's to the City is $63 million. He said the only thing he has learned about these TIF's is that a recession can really sink a city. He said it is disappointing that residents aren't told they are in a TI F zone. There should be better transparency. He said we have 10% of our loans tied to TIF's and no communication to citizens. He suggested using some of the TIF money to enhance the entrances into and out of Grove City. He said S.R. 104 is hazardous and there should be a bridge over it to get to the Metro Park.

2. Mr. Davis opened the floor for any amendments to the Budget.

Mr. Berry said he spoke to the Mayor and would like to add $40,000.00 to General Government, on page 60, for the Higher Education Program. Mayor Stage said we know we have about $40,000.00 in commitments for the coming semester and probably the same for the next. However, he wants to keep a balance between those scholarships and getting the colleges to commit to a building and maintaining a presence in the City.

Ms. Lanese said she would like to add $60,000.00 for a Train Depot at Century Village. She feels this will enhance the Park and make it a bigger attraction for tourism. She said this may not be enough, but it gets the ball rolling on an idea that's been around for 30 years.

Mr. Davis said if these additions are accepted, he feels other areas should be cut to offset the $100,000.00 increase. He said that can be done by allowing the Mayor to decide or Council can do it Monday.

Mayor Stage said he understands and agrees with Mr. Berry's recommendation but is unsure about Ms. Lanese'. He said he is willing to add it to the Historical Commission section (100120541700) and offer it to the Historical Society as a Grant. Mr. Berry suggested they put in Capital Improvements. Mayor Stage said they do not have time for this project and don't want the responsibility for it at this time. It was decided that this could go into the Parks & Recreation Equipment section.

3. Mr. Berry moved to add $40,000.00 into account #100120551300 – General Government Miscellaneous Fees for the scholarship portion of the Higher Education Investment program; seconded by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Lanese	Yes

4. Ms. Lanese moved to add $60,000.00 into the Parks & Recreation – Equipment fund (100100573000) for a Grant to the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society for a Train Station building; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Lanese	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

5. Mr. Schottke moved to remove $15,000.00 and reduce the Street Fund account #101400533200 to $50,000.00; seconded by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Lanese	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes

6. Mr. Schottke moved to remove $19,000.00 from the Parks and Rec. Dept. and adjust Fund #100100.542300 to $18,000.00; seconded by Mr. Davis.

Ms. Lanese	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

7. Mr. Davis moved to reduce the overall General Fund by $81,000.00 as determined by the Director of Finance; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Lanese	Yes

8. Mayor Stage noted that the Ordinance he submitted does not reflect a salary for the Clerk of Council. Mr. Schottke moved to include a salary for the Clerk of Council of $84,379.00; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Lanese	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

Mayor Stage asked if this is the conclusion of any amendments that can be made to the budget or the appropriation ordinance. Mr. Davis said technically it is not. He said he isn't sure if Mr. Bennett will be here, due to his surgery, but he is not aware of any other amendments. Mayor Stage had a technical question. He said in the detailed budget documentation, the salary for the Clerk of Council's salary is not the same as what was voted on for the appropriation ordinance. Ms. Kelly and Mr. Davis stated that there is enough money Council's fund amount to cover the small difference. Mayor Stage said that is probably correct, but it is a technical issue. To be clear, Mr. Schottke moved to amend Council - #100100.51300 to $84,579.00; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Ms. Lanese	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes

4. Mr. Davis voiced appreciation to the Department Heads for defending their budgets during this process. After other closing comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Roby Schottke

Roby Schottke
President