CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

December 12, 2016 Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Schottke at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Laura Lanese Steve Bennett Roby Schottke Jeff Davis Ted Berry

The Chair recognized Mr. Davis, Chairman of Finance, for discussion under said Committee.

1. Mr. Davis explained that this meeting is to discuss the detailed portions of the proposed Budget for 2017. He said he would like to get through Development; Parks & Rec.; Police; and Service tonight. If there is time, they will continue with other departments. He then asked Mr. Rauch to come forward to get things started.

Mr. Rauch, Dir. of Dev., explained his budget items. He said that he has divided his department into two areas. Ms. Shields handles Planning Commission and GIS; and Michael Clarey handles Economic Development. This is new for the department but Michael has been building relationships with businesses and taking part in Columbus 2020. This allows us to be in play for jobs from companies looking at Ohio. He said his budget has increased due to the Rev1/Cultivate Agreement; the transfer of one employee into his department; and adding $50,000 for the Broadway Commercial Revitalization Grant Program. In 2017, they want to continue the growth of the Economic Development Area and add a website for this alone; continue marketing; attend Trade Shows; etc.; and have two of his personnel become certified. Mr. Davis asked about Cultivate. Mr. Rauch said they are trying to keep in contact with the start-up businesses from there, so they know what their needs are and how they can assist them. He said one of the biggest needs is getting quality workers. Mr. Davis asked about the North to South corridor, as we expand beyond the Town Center. Mr. Rauch said they are still trying to define the boundary of the Town Center. He said they don't want to leak out too far and lose business from the Town Center core. Mr. Davis asked about the Form Based Code. Mr. Rauch said they have hired a consultant to begin discussions about implementing a Form Based Code to certain areas. He said they are just bringing this idea back up for discussion. Mayor Stage said this could be done with an overlay so some property owners would not have to rezone their property. Mr. Davis asked about development and the Planning Commission process. Mr. Rauch said they are looking at possibly asking for Code changes that would allow Planning Commission to approve items without Council approval. He also wants to start meeting with the Council Lands Chair earlier in the process. Mr. Davis asked about GC2050. Mr. Rauch said they had 99 people apply and many have remained engaged. Mr. Davis asked what he sees coming out of this. Mr. Rauch said it should be used to change policies throughout the City. Ms. Lanese asked if there will be an updated professional report. Mr. Rauch said it is ongoing but plans to hold an update meeting in January with Council. Mr. Bennett asked about the increase in salaries. Mr. Rauch said this reflects incremental step increases, 2 full-time employees and increasing the part-time person to full-time. Mr. Schottke asked what the sponsoring/events amount is for. Mr. Rauch said they would like to sponsor something at a Trade Show or Organization's Conference to promote the City. He said they rearranged their money. Mr. Berry said he looks at Development and Economic Development as two separate areas. He also thinks Promotion should be in another department. He said he agrees with attending trade shows and promoting our community, but he said to be cautious about what they attend so they aren't promoting to people who are promoting themselves. He asked what Misc. Consulting is for. Mr. Rauch said it is for whatever arises from GC2050. Mr. Berry said he would like to see that $20,000.00 and Promoting items come back to Council as a project, because that is a drop in the bucket when it comes to promotion. He said he thinks the consulting fees should also come back to Council. He asked the Mayor for comments. Mayor Stage said he and the City Administrator are also part of marketing. He feels this system helps streamlines discussions. Mr. Rauch said they are not working in a silo. They pull from other departments for assistance/ collaboration.

Mr. Davis asked if we had a marketing strategy. Mayor Stage said, by default, our niche is health care. That's a good niche to have right now.

Next was Ms. Fitzpatrick, Dir. of Service. She reviewed the Streets and Service Department budget items. She explained what comes out of the Lands and Buildings area. Mr. Davis asked about the sidewalk program. Ms Fitzpatrick showed a slide of the areas that have been done and the area they are looking to do in 2017. Mayor Stage said next year should finish up the original targeted area. Mr. Bennett asked about street lights and if we are changing over to LED lights. Ms. Fitzpatrick said we are converting bulbs and fixtures when appropriate. Mr. Berry asked about the $30,000.00 for Emerald Ash Boar trees. Ms. Fitzpatrick said they are still getting calls but are over the hump. Mr. Berry said that seems like a lot of money now. The Mayor said they would have an answer by Wednesday.
Ms. Fitzpatrick continued with the Street Maintenance fund. She explained what this covers. She said there are some decreases, primarily in salt. She said they did add monies to maintain the brick street crossings. She said they have stepped back to keeping just the crossings rather than the whole intersection. Mr. Davis said there are streets in the Capital Improvement area and asked why there is an addition for street maintenance. Ms. Fitzpatrick said she is a firm believer in keeping up on the maintenance of the streets to prolong the life of the pavement before having to completely repave as shown in the Capital Improvement section. Mr. Berry asked about the amount for fuel. The Mayor said they will look at it and it could be reduced if Council wanted to do so.
Ms. Fitzpatrick moved to the Sewer budget. She said there is an increase due to the Grant Run sewer line. She noted that as sewer and water lines are upgraded, they may delay street maintenance to be more efficient by making all repairs at one time.

Chief Pierson and Mr. Vedra, Dir. of Safety, continued with the Police budget items. Chief Pierson said they have been restructuring a bit in 2016. They removed the Deputy Chief position and moved one position to a civilian so there is another officer on the street. He shared the 2017 goals. He said they have seen an increase in theft and credit card fraud. They are asking for one additional officer; they have decreases in fuel and the holding facility project. Increases are for an upgrade to the Call Center and for boarding of prisoners. Mr. Davis said the Police continue to take the majority of the Budget. While he sees decreases, he asked when or if they will "tow the line" so to speak. Chief Pierson said staffing is where is should be for the current population. He explained that it will take until September to get a new officer on the street. So, with the increase in population, they are looking to stay in front of those increases. Mr. Davis asked about body cameras. The Chief said there is money in the Drug Forfeiture fund for those cameras. He said there is more to put in place before the officers start wearing them. Mr. Davis asked if we are just a law enforcement agency or do we have any outreach. The Chief said we are both. They do have a program to assist in some areas. He said outreach is really a County and State function.

Ms. Conrad, Dir. of Parks and Rec., highlighted the Department's achievements and their philosophy. She reviewed the budget items with decreases in bus maintenance and a transfer of one full-time employee to Development. Increases include improvements to the Kingston Center and trail maintenance. Mr. Davis asked about the $50,000.00 for the Historical Commission. He wondered what they are providing that we can't get for free from the S.W. Historical Society. Mr. Ed Merritt, Asst. Dir., said an bulk of the money goes to staffing the museum. The rest goes toward the historical events that are put on. He said this Commission was put in place to be able to carry on in case something happened to the Historical Society. They do work with the Society. Ms. Lanese said she was asked to add $60,000.00 for a train depot in this fund. She said she would like to see us grow Century Village each year, so it becomes a destination location. She said there is an offer for free labor and hopes that can be taken advantage of before it is lost. Ms. Conrad said they have a concept plan for the Village. She explained that this year they asked for maintenance/preservation monies so they do not lose what they currently have. She said they want to see it grow as well, but its about making choices. Mayor Stage said he appreciates the effort to do this, but there is a lot more needed before we can implement a Depot replica. Ms. Lanese said she feels we need to move that needle closer to undertaking this endeavor and said it could increase visits and tourism. Mayor Stage said they also want to make sure the Train Station should even go there; to maintain historical accuracy. Mr. Merritt reviewed all the buildings at the Village and the monies needed for repairing them. Mr. Schottke questioned the copier replacements in 100100-542300. Mss Conrad said those are mislabeled and should say "contract', instead of "replacement. She said they would check on the amount for the Kingston contract. Mr. Berry said he likes the collaboration with the YMCA for the splash pad but wants to make sure the City is controlling this and it will be free to the public. Ms. Conrad said it is absolutely open to the public and will be controlled by the City.

2. Mr. Davis said they will continue on Wednesday with the rest of the Departments. He asked Council Members to provide any amendments to Ms. Kelly and himself by Thursday.

3. After 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