CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

ecember 11, 2017 Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Davis at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Steve Robinette *Steve Bennett* *Roby Schottke* *Jeff Davis* *Ted Berry*

Mr. Davis, Chairman of Finance, moved into discussion under said Committee.

1. Mr. Davis explained that this meeting is to discuss the detailed portions of the proposed Budget for 2018. He said the Mayor will give a brief overview and the Department Heads will review their sections. He apologized in advance, as he will need to leave at 7:30 if the meeting is not finished.

Mayor Stage said the end goal is to have the Annual Appropriation Ordinance approved, which is part of the budget package. He explained that this is the only ordinance the Mayor cannot veto. He said the projected balance is in line with the previous year's end balance. He shared that a new program will be on-line soon and will provide full transparency of the daily finances of our City. Anyone can go on and find financial information on the City. He said one of the most important pages is the General Fund Performa. It shows what the 2017 end balance will be and then shows the projected figures for 2018. This is the macro level look of the budget. He said we have had a large expenditure each year for Capital Improvements. He said we have been very fortunate in receiving grant monies and he highlighted four (4) road projects that are funded with grant dollars. He said they feel very good about what the revenue projections are; what they are going to spending and putting back, as far as Capital; and what the ending balance will be for 2018. He explained that the $2 million windfall we have had the last couple of years is going away. He said they are negotiating with RITA because of this.

Mr. Kyle Rauch, Dir. of Development, said the next year is about wrapping up GC 2050. He hopes to have that to Council soon for adoption. They will begin implementing the approved plan by rewriting the zoning code; land development code; etc. The budget shows $15,000 to develop those initiatives. He said there is also a $15,000 line item to engage companies for marketing; and $30,000.00 for website improvements. Mr. Robinette asked if this will be a separate site. Mr. Rauch said they haven't decided but it may be, in order to be faster and more robust to capture the site selectors. Mr. Robinette asked about Mr. Havener's position. Mr. Rauch said right now, he will focus on Business Retention and Expansion. Mr. Schottke asked if they have enough staff. Mr. Rauch said they will get an intern in the summer. He said they work well and with the addition of Mr. Havener, they may shift some responsibilities. Mayor Stage said once 2050 is wrapped up, that will free up staff time. There is also a GIS person that assists the Development Dept. Council inquired about future development and planning. Mr. Bennett asked why there was a large bump in "Other Operating Charges". Mr. Rauch said this line item now shows $100,000.00 for the Grant Program and the monies for the contract with Cultivate.

Mr. William Veda, Safety Director, stated that $13 mill. of the $30 mill. Budget is set for Police and the Safety Dept. He deferred to Mr. Mike Boso, Chief Bldg Official, to explain the Building portion of their budget. Mr. Vedra then moved to the Police Division. He said the Chief has reorganized and flattened the Division. He has also gotten ahead of retirements so new recruits can be hired and trained before other officers retire. Chief Pearson said the biggest part of their budget is personnel. He said they took a hard look at personnel to make sure they had people in the right places to be most effective and efficient. They have been able lo place two officers back on patrol to better serve the public. Mr. Bennett asked how they determined there is a need for one more officer and one more sergeant. Chief

Pearson said they have turned to work load, rather then the national average per population to determine personnel needs. He said they looked at calls for service and the number of hours taken for each call. He said they are looking at technology, like the Bldg. Div., to help reduce time for reports and daily activities. Mr. Robinette asked about the Boarding of Prisoners. Chief Pearson said they were informed that prices were going up by $9.00 per day. He said they are looking at making sure people aren't spending time in jail if they don't have to be there. His goal this coming year is to look at ways to reduce jail costs.

At this point, Mr. Davis had to leave meeting (7:25 p.m.). President Schottke moved to excuse Mr. Davis from the remainder of the meeting; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Robinette	Yes

Ms. Fitzpatrick, Dir. of Service, explained her sections of the Budget. Mr. Schottke asked if there are enough personnel to cover the work. Ms Fitzpatrick said yes. They utilize seasonal and part-tine staff to efficiently handle workloads. Council had general questions about the sewer system; street trees; sidewalk repairs; etc.

Ms. Conrad, Dir. of Parks & Rec., reviewed her areas of the budget. She said there are small decreases in salaries due to new personnel coming in at entry levels. She said one large project is a new playground at Gantz Park. They are writing a grant to help with the cost. Mr. Schottke asked about the amount for the Eagle Pavilion fireplace. Ms. Conrad said this is to repair and make the fireplace usable again. Mr. Berry asked about Dog Waste Stations. Ms. Conrad said the real cost is in the maintainer of those stations. They may need dumped more often than a trash can. Mr. Berry asked this be looked into and add another part time person for it, if needed. Mr. Robinette asked about supplies a travel under General Recreation. Ms. Conrad said those are for breakfasts for the Preschool Program and Summer School Field Trips.

Mr. Schottke asked to review the Capital Improvements. He asked what is needed at the Grant Homestead. Mayor Stage said the line item is for the Carriage House. Mr. Berry asked about the decrease in the Street Program. Mayor Stage said the price of asphalt is down. We are also getting more life out of pavement.

Mr. Schottke asked who is attached to Community Improvement personnel. Mr. Walters said that is for one full-time person and one-part-time person. Mayor Stage said they use hotel/motel tax dollars for this Section. He said when that tax reduces they know where to adjust more quickly.

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

Council adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Roby Schottke

Roby Schottke
President