

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

April 25, 2017

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:

Steven Robinette Steven Bennett Roby Schottke

1. President Schottke stated that the purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of the recommendations of the Charter Task Force. He explained that he had grouped the recommendations together by levels and Council was on Level Three, which they barely started at their special meeting on 4/22. Pres. Schottke said he would read each Section in Level Three and asked for any questions or comments.

Mr. Schottke moved that the Rules of Council be suspended to allow for free speaking; seconded by Mr. Robinette.

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

Because of the two missing Council Members, Mr. Schottke started on page three with **Section 2.05 concerning Executive Session.**

Mr. Schottke asked if we should say "executive session". Council reviewed this recommendation. Mr. Berry said he doesn't like Executive Session, but has no problem sending question to the voters. Council agreed with some modification to the language.

*Editor's Note: Mr. Berry arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Schottke moved to accept the recommendation of the Task Force and move on to legislation, with a modification to the language that reads: "except for executive session for those Exceptions set forth in the Ohio Revised Code and approved by 2/3 vote of all the members of Council"; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

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

Section 3.05 – Mayor, Powers and Duties. The first recommendation was to add that Boards and Commissions appointees should be confirmed by Council.

Mayor Stage said he appreciates the intent, but there are over 30 volunteers that make up these Boards and they have varied terms.

Mr. Keck, Chair of Task Force, said they debated this issue and looked at providing criteria while still keeping the Mayor as a Strong Mayor. It was pointed out that we do have a Strong Mayor form of government and it may be an undo burden to bring appointments to Council. Mr. Robinette asked if the Mayor had any compromise wording. Mayor Stage said no.

*Editor's Note: Mr. Davis arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Mr. Schottke moved to accept and move on to legislation only the recommendation of the Task Force to change the date from the "first day of July" to the "20th day of June", and to change the date of "December 1" to "November 15" in this Section; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

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

Section 4.01 – Planning Commission. It suggests removing the Mayor and making it a 5 member citizen group. Mayor Stage had no objection.

Mr. Schottke moved to accept and move on to legislation the recommendations of the Task Force; seconded by Mr. Robinette.

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

Section 4.05 - Qualifications of Members of Boards & Commissions

Mr. Schottke moved to accept and move on to legislation only the recommendation of the Task Force in the first sentence "any boards or commissions"; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

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

Section 10.09 – Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Schottke moved to accept and move on to legislation the recommendation of the Task Force; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Robinette	No
Mr. Bennett	No
Mr. Schottke	No
Mr. Davis	No
Mr. Berry	No

Section 2.10 - Ordinances.

Mr. Bennett voiced concern over not publishing notices in the newspaper. Mr. Keck said the Task Force felt this language gave the City the most latitude in getting notices out. Mr. Berry said they did approve the same language in Section 2.01.

Mr. Robinette commented on the change in timing for the Mayor to veto an item. He said the Task Force felt this provided a date certain for all to understand. Mayor Stage said he had no problem with this change. He did question the sentence "If Council doesn't reject an ordinance" and believes it isn't needed. After some comment, Council chose to leave that alone, for now.

Mr. Schottke moved to accept and move on to legislation the recommendations of the Task Force; seconded by Mr. Robinette.

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

Section 2.15 -Resolutions.

Mr. Davis asked if the Task Force discussed making resolutions have two readings. Mr. Keck said no.

Mr. Berry asked how we use resolutions. He asked if they were just opinions of Council. Mr. Smith said not always. They do have some resolutions that are a legislative act. Mr. Berry said he doesn't understand why the Mayor would have veto power on resolutions. He said that means the Council could never have a voice. Mr. Smith said only on resolutions that are legislative would the veto power be permitted.

Mr. Bennett said he believes the Mayor should not have veto power of resolutions, noting that they go into effect immediately.

Mr. Robinette said the Task Force struggled with this. He said the Charter is in conflict with itself because resolutions go into effect immediately.

Mr. Schottke said he doesn't feel veto power is necessary for resolutions:

Mayor Stage said he would not give 3 days for a veto. He suggests that it must be done upon approval of Council. He provided an example of why it might be effective for the Mayor to have veto power on a resolution.

Mr. Berry moved to amend the recommended language from the Task Force that reads: *The Myaor shall have three (3) days to exercise his veto power as provided by State Law to "*, and not be subject to a veto."*; seconded by Mr. Bennett.*

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Davis	No
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Robinette	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes

Mr. Schottke moved to approve and move on to legislation all other recommendations of the Task Force for this Section; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

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

Section 2.01 –Number, Selection &Term.

Mr. Schottke asked to take each item separately. First would be to make the at-large positron to a four year term. Mayor Stage said the bottom line on this subject is the balance of power. When you go to a four-year term, it changes that balance. Mr. Bennett said there is still a balance with three elected officials up for election every time. It appeared that there was consensus to make this change.

Next was the suggestion to go to 7 Council Members. Mr. Berry said he feels if there would be 7, he thinks it should be 4 At-Large and 3 Ward members. Mr. Davis completely disagreed. He said the uniqueness of Grove City is that people live in peace and run for Council regardless of how much money they make. He thinks this suggestion dilutes this. He said he sees no reason to change. Mr. Robinette said the Task Force was trying to find balance. He said it was not a clear majority. He said he believes there is no right or wrong, it is what the people of Grove City want. Mr. Bennett said many other cities have 7 members but if changing the power is an issue, then all seats should be 2 year terms. Adding more members has a nominal effect. He doesn't feel there is a representation issue. Mr. Schottke said he is not in favor of 7 members on Council. Most cities with 7 have a City Manager form of government.

Mr. Formby, Task Force Member, said the Wards were put in place a long time ago. He said going to seven was the idea for helping with the future growth that is anticipated. Mr. Davis said he appreciates that and said even with the growth he feels the population could still be represented by 5.

Mr. Schott He moved to approve and move on to legislation the recommendation to increase five members to seven be accepted; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Robinette	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Schottke	No
Mr. Davis	No

Section 7.0B –Wards.

Mr. Vedra, Dir. of Safety, asked what is the value of At-Large seats and if any thought was given to going to all Wards, as he believes more At-Large seats dilutes representation.

Council and Mr. Keck discussed this recommendation at length and how the transition would take place. Mr. Davis said if this is the direction, then he agrees with the Task Force and the addition of a Ward. Mr. Bennett disagreed and feels there should be three (3) At-large seats.

Mr. Boso, City Admin., said if you look at this in an Historical perspective, the Charter was adopted 58 years ago and we still have the same amount of Council Members. He said he thinks we are well represented and the population is not going to increase by 10,000 in the next five years. Mr. Davis said he doesn't understand the rush to make the changes happen earlier when the Task Force very clearly laid out a plan that seems to work.

Mr. Schottke moved to approve and move on to legislation the recommendation of the Task Force; seconded by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Robinette	Yes
Mr. Bennett	No
Mr. Schottke	No
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

Section 10.10 -Terms and Addition of Two Council members.

Again, Council discussed the timeline to make the change to the At-Large seats.

Mr. Schottke moved to approve and move on to legislation the recommendations of the Task Force; seconded by Mr. Robinette.

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

Section 2.01 -concerning the At-Large term being 4 years and opposite of the Mayor.

Mr. Schottke asked Mr. Keck if this language is consistent with the changes. Mr. Keck said yes.

Mr. Berry asked if changing the At-Large seat could be voted on at the same time as going to seven (7) members. Mr. Smith said no. You must wait on the 7 member question.

Mr. Schottke moved to approve and move on to legislation the recommendations of the Task Force for all other changes in this Section; seconded by Mr. Berry.

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

Section 2.02 - Qualification.

Mr. Smith said the Task Force rolled this around and came back to the opinion that a person ran for election in the Ward and they should stay in the Ward for the entire term.

Mayor Stage asked if there was a need to specify when the vacation would occur. Mr. Smith said he interprets it to be when they cease to reside in the Ward, but words could be added to clarify

this. After some discussion, it was decided to add: shall "shall be deemed to" vacate their office . . . so that the Council Member doesn't have to submit a letter of resignation, it would automatically happen.

Mr. Bennett felt the member should be able to say until the end of the term. Mr. Smith said the Task Force rolled this around and came back to the opinion that a person ran for election in the Ward and they should stay in the Ward for the entire term.

Mr. Schottke moved to approve and move on to legislation this recommendation, with the addition of words by Council; seconded by Mr. Berry.

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

Section 2.12 – Effective Date of Ordinances.

Mr. Berry asked if anyone knew what a Super Majority was. Mr. Smith explained that when the Task Force was going through this, they were trying to make it easy. The language now of 4/5 is easy to understand, but if voters approve seven (7) members, that would not work. He said 2/3rds of 7 would need 5 members to vote the same. So if Council wanted 5 members to be the trigger, you could say 2/3rds. If Council wants the trigger to be 6 out of 7 members, then other language would need to be in place. That was the reason for "super majority". Mr. Schottke asked that we take this question up under other changes.

Mr. Schottke moved to approve and move on to legislation the recommendations of the Task Force; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Berry moved to amend the language to replace "submission to the Mayor" to "approval of Council"; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

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

The vote was taken on the main motion:

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

Level Two, Section 5.14 - there was an elimination of a sentence to get rid of a conflict concerning the publication of competitive bidding. Mr. Smith said it doesn't get rid of public notification and open bidding. It just eliminates the inconsistency between our Charter and the State.

Mr. Schottke moved to approve and move on to legislation the recommendations of the Task Force; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

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

OTHER CHANGES

1. Mr. Berry moved to change "super majority" to 2/3rds throughout the changes; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

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

2. Mr. Roger Burkett made a recommendation to change Section 6.02(c) as a single issue and not bundled with something else. He wants the property tax to be set at 3.5 mills. Anything more would need to go to a vote of the people.

Mr. Schottke read Section 6.02(c). Mr. Boso, City Admin., explained that a portion of these monies goes to Bond Retirement (1 mill), Police Pension (1.5 mills) and the General Fund (1 mill).

Mr. Robinette said if Council raises a tax, the residents would have a voice and could overturn an approval with a Referendum.

Mr. Bennett said Council takes any tax increase very seriously. He said he feels we already have a mechanism in place to handle Mr. Burket's concerns.

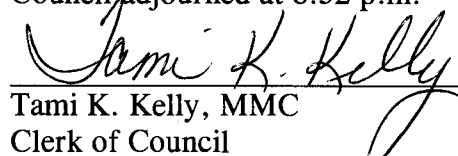
Mayor Stage said he feels this falls to a point of order. He feels this should be referred to the Charter Task Force.

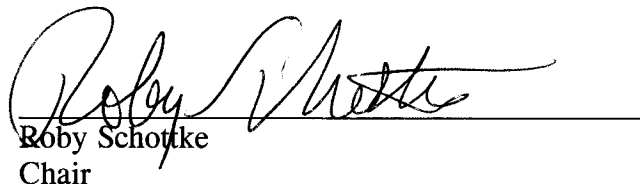
Mr. Boso said in the 32 years that we have had the ability to go to 7 mills, we have never reached that. He said if we would, the increase would result in about \$240.00 per year for a home valued at \$200,000.00.

President Schottke thanked Mr. Burket and said Council would consider it at a later date.

2. There being no additional questions or comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 8:52 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Roby Schottke
Chair