

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 07, 2020

Regular Meeting

Council reviewed the agenda in Caucus at 6:30 and the regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Houk at 7:00 p.m. by a virtual Webex connection due to the Coronavirus-19 pandemic, as temporarily allowed by the State.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke Aaron Schlabach Christine Houk Randy Holt Ted Berry

1. Mr. Schottke moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Schlabach.

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

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

The Chair recognized Mr. Schottke, Chairman of Lands, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-64-20 (Approve a Special Use Permit for a Day Care Center for Kiddie Academy Grove City located South of Stringtown Rd. and East of Buckeye Parkway) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Andreas Chevalier, representing petitioner, was present to answer any questions.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Schottke moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

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

1. Ordinance C-61-20 (Levying Special Assessments for the Construction of Various Sidewalks in the City of Grove City, Ohio) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Ms. Kelly, Clerk of Council, stated that notices were mailed to every property owner and there have been no inquiries or correspondence filed.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holt moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes

2. Ordinance C-65-20 (Reduce the Appropriation Amounts for Various Funds) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Holt explained that this is a housekeeping issue to reduce certain funds.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holt moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes

3. Ordinance C-66-20 (Appropriate \$50,000.00 from the S.R.665 Tax Increment Equivalent Fund for the Current Expense of paying Franklin County Auditor Collection costs) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Turner, Dir. of Finance, explained that the expenses that were well over what was anticipated are the Franklin County Collection costs, due to Mt. Carmel continuing to pay into this TIF. He said Mt. Carmel is a non-profit, so they will need to file for an exemption and will probably get a refund in the future. He said once they stop paying we won't see this large amount in this TIF.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holt moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes

4. Ordinance C-67-20 (Appropriate \$20,000.00 from the Scioto Township Joint Economic Development District Fund for the Current Expense of making payments in accordance with the JEDD Contract) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Turner explained that this is income that is generated from the JEDD. Our estimates were slightly below what was received and the monies need to be distributed accordingly.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holt moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Schlabach.

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

5. Ordinance C-68-20 (Appropriate \$250,000.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of removing a Portion of Arbutus Ave. for the intended Town Center Park) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Schottke voiced concern over this proposal being a little premature. He said removing Arbutus may need more consideration and overall plan before moving forward. He said he doesn't want to duplicate efforts by not incorporating plans for an overall park.

Ms. Houk said she appreciates Mr. Berry's efforts and believes he was trying to head off an additional expenditure. However, she voiced concern for a planning process; public participation and the completion of the Town Center Conceptual Framework being completed before moving forward with this ordinance.

Mr. Schlabach also said he thinks this is putting the cart before the horse. He said he agrees with it in spirit, but before moving forward there needs to be a finalized idea.

Mr. Berry said we keep spending money on studies and feels it is almost futile. He said the group who requested a park here wanted both parcels to be utilized. He said this only removes the road and brings both parcels together. He said it could be used, as is, while deciding what amenities should be added. However, if the rest of Council wants to review this more he has no problem delaying this for a time. He said he would like to have a special meeting to in the interim to get public input. Mayor Stage said he would assist in coordinating a meeting to review the overall concept of park/green space planning for the area, as looking this as a single item isn't fair to the citizens as a whole.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Berry moved it be postponed to March 01, 2021; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

6. Ordinance C-69-20 (Make Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures for which the City of Grove City must provide during the Twelve Months ending December 31, 2021) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mayor Stage provided a summary of the 2021 proposed budget. He said it is three tenths of one percent of the 2020 budget. He said it provides for \$8 million in Capital Improvements and is a great combination of all the factors in operating the City. He noted a policy change for monitoring the body camera's in the Police Dept. He said they are waiting on the State to provide clear direction on using these cameras.

Mr. Holt asked if we have completed a pro-forma or have any expectation with respect to a change in Withholdings. Mayor Stage stated that a pro-forma has been done and they think we would come out even, but the rippling effect of Columbus could be a factor. He said people living in unincorporated areas would pay no tax if a change would occur.

Ms. Houk thanked everyone for putting together the Budget. She shared concerns over the trend in the overall General Fund balance; the General Fund vs. the 25% of operating expenses; the trajectory of the operating expenses as a percent of total revenue. She said it is comforting that we approach this with an overarching fiscal conservatism every year for both revenue and expenses.

She said she would like to us address the issue of the grants we give out, where we have a program with consistent criteria that decides who gets money – particularly with non-profit organizations. She said she wants to make sure we are following the ordinance for Professional Service contracts as we move forward in 2021; and with respect to the Service Dept. proposal for purchasing three (3) buildings in this budget, she is usually not agreeable to short term plans, but believes this will meet the goals for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Schottke asked Mayor Stage to elaborate on the Plaza Study. Mayor Stage said by virtue of the extension of Columbus Street and the Library, there will be a plaza. He said they want to study how to maximize the return on investment and position the plaza to have more utility. He said it is more of an economic development study for the area. Mr. Schottke then asked how grinding will be used in the Sidewalk Program. Ms. Fitzpatrick said they have already begun using grinding as an alternative to replacing panels. She said as long as it can meet ADA requirements, they will grind the trip hazard down and lower the cost to property owners.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holt moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes

7. Ordinance C-70-20 (Appropriate \$18,887.78 from the Local Coronavirus Relief Fund for the Current Expense of Pandemic-Related Expenses as required under the CARES Act) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on December 21, 2020.
8. Ordinance C-71-20 (Providing for the Issuance and Sale of Bonds in the Maximum Principal Amount of \$6,800,000.00 for the purpose of paying the costs of Improving and Extending Columbus Street between certain termini by constructing certain roadway improvements, including widening, opening, improving, excavating, grading, draining, paving, extending, or changing the line of roads, streets, sidewalks, alleys, or curbs and gutters, and landscaping, any related public utility improvements, street lighting, traffic signalization, electrical lines, and signage, and acquiring necessary real estate and interests therefor, together with all necessary and related appurtenances thereto) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on December 21, 2020.

The Chair asked that any new business to be brought before the attention of Council be done so at this time.

1. Mr. Ed Fleming, incoming President of the Grove City Area Chamber of Commerce, expressed appreciation for the Gift Certificate Program. He said it was a great success and had a profound impact on businesses in the area who have no other means of funding available. He said if there is a second wind, they are willing to continue to do their part to administer the program. He shared a story of how this helped a small business in town.

The Chair recognized members of Administration and Council for closing comments.

1. Mayor Stage reported on the Demorest Road grant application; the Virtual Tree Lighting video; shared condolences to the John Alexander family & Greg Sterm family.

He had Ms. Fitzpatrick, Dir. of Service, provide an update on the Storm Sewer Project.

Finally, he has Mr. Keller, Consulting Engineer, provide an update on the Park at Beulah Grading Plan. Mr. Keller stated that the report was submitted today and shared a video of the area. Mr. Berry offered some suggestions to consider for the plan.

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

Adjourn at 8:23 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Christine Houk
Chair