

# GROVE CITY, OHIO COUNCIL MINUTES

March 16, 1992

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Brian Buzby at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

After a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, the roll was called and the following members were present:

*Brian Buzby*  
*John Mountain*

*Charles Cotton*  
*William Buckley*

*William Ferguson*

1. President Buzby recognized Mr. Jim Blackburn, Service Director who introduced Ms. Karla Kowar, Waste Reduction Coordinator. Ms. Kowar gave a presentation on the Waste Reduction Program which will begin in June. She indicated that this plan has evolved from the experiences over the last two years with the by-monthly volunteer recycling program behind Kroger, and gave Council a copy of the Waste Reduction Curb Side Recycling plan. During the presentation, Ms. Kowar showed an 18 gallon bin that will be distributed to each household for their recyclable items. Distribution of these bins will be on June 26, 27 and 28, 1992 and possibly two evenings at the distribution center which will be located at the old Super Duper on Southwest Boulevard. At the distribution center, people will sign for their bin and if additional bins are needed, residents will be able to purchase them at the center as well. Any resident on exemption or shut-off will not receive a bin. If service is resumed to a shut-off or if an exempted resident wishes to subscribe the private hauler, a bin will be supplied. Ordinances will be prepared for Council's approval to prevent scavenging and to sustain container ownership. The bi-monthly drives will be discontinued after June, 1992 and we are currently working to get those bins relocated somewhere in the Township. The yard waste program is being coordinated with Larry's Trucking. Residents will be encouraged to not bag their clippings under the "Don't Bag It" campaign. Residents will be asked to place yard waste in clear bags which can be purchased at any grocery store. If clear bags cannot be found by the residents, they can get stickers from the Service Department to be placed on the outside of their regular garbage bag to indicate that it contains yard waste. Ms. Kowar showed pictures of a recycling truck, similar to the one Larry's Trucking will purchase. She indicated that there was also a video that would be shown after the Council Meeting if anyone was interested in staying to see it. Collection will occur twice a month. Aluminum, glass & plastic will all be put in the bin and taken to Cycle-Mat or transported directly to a materials person who will purchase it. Newspapers should be placed in a grocery sack or tied up which will be transported to Lancaster. We are working with Franklin County Solid Waste Management Authority for the grass clippings. In closing, Ms. Kowar indicated that the bins to be distributed will be made of at least 20 percent recycled material. She also reminded everyone that March 21 & 22, 1992 is the second annual Franklin County Hazardous Waste Collection.

Mayor Stage thanked Ms. Kowar and her committee. He indicated that this was an off-shoot from the Keep America Beautiful committee that we joined last year. He acknowledged Karla's dedication stating that she volunteers about every other Saturday at the recycling program and wished to commend her on her efforts.

2. Mr. Buckley moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Mountain.

Mr. Buckley  
Mr. Cotton

Yes  
Yes

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Buzby    | Yes |
| Mr. Mountain | Yes |
| Mr. Ferguson | Yes |

**The Chair recognized Mr. Cotton, Chairman of Lands & Zoning for discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said committee.**

1. Ordinance C-18-92 (Special Use Permit for Damon's Restaurant) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Speaking to this ordinance was Mr. Mark Pottschmidt, Continental Real Estate. He offered to answer any questions Council might have and requested a favorable decision.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Cotton moved that this ordinance be approved; seconded by Mr. Mountain.

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Cotton   | Yes |
| Mr. Buzby    | Yes |
| Mr. Mountain | Yes |
| Mr. Ferguson | Yes |
| Mr. Buckley  | Yes |

2. Ordinance C-19-92 (accept Plat of Meadow Grove, Section 7) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Cotton moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Buzby    | Yes |
| Mr. Mountain | Yes |
| Mr. Ferguson | Yes |
| Mr. Buckley  | Yes |
| Mr. Cotton   | Yes |

3. Ordinance C-20-92 (accept Plat of Meadow Grove East, Section 2) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Cotton moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Mountain | Yes |
| Mr. Ferguson | Yes |
| Mr. Buckley  | Yes |
| Mr. Cotton   | Yes |
| Mr. Buzby    | Yes |

4. Ordinance C-21-92 (accept Plat of Crossing at Grant Run, Section 1) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Speaking to this ordinance was Mr. Jerry Bird, White Oak Communities. He indicated that there were 61 lots in this section. He indicated that those lots that about the "Hawthorne Woods Homeowners Association" will have a deed restriction on fencing and the major home builders for this section will be MI Homes and Ryland Homes. Construction should begin in approximately six weeks.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Cotton moved that this ordinance be approved; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Ferguson | Yes |
| Mr. Buckley  | Yes |
| Mr. Cotton   | Yes |
| Mr. Buzby    | Yes |
| Mr. Mountain | Yes |

5. Ordinance C-22-92 (accept Plat of Simsbury Walk) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Speaking to this ordinance was Mr. Mark Pottschmidt, representing Hallmark Communities. Mr. Pottschmidt stated that there have been many calls inquiring about when these condominiums would be build and how soon they could be purchased. A project manager has been hired and is ready to get underway. With this in mind, Mr. Pottschmidt requested that this ordinance be passed on an emergency basis.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Cotton moved that the Rules of Council be suspended and the waiting period waived; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Buckley  | Yes |
| Mr. Cotton   | Yes |
| Mr. Buzby    | Yes |
| Mr. Mountain | Yes |
| Mr. Ferguson | Yes |

Mr. Cotton moved that this ordinance be approved as an emergency measure; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Cotton   | Yes |
| Mr. Buzby    | Yes |
| Mr. Mountain | Yes |

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Ferguson | Yes |
| Mr. Buckley  | Yes |

6. Resolution CR-10-92 (Services available upon annexation for a 24.6 acre tract on the north side of Gantz Road West) was given its reading and public hearing and Mr. Cotton moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Buzby    | Yes |
| Mr. Mountain | Yes |
| Mr. Ferguson | Yes |
| Mr. Buckley  | Yes |
| Mr. Cotton   | Yes |

**President Buzby asked that any New Business to be brought before Council be done so at this time.**

1. *Mr. Stanley Willis* - legal council for Mahan Construction Company, expressed the company's concerns for the widening and repair of Southwest Boulevard. He indicated that a letter was sent to EMH&T, Mr. Bill Lotz and City Council, however Mr. Lotz' letter and Council's letter were never received and he brought copies this evening for each of them. He said the main concerns

regarded the soil conditions underlying the roadway. He said that the preliminary plans had been reviewed and they do not show any work being done on the soil. It is their feeling that the road will not hold up under these conditions. He indicated that they felt that the maintenance costs would be more expensive than the cost of building the road properly. He also voiced concerns regarding the drainage conditions. He said the any time you put in a lot of pavement, you increase the runoff and they are uncertain as to whether or not the sewer system could handle the additional runoff. Also, the ditch in their front lot will be moved into a retention area and they are concerned about that.

President Buzby indicated that the letter was just received prior to this evenings Council Meeting and it would be reviewed. He also stated that Mr. Lotz and Mr. Kohman would take these matters into consideration as well.

Mr. Ferguson asked what he meant by soil conditions. Mr. Willis responded by informing him that the soil in the area is high in clay content. When clay is dry, there is no problem, but, when the clay is moist, it becomes soft and won't support any weight. Mr. Willis suggested that the clay be removed and replaced with proper material such as gravel.

Mr. Kohman responded by stating that the plans Mahan received were preliminary. There have been traffic engineers asked to review the plan and have given their recommendations. Mr. Kohman stated that they wanted to save the City as much money as possible, yet provide a sufficient roadway for the citizens.

Mr. Willis said as a taxpayer and as a company paying a special assessment for this road, they wanted to go on record voicing their concerns in regard to this project.

Mr. Kohman said that they were happy to receive any comments on this plan. President Buzby thanked Mr. Willis for his concerns and invited him to contact Mr. Kohman with any additional concerns he may have.

2. *Mr. Michael Brandt*, representing Larry's Trucking, wished to publicly announce that Larry's Trucking would not be at Mr. Ferguson's meeting because they are honoring the contract with the City of Grove City and any discussions with regard to the contract will be done in City Council Chambers where City business is done. Also, we wanted Council to be aware, as he was sure they were since an article in the newspaper laid out the trash rates for the municipalities in Franklin County, the fact that the citizens of Grove City pay the lowest rate of any municipality in Franklin County where the trash hauler does the billing. The lower rates shown in the newspaper articles have the billing paid for by City taxes.
3. *Mr. Harold Deweese*, spoke on the budget passed for this year. He indicated he had a telephone conversation with President Buzby questioning the \$3.8 million excess. President Buzby asked him if he had received a copy of the report from Mr. Behlen? Mr. Deweese indicated that he had and he still feels that the City can afford to pay for trash service. He said that the citizens appear to be paying too much taxes and getting nothing back for it. President Buzby explained that there is an ongoing review of the budget and this would be taken under advisement.

Mayor Stage indicated that the Administration would not recommend that the City pay for trash collection. It is felt that giving a reduction in real estate tax to homeowners, as was done for this year, gives the widest distribution and also helps the School Board getting other school levies passed. Trash collection is better serviced by an independent business. As far as excess funds are concerned, first, last year we had to appropriate \$1.3 million and if there had not been any surplus,

those projects would not have been done. Secondly, we have probably the lead community in Franklin County, other than Columbus, in receiving Issue 2 money. Some of the reasons are because we have liquidity, we are able to match the grants, and are able to react in a short period of time.

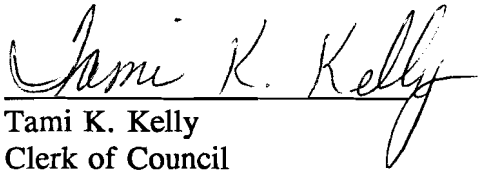
4. *Ms. Robin Ferguson*, asked how much this real estate tax reduction amounted to? Mayor Stage indicated that it was different for each house. Ms. Ferguson asked if the average was \$5.00? The Mayor said he did not know, but, he felt it was prudent to pass along the saving in this fashion and this would be reviewed again at the end of this year.
5. *Ms. Jan Cannon*, had questions regarding Southwest Boulevard and Trash Services. She asked, when the trucks went over the road and it deteriorated so quickly, wasn't it because the road wasn't constructed properly in the first place? Mr. Kohman responded stating some parts did not meet the required thickness and they failed to hold up. Ms. Cannon asked when you put another six inches of asphalt on top if it would not be a problem where the road joins other streets, business entrances and the railroad tracks? Mr. Nelson said that the road would be adjusted so it will match the business entrances and such. Ms. Cannon asked if adding an additional six inches to the roadway, as was done on Columbus Street, would be a problem with regard to drainage? Mr. Nelson said that adding an additional six inches to Southwest Boulevard would not pose a problem since there are no curbs or gutters. In regard to trash, Ms. Cannon asked why Larry's contract was passed as an emergency if it did not expire until October, 1992. Ms. Cannon was informed that it was not passed on an emergency basis. Also, Ms. Cannon stated that Mr. Brandt made a point of stating that trash services are less when the city pays for billing and perhaps it is in the best interest of the taxpayers for the City to do the billing. Mr. Buckley asked her why she felt this way. He indicated that all that does is hide the total cost from the taxpayers. As indicated by Mr. Brandt, the charge for billing by the City is paid for by taxes. As it stands now, residents know exactly how much they are paying for trash collection.

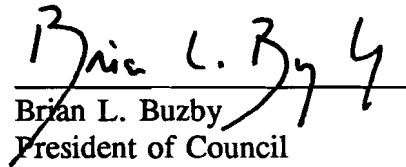
**The Chair recognized members of administration and council for closing comments.**

1. Mayor Stage gave his closing remarks and said Wal-Mart is now advertising for workers. Chief McKean, Mr. Ferguson and myself were at the Church of the Nazarene yesterday for their Friendship Day and commended them on their efforts. The Chapel Choir of Gettysburg will be at St. Johns Lutheran Church on April 3, 1992 and are very pleased to host them. We have received from Mr. Gary Cornell the official City Anthem that he was commissioned to write for us. It will be played by the Grove City High School Marching Band, if not before then certainly on July 4th. In closing, Mayor Stage responded to an article in the paper that appeared as a Letter to the Editor regarding Larry's Trucking. The letter used "Mayor" generically. In fact, there have been three mayors who have dealt with Larry's Trucking and the people who have advised and requested to Council that Larry's Trucking continue their superior service as trash hauler for the City. In addition, there have been 16 different council members over the years who have taken our recommendation and approved the contract for Larry's Trucking. It is interesting to note that all 16 members voted Yes. The letter also said that *this* Mayor took the easy way out. It was not the easy way out. We have studied other communities and I have been involved with recycling for the last four years and feel I am aware of what is going on in the real world of recycling and the many other problems that communities have had with trash collection in general.
2. Mr. Behlen informed Council that the City of Columbus has updated an ordinance that gives Senior Citizens a discount on their water bill. We will have applications for qualified senior citizens to complete for this discount at the Senior Center and here at City Hall.

3. After additional comments from Administration, the Chamber and Council, Mr. Cotton made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Buckley. Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

  
Tami K. Kelly  
Clerk of Council

  
Brian L. Buzby  
President of Council