

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

March 01, 2021

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

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. Resolution CR-11-21 (Request rezoning of Certain Parcels to provide for a Town Center Park and potential expansion) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Berry explained that after several meetings and seeing preliminary drawings of different layouts for a park in the Town Center, it was decided that the next step was to identify the areas to be set aside for park ground. He said this also asks for public discussion on these areas to determine the uses desired. He said it is important to get public responses and suggestions for this park.

Mayor Stage provided a word of caution. He said they do have a restaurant looking in the Town Center for a space. This movement would indicate that these parcels would be off the market for such development.

Mr. Schottke read a question from Terry Gusler asking if all the streets would be pedestrian only. Mr. Berry stated that he did not know. That is something they want to hear from the residents.

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

Mr. Schlabach	No
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-68-20 (Appropriate \$250,000.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of Removing a Portion of Arbutus Avenue for the intended Town Center Park) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Berry explained that this was initiated in January when Council was forging ahead with a small park scope. He said now that we have identified a larger area and are requesting updated public input, he moved it be removed; seconded by Ms. Houk.

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

2. Ordinance C-08-21 (Authorize the City Administrator to Convey Excess Personal Property that is no longer needed for City business) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Holt explained that this donates a few vehicles to Village of New Straitsville, Mt. Carmel Health & South Western City Schools.

Mayor Stage noted that we have done this a few times and when it is a cruiser, we put that municipalities name on it. He said it is an outstanding gesture on our part.

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

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

3. Ordinance C-09-21 (Authorize the City Administrator to enter into a Contract with the Fraternal Order of Police/Ohio Labor Council, Inc.) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Boso, City Admin., stated that this is for the Dispatcher's union. He reviewed the high points of the contract, some of which were the raises for each year; a new longevity step; increase in shift differential by \$0.25/hr.; change in the substance abuse policy; and change in the probationary period to one year after training.

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-10-21 (Amend Various Sections of Chapter 161 of the Codified Ordinances of the City titled Employment Provisions for City Employees) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Boso, City Admin., explained that Chapter 161 covers all the non-union full-time employees for wages. He said presently, we have 9 pay grades with 15 steps. Those with 15 years of service are locked in, with no pay increase. He said this will add 5 steps with a 2.6% increase for each step. He said it adds those new positions that were approved in the 2021 Appropriation Ordinance.

Mr. Berry asked if there was a need for additional police officers. Mr. Vedra, Safety Dir., stated that we are adequately staffed and have room to hire as vacancies occur. He said we have two lined up for the next academy and one person for the following. This keeps us at operating strength.

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

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

5. Resolution CR-12-21 (Authorize the City Administrator to apply for and Accept Funds through Franklin County's Infrastructure Bank Program for Demorest Road Reconstruction, Phase 1 improvements) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Boso, City Admin., explained that this will improve Demorest Road from Basswood to Grove City Road. The roadway will be widened to accommodate a center turn lane; a new traffic signal at Grove City Road; a shared bike path on the east side of Demorest; a sidewalk on the west side of Demorest; the existing width is 50' and will need to be 65', so additional right-of-way will need to be required. He said this is requesting \$1,000,000.00 for a ten year period at an interest rate of 1.0%.

Mr. Berry said he hopes we do not have to use eminent domain for the right-of-way, but this is one that he would support due to the safety concerns with all the new traffic anticipated for Demorest Road. Mr. Boso noted that we have received \$3.6 million from Ohio Public Works Commission, \$180,000 from the Beulah Developer, and \$1 million in the Appropriation Ordinance. He said they are still working with South Western City Schools to get \$300,000 and with other sources for grant monies.

Mr. Schottke asked what Phase 2 would be. Mr. Boso said Phase 2 would go from Basswood to Southwest Blvd., and possibly to Big Run Road. Mr. Schottke then said he hopes the School District pays for the turn lanes into the new middle school, as that is something they normally pay for. Mr. Schottke asked if Phase 1 will help mitigate some of the flooding in that area. Mr. Boso said the road will include curbing and gutter. Mr. Keller, EMH&T, stated that as part of this project they are evaluating the potential for any and all storm water improvements that could be included.

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

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

6. Resolution CR-13-21 (Authorize the City Administrator to apply for, accept and enter into a Water Pollution Control Fund Agreement for the Planning, Design and/or Construction of Wastewater

Facilities for the Mulberry Run Sub-trunk Sewer and Designate a Dedicated Repayment Source for the Loan) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Boso, City Admin., explained that this would decommission the Westgrove Pump Station. He said a 4,100 lineal foot sanitary line would be constructed to Autumn Grove Subdivision, which is just north of Rensch Road. He said this will improve the system and have a gravity flow line. He said this is a 25 year loan and the interest rate is 0.4%. Mr. Keller noted that this sanitary sewer extension has been planned since the late '80's and all connections have been designed to accept this additional flow.

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

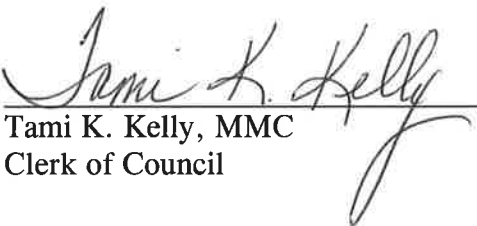
The Chair asked that any new business to be brought before the attention of Council be done so at this time.

1. Ms. Ruthanne Huston, White Road, voiced concern over Republican Run and Mulberry Run watersheds that are flooding and washing away property along White Road and in Briarwood Hills. Ms. Fitzpatrick, Dir of Service, explained that the creek is on private property, but they will conduct an evaluation of the area. She asked Ms. Huston to contact her directly to obtain additional information.

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

1. Mayor Stage stated that one of our high-tech business is growing after one year, and looking to add 50 new technical jobs. He announced that they are working with the City of Columbus on a Diversion Program, through Mayor's Court for petty thefts and minor infractions. He shared a Proclamation for Red Cross Month. Finally, he announced the passing of former Mayor and Council Member George Haughn and expressed condolences to the family.
2. After comments from Council and Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourn at 8:02 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Christine Houk
Chair