

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

February 22, 2022

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Berry at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall – 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke Mark Sigrist Ted Berry Randy Holt

1. Mr. Berry moved to excuse Ms. Houk due to an emergency; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes

2. Mr. Schottke moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 02/07/22 and 02/12/22 meetings and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

3. Mr. Berry recognized Mayor Stage for some presentations.

Mayor Stage administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Gary James as a Park Board member. He recognized Chief Rick Butsko with a Proclamation for his service to the community and congratulated him on his retirement. State Representative Stephanie Kunze was present via Webex to also recognize Chief Butsko on his retirement. He then recognized the Service Dept. on receiving the American Public Works Association accreditation. Mr. Dan Hartman, President Elect of APWA, was present via Webex to congratulate the Service Dept. on their accomplishment. He said Grove City has been working for two years to receive this and it shows the City's commitment to excellence. He noted that there are only five (5) accredited agencies in Ohio, with Grove City being one. Ms. Fitzpatrick introduced her team and thanked them for all the work to achieve this accreditation on their first attempt.

3. The Chair read the agenda items and all items were approved by unanimous consent.

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

1. Ordinance C-07-22 (Authorize the City Administrator to enter into a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement/New Community Authority Agreement with Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Kyle Rauch, Dir. of Dev., explained that this goes along with the efforts to expand the Community Reinvestment Area for economic development. He said this Agreement will bring the 125 acres of the Solid Waste Authority in the City subject to the CRA. He noted that the SWACO Board still needs to approve this agreement and would like a member on the New Community

Authority Board. Mr. Schottke asked Mr. Rauch to reiterate what a CRA is and what the New Community Authority is. It was confirmed that the CRA only applies to new construction and the NCA will pay the City back for roads and other infrastructure projects.

Mr. Bob Ruth, resident, thanked the Administration for developing a cost benefit chart dealing with the cost incentive package proposed in this agreement. He said he hopes they will do this for all similar proposals in the future. He said such easy to read analysis will give the public a much fuller picture of such incentives. He feels it should be a standard for other communities.

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

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes

2. Ordinance C-09-22 (Authorize the City Administrator to take any and all necessary actions to convey certain Real Property to Chris A. Wiand as part of a Real Estate Exchange) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be 3/7/22.
3. Ordinance C-10-22 (Accept the Plat of Pinnacle Quarry, Section 3 located at the Southwest Corner of White Road and State Route 104) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be 3/7/22.
4. Ordinance C-11-22 (Accept the Plat of Farmstead, Phase 5 located west of S.R. 104 & north of S.R. 665) was given its first reading and at the request of the petitioner, Mr. Schottke moved it be withdrawn; seconded by Mr. Holt.

Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

5. Ordinance C-12-22 (Approve a Special Use Permit for an Auto Related Repair Shop for Columbus Powersports located at 2713 Home Rd) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 3/7/22.

The Chair recognized Mr. Sigrist, Chairman of Safety, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-13-22 (Amend Section 161.15 of the Codified Ordinances titled Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited) was given its first reading.

Mr. Sigrist stated that during Caucus, Council decided to withdraw this in order to broaden it and make it stronger, clearer and bring a new ordinance at the next meeting.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, stressed that this is not being withdrawn because they don't want to do it. They believe they can make it stronger and better. He said his Firm is looking at the entire 161 Chapter. He said they plan on bringing back a stronger ordinance. He said this was a first draft, but after looking at other communities, they believe they can make it better. Mr. Schottke said this Section is for city employees only. Mr. Smith said that was correct. This is under Employment Provisions. He said they would like to look at this on a broader spectrum.

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

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes

2. Resolution CR-06-22 (Form the Grove City Community Diversity Advisory Task Force) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Sigrist explained that Ms. Houk is the originator of this legislation also. Since there are many people present to speak, he said they would continue with this item this evening.

Mr. Jeffrey Tadlock, resident, said he welcomes this resolution. He feels it is a positive step for the City to take. As the world changes, it is important to see what is going on in the community and worth investigating to make things better. He said the Tech world is very diverse and these are companies we want to locate here. He thanked Ms. Houk for introducing this and asked Council to support it.

Ms. Danielle Davis, VCB, voiced support for the resolution. She explained her background and identity. She said she does not see her uniqueness represented in the local government today, however that is to be expected, as Grove City is 90% Caucasian, predominately heterosexual and cisgender. She said when you are the perceived default, there are things that are just not encountered. This becomes a blind spot and that is why it is important to have this Task Force in order to bring all people to the table. She said she has been Cambodian and Pansexual her whole life and hopes that Council agrees that everyone in the community feels safe, welcome and loved. She quoted Arthur Chan, who said: *Diversity is a fact, equity is a choice, inclusion is an action, and belonging is an outcome.*

Ms. Geri Huygen, Grove City High School Advisor to the Straight and Gay Alliance Club, read a few letters from the students in the Club who shared their experiences in the High School and the community. She said it took a lot of courage for these students to write these letters. She quoted statistics for LGBTQ youth suicide risk.

Ms. Cathy Cowan Becker, resident, voiced her support for this Task Force. She explained that four of her five nieces/nephews are on the LGBTQIA spectrum. She said she wants her family to feel welcome when they visit Grove City. She said people her age never heard of non-binary and have a lot to learn.

Mr. Aaron Schlabach, resident, stated that he does not believe anyone should be mistreated for any reason. He said he was raised to see individuals, not members of a group. He said he believes every individual has importance. He asked what matrix will be looked at and what laws would be considered from a Task Force that is designed to inform the City of differences and things they can do to be better. He said he has always been worried of unintended consequences of government, even though he believes this is well intentioned. He said he believes that no one should be bullied for any reason, but when it comes to government action, he is always worry of unintended consequences. He feels this might be seen as the city bringing in certain actions that are prejudicial because it is trying to bring in a specific group, as opposed to many individual people with different wants and needs. He said economically wise and intelligent action will create a better, thriving, community that brings in diversity. It's not a matter of the city acting a certain way to bring in a certain people, because that is prejudice. It's about welcoming everyone through having a strong business and economic center where we treat everyone individually, equally.

Ms. Natalia Figueroa Leal, resident, read a statement, via Webex, expressing her support for the Task Force, as an immigrant, woman of color, an atheist and ally for the LGBTQ+ community. She is grateful for the open arms her family received from Grove City, but she often felt alone due to being different. She said this legislation has the possibility of leaving a life-long positive impact for those who may feel marginalized. It would enrich the community with awareness, inclusion, compassion for one another, and knowledge. It would allow for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together and portray what the community is all about – the welcoming and respectfulness of others. She believes that individuals of marginalized groups should have a higher consideration for becoming a member of the Task Force, so that those that are often overlooked are included.

Ms. Joanne McDaniel, resident, offered congratulations and support to the Council Members for this. She suggested that a member of the clergy should also be a member, in order to understand all beliefs.

Mr. Schottke voiced support for the Task Force. He noted that the youth are not always as welcoming as they should be, but if adults embrace all people, it can set a better example. He said this Task Force needs to make sure it includes a member with disabilities.

Mr. Sigrist stated that families are much different from the 1960's. He said his family is very diverse and it is not uncommon to see families different from their heritage. He said a better understanding of families that look, act and love different breaks down barriers. Starting these intentional conversations will bring more of our community to the table to involve themselves in programming, decision making, and making a richer community. It is a small step in uplifting human dignity and engaging a more diverse group of citizens to help shape our city for the future. He thanked Ms. Houk for this resolution.

Mr. Berry stated that anything that starts a conversation, creates dialogue and synergy, creates great things. He said he understands reluctance for government to get involved, but if we can start the conversation, it will do well for the City. He said this isn't the answer to everything, it starts the conversation. He said there are many groups (i.e. Kaleidoscope) that can assist the Task Force. He said we have all been through hateful things, but this is the start of things that we can do.

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

Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

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

1. Ordinance C-08-22 (Appropriate \$2,550,000 from the Pinnacle Tax Increment Financing Fund for the Current Expense of Improvements to White Road, State Route 104 and Park Improvements) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Schottke asked if a traffic light is included. Mr. Boso, City Admin., said they have not gotten that approved yet. There are two ways, through ODOT, to get approval: traffic crashes or volume of traffic. He said neither have been met yet, but they continue to work with ODOT and this ordinance does earmark \$300,000.00 for signalization. He said another option is for Grove City to annex the right-of-way around the intersection. He went on to explain the use for the rest of the funds.

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

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes

2. Ordinance C-14-22 (Appropriate \$700,000.00 from the Pinnacle Tax Increment Financing Fund for the Current Expense of Improvements to Buckeye Parkway) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 3/7/22.
3. Resolution CR-07-22 (Waive the provisions of Section 139.05 of the Codified Ordinances for Emergency Roof Repairs to the Grove City Welcome Center & Museum) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, explained that even though this is waiving the competitive bidding process, they are still seeking quotes and comparing them. He said they are having a hard time getting contractors to lock into a bid, due to a materials shortage. This allows for more flexibility, while getting the best price and getting someone to do the work in a timely manner.

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

Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

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

1. Mr. Daryl Schlosser, resident, voiced concern over a new road that will connect Tournament Way to Holton Road. He said there needs to be better communication and get the word out. He said he would like to have a meeting with all the residents in Pinnacle to know what is going to happen with Pinnacle Park.
2. Ms. Lisa Napier-Garcia, Director for The Little Theater Off Broadway, provided a presentation to Council. She shared statistics and how many people they bring to the Town Center. She said they have season ticket holders from all over Central Ohio. She shared information on their building and its history. She shared how they anticipate to spend the Grant monies received from the City. She explained their recovery efforts from the Pandemic and the building issues/challenges. Finally, she shared the future initiatives of the business.

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

1. Mayor Stage stated that the Saturday session was good and suggested that a School District member and a Township member be invited. As a result of some of that discussion, he invited the City of Hilliard to make a presentation and they are available to attend the 3/7 meeting. He reported on HB519 regarding filing late tax returns. He said this takes away from Home Rule. He also reported that he has written two letters – one on conceal/carry and the other on recreational marijuana. Both being opposed from a safety standpoint.

2. Mr. Berry moved to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the purchase property which would give others an unfair advantage; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

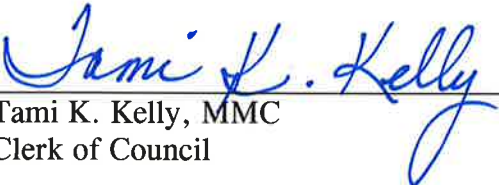
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes

3. Mr. Berry moved to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Holt.

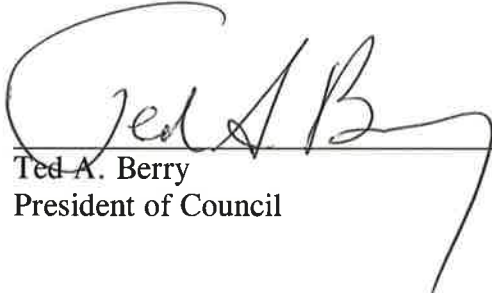
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

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

Adjourn at 9:06 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
President of Council

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL CAUCUS NOTES

Feb. 22, 2022

Council met at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

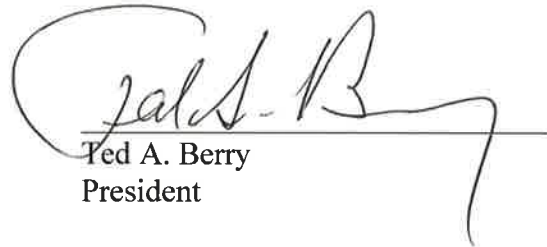
Council Members reviewed the Agenda items.

Mayor Stage said he thought C-07-22 had been created with the assistance of the Law Director, as they are working on a review of the whole Chapter 161. He asked Council to remove it so that there would be no confusion when it is submitted later. Council discussed this at length – citing that they were more inclined to leave it this evening since Ms. Houk was not present and wait until the next meeting so she could be informed. It was pointed out that this Section only applies to employees of the city.

Council retired to the Chambers to begin the Regular meeting.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
President