

GROVE CITY, OHIO COUNCIL MINUTES

February 17, 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. Mr. Ferguson moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

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

2. President Buzby moved to amend the agenda to include Ordinance C-13-92 under the Finance Committee; seconded by Mr. Mountain.

Mr. Cotton	No
Mr. Buzby	Yes
Mr. Mountain	Yes
Mr. Ferguson	Yes
Mr. Buckley	Yes

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

1. Ordinance C-6-92 (approve plat for Hawthorne Woods North, Section 2) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Speaking to this ordinance was Mr. Jerry Bird, representing White Oak Communities. He showed a drawing of the development which consists of 17 lots and indicated that the 6.2 acres of green space is being committed for continuance of the walk/bike path. Mr. Bird offered to answer any questions and requested a favorable decision.

Mr. Cotton moved that the Rules of Council be suspended and the waiting period waived; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

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

Mr. Cotton moved that Ordinance C-6-92 be approved as an emergency measure; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

Mr. Mountain	Yes
Mr. Ferguson	No
Mr. Buckley	Yes
Mr. Cotton	Yes
Mr. Buzby	Yes

2. Ordinance C-8-92 (accept annexation of 9.749± acres btw. Indian Trails Sec. 1 & 4) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on March 02, 1992.
3. Ordinance C-12-92 (amend Ord. C-40-91 to include add'l. parcel of land) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on March 02, 1992.

The Chair recognized Mr. Mountain, Chairman of Public Service for discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said committee.

1. Ordinance C-11-92 (enact Chapter 154 entitled "Records Commission") was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on March 02, 1992.
2. Ordinance C-7-92 (authorize Mayor to modify water contract w/City of Columbus) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Mountain moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

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

The Chair recognized Mr. Buckley, Chairman of Public Safety for discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said committee.

1. Ordinance C-10-92 (approve editing & inclusion of certain ordinances) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on March 02, 1992.

The Chair, Chairman of Finance, proceeded with the discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said committee.

1. Ordinance C-9-92 (appropriate monies from various project funds) was given its first reading and since it appropriates for current expenses, President Buzby moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Buckley.

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

2. Ordinance C-13-92 (provide for the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$2,200,000 waterworks system first mortgage revenue bonds) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on March 02, 1992.

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

1. *Mr. Michael Brandt*, attorney representing Larry's Trucking, spoke to Mr. Ferguson regarding his comments in the Southwest Messenger. He suggested that Mr. Ferguson get his facts straight before speaking with the press. The statements made were not correct, the rates were incorrect, they were misleading and improper. He indicated that the Messenger ran a correction, however, that does not take the place of the bad press that the City received due to said article. He indicated that Mr. Ferguson did not have any knowledge of Larry's operation, that no attempt had been made to confer with Mr. Beavers about his operation or anything else that happens with the trash hauling that occurs in Grove City. All the risk involved with this service is incurred by Mr. Beavers. Mr. Brandt showed Council a list of the people using the service that either do not pay or are constantly late. He showed another list of 127 residents who are exempt from the use of Larry's Trucking. In addition, Mr. Brandt passed around pictures to the Council members of just two homes that Larry's Trucking serviced this week. He indicated that at just one of those homes there were 11 compactions to pick up all the trash. As of January 30, 1992, there were approximately 1100 no-pays. As of February 17, 1992, Mr. Beavers applied for shut-off to approximately 900 homes, however, trash removal must continue until shut-off is granted. Mr. Brandt stated to Mr. Ferguson that when he took office he talked about positive things for Grove City, making positive statements and getting away from the negative outlook. Mr. Brandt said he felt the City, as a whole, was run very well and suggested that Mr. Ferguson get his facts straight first in order to produce positive statements.
2. *Mr. Tom Rutherford*, Trustee of the Hawthorne Woods Association, requested that a restriction be placed in the deed of those lots in the Crossing at Grant Run Section that abut lots in the "Association" that prohibits fences and out buildings since the association prohibits them in their area.

Mayor Stage asked if there had been any discussion with the Developer. Mr. Rutherford said they had, but, they were more concerned with the second and subsequent owners of the property. He indicated that unless there is a restriction in the deed, you can't control what happens with subsequent owners.

Mr. Bird, developer of Crossing at Grant Run, informed Council that he had spoke with the association and indicated that they want to cooperate with the association. The current deed prohibits out buildings and fences must be approved and be of natural material. He stated that he would be willing to prohibit fences on those lots that abut the association property with the exception of a fence for any pools.

Mr. Buzby invited Mr. Rutherford to work with Mr. Bird and make this know to Planning Commission. He also informed Mr. Rutherford that once it comes to council, there is limited power in such matters.

3. *Mr. Deweese*, came before council in January suggesting that there was \$3.8 million in the City budget that was not allocated and wanted Council to consider providing free trash service to the residents of Grove City. At that meeting comments were made that this wasn't necessarily true. Mr. Deweese stated that since he is not a CPA, he backed off. Since then, he has taken the budget

to a CPA and had his suspicions confirmed. He again made the suggestion that free trash service be provided to the citizens, especially the Senior Citizens who find it increasingly difficult to live in Grove City. Also, this would help cut down on Larry's Trucking's expenses.

President Buzby responded by stating that he felt there was a question as to whether this money is appropriated for other expenses and if not then Council would certainly look at how to spend it for the betterment of all our citizens.

Mayor Stage stated that savings have been passed on to our citizens by way of reduced inside millage, which was passed in October, 1991. He indicated that if this continued, another reduction could be passed along.

4. *Melody Shingler*, passed around a newspaper clipping of Senator Metzenbaum's editorial on tax abatement to the Council Members. She indicated that in the article Senator Metzenbaum stated that giving tax abatement to businesses takes money away from the schools. Ms. Shingler wanted Council to think about this before accepting any additional tax abatement proposals in the future.

Mr. Buckley addressed this issue by stating that he felt Senator Metzenbaum was wrong. Tax abatement does work. It brings money into the City. In Grove City, we do not abate personal property and this is where the money for the schools comes from. We only abate the building. The City should have been using tax abatement a long time ago so we would have a tax base now and there would be no need for additional levies. If all states and communities were on an equal field it would be a different story. Pennsylvania just passed a big tax abatement, as well as Indiana and we need to get into the playing field. Otherwise, the school system is going to continue to deteriorate and adding additional cost to the homeowner who can't afford it.

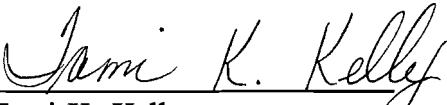
President Buzby stated that this issue needs to be addressed at a national level. It is fine for someone to come to Council and say we are giving away tax dollars or for Senator Metzenbaum to say that, but, if we had not done what we felt we had to do to get development the school district would be getting nothing. We have gotten them much more money through development than they would have otherwise. If States and the Federal Government pass laws to allow this, it almost forces us to develop in this manner.

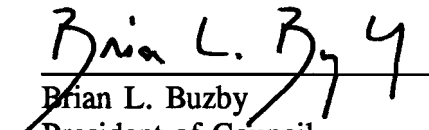
The Chair recognized members of administration and council for closing comments.

1. Mayor Stage gave his closing remarks and said he helped celebrate Annabel Meuler's 100th birthday yesterday. He believes that she is the oldest, continuing living resident of Grove City. Also, Mayor Stage attended a gala for Arts in Ohio. He hopes to have an exhibition that was done for this gala appear in our Arts In The Alley. The exhibition was from children in grades 5 through 8 with learning disabilities who prepared art work depicting the 200th anniversary of the White House. In addition, Wednesday, February 19, 1992 will be the State of the City address at the Chamber Luncheon. Mayor Stage went on to comment on Ordinance C-12-92. He indicated that the City has been approached by Pier One Imports to build an office/warehouse facility. This ordinance is requesting that all the remaining property north of Southwest Boulevard and west of the railroad tracks be included in the abatement. Conversations have taken place with Jackson Township, the Southwestern City Schools and directly with Dr. Bowers and there have been no adverse comments. There is a big that must be played, not only locally but internationally. The City strongly supports tax abatement on the building only. We will not support abatement on personal property, for this is the only tax for the schools that moves with inflation.
2. Mr. Buckley thanked the police department on directing traffic at the schools.

3. Mr. Cotton suggested that voters look at who is running for State and Federal offices and ask them about House Bill 920 and school funding.
4. After additional comments from Administration and Council, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 8:50 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly
Clerk of Council


Brian L. Buzby
President of Council