CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 03, 2018 Regular Meeting

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

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke *Christine Houk* *Steve Robinette* *Jeff Davis* *Ted Berry*

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

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Robinette	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

2. The Chair recognized Mayor Stage who administered the Oath of Office to a new Dispatcher, Melissa Clost, and a new Service Dept. Technician, Cory Rouff.

3. 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-66-18 (Approve the Use for Microblading for Studio on Park Hair Salon and Day Spa located at 3330 Park Street) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Schottke moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Robinette	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

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

1. Ordinance C-56-18 (Approve the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Program and Appropriate $25,000.00 from the General Fund for same) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Berry asked Ms. Kelly, Clerk of Council, to read the amendments to Ord. C-56-18 and the attached Exhibit "A". Ms. Kelly read the two new "Whereas" statements to be included into the body of the ordinance and the changes to Exhibit "A". There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Berry moved to make all amendments read by Ms. Kelly; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

Mr. Robinette	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes

Mr. Brad Chadwell, resident of Reynoldsburg, stated that while it appears that this benefits the individual with a electric car, it also benefits the community as a whole by reducing the emissions; and managing the load on the electric grid. Mr. Berry commented that commercial grants were removed because there are many incentives for commercial businesses. Mr. Chadwell said AEP Ohio has grants for commercial and multi-family but nothing for individuals. Ms. Houk asked if AEP was still offering the Kyte Program. Mr. Chadwell said yes, but they don't have an active marketing program for it. The Program lets an individual lease a charging station for $39.99/mo., which covers the charger and the installation.

Mr. Berry explained the benefits of an electric vehicle for individuals and the environment. He commented on how this will help incentivize individuals to look to purchasing an electric vehicle. He said this is trying to remove a barrier for our residents to start a new habit. He said we are trying to educate and lead our residents into new areas that will help our environment and save them money with reduced vehicle expenses.

Mayor Stage said one of the added "Whereas" statements referenced the MORPC Green Pact. He asked Ms. Linda Rosine, Environmental Coordinator, to come forward and explain that Program. He said this initiative would set a new trend and set a new way of helping the environment. Ms. Rosine said one of the major pieces in this Pact, which is now called Sustainable 2050, that Grove City falls short on, is the alternative fuel and an electric fleet of vehicles. She said the new Program requires municipalities to become certified. She has just submitted the paperwork for Grove City to become certified. She said it is a tiered status and this legislation would help us increase our level. Mr. Robinette asked for a copy of the Program and a comprehensive idea of what we need to do to comply. Ms. Rosine said she would get that to Council.

Mr. Schottke said he sees this as a government subsidy that we do with many issues. He said this is seed money to start a change to protect the environment. He said it may not go far enough and could be expanded for solar panels and other energy efficient equipment. He said some of a person's tax dollars will go directly back to them under this program.

Mr. Berry said about 14 e-mails have come in voicing their opinions over this issue today. One was from Mr. Pat Vallente, with Clean Ohio Fuels, who indicated that this legislation would put Grove City on the map when it comes to clean fuels and businesses would look at us.

Mr. Robinette said he is supportive of the Green initiative, but he has a hang up with putting this in an individual's garage. He believes we would get more bang for our buck if the charging stations were available to the public. Mr. Berry said he feels we have to do both.

Ms. Houk said it is hard for her to look at this as a second reading due to the changes in the ordinance and because there is a departure from where it was at the first reading. She said she is grappling with this symbolic gesture of offering a grant program versus actually getting something real accomplished. As far as a Green initiative, the $25,000.00 should be spent to its maximum potential toward real, solid, measurable goals. She said this is not tied to a revenue stream. It is using taxpayer dollars to put things in individual garages. She said it doesn't sit well with her. She feels we could be making a better choice to get somewhere.

Mayor Stage said we spend almost $25,000.00 on Eco Fest, and do so for awareness and to show that we are a pacesetter in Central Ohio. He said if the money is the issue, make it $10,000.00. He said lets set the standard that Grove City, Ohio is willing to bet some money that we can make a difference and will make a difference in the future. He said this is no different to some of the other things the City does.

Mr. Robinette asked if there was any additional work to be done on this and suggested postponing it to the next meeting. Mr. Berry asked if there were any questions to be answered. He said the Return on Investment is the environment; the image of the City; economic development in green technologies; teaching our youth that sustainable fuels are important. Mr. Robinette said he would like a couple of more weeks to consider this.

Mr. Davis asked if we are sure there are no grant monies available for this Program. Mayor Stage said no. They may be able to find a matching grant next year, but there is nothing out there now. He said if they can't find matching dollars by August 31, he would ask for this to be rescinded. Mr. Davis shared his opinion and said he thought this would come back as a commercial program and not a residential one. He said there are some different opinions about what government should do. He said he is not convinced conceptually or philosophically that this is what we should be doing.

Mr. Robinette moved to postpone this item to 12/17/18; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Council continued to debate this issue.

Mr. Schottke moved the previous question; seconded by Mr. Robinette.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Ms. Houk	No
Mr. Robinette	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes

The vote on the motion to postpone to 12/17/18 was called:

Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	No
Ms. Houk	No
Mr. Robinette	Yes

2. Resolution CR-61-18 (Appoint Tim Harris to Audit Committee) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Davis explained the need to fill a seat on the Audit Committee and said Mr. Tim Harris comes highly recommended.

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

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Robinette	Yes
Mr. Davis	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. Mason, Boy Scout Troop 412, announced his Eagle Scout Project, which is to retire American Flags in the proper way. He asked if he could place a collection box at City Hall or other city locations. Council and Mayor Stage voiced support for his Project.

2. Mr. William Vedra, Safety Dir., shared the Liquor Permits notices on file. He said they do have some concern over The Press Box. Council had no objection to Tee Jays Country Kitchen and said they would wait on the Press Box.

3. Mr. Davis said the review of the Budget tonight is to share Council's objectives, now that the Mayor has submitted his Budget. If time allows, they would review Capital Projects. He opened the floor to Council Members to share their thoughts.

Mr. Robinette said one of the goals is to complete the rewrite of the Zoning Code. He asked if there is money budgeted to have this completed next year. Mr. Boso, City Admin., said there is money budgeted for this. Mr. Kyle Rauch, Dir, of Dev., said they have already been working on this and funding was in the 2018 Budget. He said they have the resources, but have asked for additional staff in 2019. That will allow them to shift workloads and adjust priorities, if approved. Mr. Robinette then asked about the Sidewalk Program. Mayor Stage said they are still looking into how we can change it. Ms. Fitzpatrick, Dir of Service, said they want to make it a voluntary program but need to work out how the cost could be assessed, in order to meet the target audience. Mayor Stage said if Council wants to remove the money for the Sidewalk Program in the Budget, they will bring it back later in the year once all issues are ironed out. Mr. Robinette commented about the Visitors & Convention Bureau. He said they have had conversations about a convention center. He said he would like to consider having a feasibility study to see if there is a market for a convention center here. He said he envisions sharing that cost with the VCB. Finally, he asked about GC 2050 and any needs necessary to make sure it is implemented. Mr. Rauch said they intend to create an Advisory Committee. Mayor Stage noted that the 2050 Program is used for every development that comes in and Planning Commission has a five-point review to apply to each development.

Mr. Robinette also noted that he is working on language to instill a "buy local and give preference to local businesses for professional services". Mayor Stage said it would be good to have a conversation about that to make sure they understand what is already bid and done on this front. The concept is simple but the mechanics get complicated.

Mr. Schottke voiced concern over the benchmarks on page 3. He said the first is to have three (3) months in reserve for operating, using income tax revenue. He said the more we keep using the income tax revenue, the more we need to maintain the 25% in carry over monies. He said it is a sound practice to keep 3 months in reserve for operating expenses and he sees the carry-over going down. He said if we keep spending and spending, we are going to be in fiscal watch like other communities. He said there is about $19,000.00 needed to maintain the proper reserve and suggested that the budget be cut by that amount.

Ms. Houk suggested having these discussions at the mid-year point, so we can utilize these goals in the budget process. She said she would like to see more internet access infrastructure for the Town Center; the infrastructure for Beulah Park; any funding for the Opioid crisis and a conversation about what partnerships we should be connecting with. Mr. Hurley, Dir. of Info. Systems, addressed the internet infrastructure. He said helping businesses is a difficult issue. If the city wanted to provide the last mile of connectivity for an area, we world have to figure out how to pay for it. Mayor Stage said they have made an administrative decision not to become a utility. It is a slippery slope.

Mr. Berry said there is a need to assist our Senior's more in transportation during the evening hours. He would like to see a Committee put together for Green technology and incorporate a Plan to become more "Green". He also asked how we can invest more in the Little Theater Off Broadway. Finally, he asked if we have a concept for a Recreation facility and green space for the downtown area.

Mr. Schottke said two things he didn't see in the budget were: Brookpark Middle School and the Central Park for the Beulah subdivision. Mayor Stage said Brookpark will probably not be until 2020 and they are in discussion over this; and Beulah is part of the on-going negotiation to find the revenue source.

Mr. Davis said we will continue on Dec. 10 @ 6:00 pm.

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

1. Mayor Stage submitted the Mayor's Court Report. He said the Christmas Celebration was great. He announced the State of the City Address would be May 2, 2019.

   Mr. Davis moved to accept the Mayor's Court Report; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Robinette	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

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

Council adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Steven R. Robinette

Steven R. Robinette
President

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL CAUCUS NOTES

December 03, 2018

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

Council Members reviewed the Agenda items.

Council retired to the Chambers to begin the Regular meeting.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Steven R. Robinette
Chair