

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

February 12, 2022

Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Berry at 8:30 a.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 Christine Houk

1. Mr. Berry explained that this is a meeting to review general ideas and conduct a roundtable discussion of items that were part of the 2022 Budget and have been on-going:

Zoning Code Revisions

Mr. Schottke requested to start with the Zoning Code Revisions. Ms. Shields, Dev. Dept., passed out an update on their progress. She explained this is meant to modernize the zoning code and support the 2050 Plan. She said they are about 95% complete with Title II and Title III. She explained that the Town Center Form Based Code needs much more time. As for Title IV, EMH&T has helped with the residential portions. Ms. Shields expressed that the goal is to get things buttoned up, with certain portions, within the next two months and submit those to Planning Commission, Council and the public. Mayor Stage stated that these changes would need to be phased in. Ms. Shields noted that they have already spoken with the Chamber of Commerce about having a separate meetings with businesses. Mr. Kyle Rauch, Dev. Dir., said they have included the BIA to get their input, and that they are not "re-inventing the wheel". They looked at several other communities and felt Westerville was pretty solid, so they fashioned these amendments after theirs. Mr. Berry asked when they will have a comparison chart. Ms. Shields said they have a draft that will need finalized. Mr. Schottke expressed that this is a huge topic that will need special meetings; joint meetings with Planning Commission. Mayor Stage said that the administration has to look at this first, then it can be brought to Council before a joint meeting with Planning Commission.

Recreation and Aquatic Center

Mr. Schottke passed out a 2014 Study of a Recreation and Aquatic Center concept. He said he feels the time is right to move forward with this. He reminded everyone that this is just a concept, and it will need updated. He said he spoke with Kim Conrad, Dir. of Parks & Rec., about incorporating a Senior Center to make the space more intergenerational. He then shared estimated costs and ideas for how to pay for it. Mr. Holt commented that there have been discussions with the YMCA about a collaboration and that issue would need to be decided. He also stated that if this project causes a tax increase, this November would be a good time to put that question on the ballot. Mr. Berry said we must start with finding out what the community wants. Mayor Stage explained that the location and size of the facility is still a question, and if it would need a vote for a bond or an income tax increase. Mayor Stage said the City will also need to address the Township residents with this plan, as they are treated the same as city residents now. He suggested we consult with the City of Hilliard to look at their latest model to compare. Ms. Houk said this will require a lot of marketing moving forward.

Research Park

Mayor Stage explained that there may be a new opportunity to leverage a new Federal infrastructure bill for money for the bridge. He said this is also on the MORPC Transportation Improvement Program list. He said there needs to be a practicum put together of how it will all work. Mr. Rauch noted that they are talking to all property owners in and around the area.

Beulah Park Amphitheatre

Mr. Mike Keller, EMH&T, said he is working on Phase 2 of this project. The City received a proposal on the Amphitheater, but is still considering what the programming will be – which will determine the size and amenities needed. Mr. Berry asked when this can be presented at a Council meeting. Mayor Stage explained that the Consultant is well versed on bringing design with programming. He said once that is compiled, they will bring it before Council. Mr. Keller said Phase 1 is underway, and they are working on Phase 2, which includes the design of West Pavilion, restrooms, Finish Line Pavilion, playground area and Pickleball courts. Mayor Stage said he hopes to have most done in 2023, excluding the Amphitheatre.

Town Center Parks

Mayor Stage said they are trying to tip-toe into the old library site to see how everything around it interfaces. He said events have worked there, so they are not ready to move dirt. They may add shade areas and a bigger stage this year. He explained that there are events planned for every week/month this year. Mr. Berry asked the Mayor if there had been any thought of leveling the lot on the East side of Arbutus Ave. Mayor Stage answered no. Mr. Schottke then suggested a Merry-Go-Round, bubble pad and an ice skating rink over the bubble pad - all to make it an area for children as well. Mayor Stage said according to the surveys, there is no energy for a carousel, but they did generate energy with the concerts last year.

Town Center Framework (Masterplan)

Mayor Stage said the Town Center Framework is an ongoing project that was just updated last year. There were no further comments.

Police

Mr. Holt said this came up in the budget meeting and with the retirement of the Chief, Mr. Teaford has asked for more time before updating Council. He said he and Mr. Sigrist will be meeting with him in the next few weeks. He said he wants to make sure we have enough resources to do the job for the community. Mayor Stage said they are doing what needs to be done and the community is adequately covered. He said he wants to be smarter and more efficient in policing. Mr. Holt said he wants to make sure we have enough officers for our population and doesn't want to get behind.

Fireworks Code Change

Mr. Smith, Law Dir., said the State made some amendments that we must now comply with. He said it will get updated with the next codification.

Solar Panel Legislation

Ms. Kelly, Clerk of Council, said she was asked to draft legislation for Solar Panels which she did, based off of other communities. Ms. Shields said they also have something on this in the new zoning code proposal. Mr. Berry asked Ms. Kelly to send the Draft to all Council Members and the Mayor.

Rodent Issues

Mr. Sigrist expressed that while campaigning, he heard there was an issue with rodents. Mayor Stage explained the process in place with the Code Enforcement Officer, who handles these issues. Mr. Sigrist said he wants to make people aware of what to do. Ms. Houk suggested we add some information and awareness to residents about how to prevent rodents to our website.

Feasibility of Alcohol in Eagle Pavilion.

Mr. Sigrist said he felt this should be looked at to enhance Eagle Pavilion and perhaps the new Beulah Pavilion. He said he knows Westerville has a program for one of their facilities that we could review. Mr. Smith said he has done this for several communities and he would draft something up for Council to look at.

Stormwater Infrastructure

Mr. Berry said they need to have a Stormwater Plan Presentation. Mayor Stage suggested placing a presentation on regular meeting of Council that has a short agenda.

Beautification along I-71

Mayor Stage went over all the areas along I-71 that they are looking at, including islands by Roosters, islands on Marlane Dr., and the Old Days Inn landscape design and easement. He said he has met with ODOT about cleaning up the corridor, which starts at the Greenlawn exit on I-71 and goes south to the Zuber Road exit. He said that SWACO is looking at a machine to clean up litter. He said this is on the radar.

Beautification along Southwest Boulevard

Mr. Berry asked if the ditch on Southwest Boulevard could be improved and beautified. Mr. Keller said it will be \$9 million to enclose it. Mr. Berry asked if it is possible to beautify it but leave it open. Mr. Keller said that the Beulah Park developer has some responsibility to assist with that, and they will look into it. Mayor Stage noted that they are also working on the Park Street corridor with the developer of Beulah subdivision.

Sidewalk Program.

It was decided not to change the Program at this time. The focus will be on areas with safety concerns.

Backup of Traffic at I-270 E and Rt. 62.

Council discussed this issue and it was noted that ODOT controls the ramps and the lights at those ramps.

Bike Paths.

Mr. Berry said he would like to come up with new concepts for bike path connections to Darby and Columbus. Mr. Rauch said that a few years ago, they spoke with ODOT and the City of Columbus about our intentions to move paths north. Mr. Berry said he wants to plan a meeting soon to come up with ideas and advocate for this plan. Mayor Stage noted that we are an engaged partner with Rapid5. Mr. Berry and Ms. Houk will work on this.

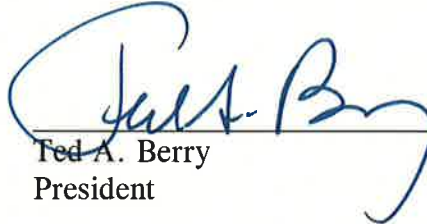
Increase participation in Adopt-a-Street and the Annual Spring Clean-Up

Ms. Kelly stated that Ms. Linda Rosine, coordinator for these programs, asked that she inform Council that the Committees for these programs have addressed this issue and have a plan in place for the year.

2. After closing comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.
3. Council adjourned at 10:31 a.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
President