

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

January 26, 2019

Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Robinette at 8:10 a.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. Robinette explained that this is a meeting to review general ideas and perhaps get a consensus of items that are to be completed in 2019.

- a. Creating a 2050 Monitoring Committee.

Mayor Stage said they have a Draft to complete that Committee. He passed out that Draft. Mr. Rauch said the former 2050 Committee gets together a few times a year. They plan on finalizing this new committee when Ms. Shields gets back from Maternity Leave in April.

- b. Review and Prioritize the Thoroughfare Plan.

Mr. Robinette said with many of the new developments coming in, residents are complaining about the traffic and roads. Mayor Stage said that Plan is adopted by Council. He said they have been trying to blend the 2050 Plan with the Thoroughfare Plan. He said that could be updated and sent to Council for their comments and then submitted for adoption.

Mr. Schottke asked about making sure State Routes are annexed with properties so we have some control. Ms. Fitzpatrick said they had a meeting with ODOT last week and updated Council on that discussion. She said we need to weigh bringing the State Routes as annexations come up, as some of those State Routes need pavement repair and a lot of maintenance. Ms. Houk said she spoke to ODOT and they proposed having quarterly discussions in this corridor.

Mr. Berry asked about extending Holton Road to open up a corridor for development. Mr. Rauch said they do have that on the radar. Council and the Mayor discussed the vision for road improvements. Mr. Boso noted that many of the major road projects are done because of our partnerships with developers. Mayor Stage said they would have a new Thoroughfare Plan map to Council in April. If Council has suggestions he asked them to get those to him soon.

- c. Feasibility Study for Convention Venue.

Mr. Robinette said the CVB is interested in exploring this. Right now we can only handle about 300 people. They wonder if we could handle a 1,000 person facility. This could be a niche to keep our hotel/motel beds filled. Mayor Stage said the CVB should do the Study and see what it says. He noted that the Rich Street Project in Dublin is already working on that niche. Mr. Schottke said he would be supportive if this is a private development.

- d. Finalize Beulah Park Development Agreement.

Mr. Boso said he provided Council with a Draft in December. They did have a meeting with the Developer last week. He said Mr. Schottke has come in to discuss that Draft. He asked Council to get him their comments in the next couple of weeks. He hopes to get it finalized in the next month or so.

- e. Finalize Town Center Development Plan to align with Beulah entryway and GC2050.

Mayor Stage said it seems like the question is the alignment with the Beulah Park entryway

being the Plaza. He asked if that means we have all agreed with the Framework that has been done. Mr. Robinette said he would like for the Framework to be agreed to, but that doesn't stand alone. He feels the whole look of the Town Center should be agreed to in terms of residential, green space, etc. Mayor Stage said maybe its time to advance the Framework. He said he came to realize that the extension of Columbus Street is not just going to the railroad track, it is a connection all the way to Southwest Blvd. The Beulah development wants to get started in March and the commitment to be connected to the railroad track is under discussion. Mr. Boso said this is on target to be done in this Fiscal Year. Mayor Stage noted that they are in the running for the 2020 Parade of Homes.

f. Redefine Sidewalk Program.

Mayor Stage said the Program that the Administration put forward is done. Right now, there is no program. The number of sidewalks that were upgraded outweighed the number of complaints the City received. He said if we want to define a new area, then we can start it up again and do the same thing we did before.

Mr. Robinette said perhaps this is the time to say it is the Property Owner's responsibility and have a fund for indigent owners. As we grow, we can't sustain the old program. Mr. Schottke said we should look at this holistically. Mr. Robinette asked what the compliance is when we send a homeowner a letter. Ms. Fitzpatrick said none. People would rather wait for the City to do it for them and place it on their tax duplicate. Mr. Robinette asked Mr. Berry to work with Ms. Fitzpatrick to bring back some options since this is part of Service. Ms. Fitzpatrick said it comes down to how much the City wants to put toward it. She said the only way to get sidewalks improved is to provide an incentive to property owners. Mr. Boso said the question is – does the City want to contribute to sidewalk repair – because the average price for sidewalk repair is \$3,600.00. It was requested that Mr. Berry bring back several options.

g. Conduct Facility Needs Study for City Buildings.

Mr. Boso said they have done a Space Study for City Hall & Police Station. He said he would take that on to update and expand it to other buildings.

h. Review Capital Improvements (3rd Quarter).

Mr. Robinette said he would like a constant review of Capital Improvements and a have look in 3rd Quarter. Mayor Stage said that is what they do.

i. Citizen Financial Review Taskforce.

Ms. Houk said this would be defined by Council to review items like: what are pros & cons for increasing income tax or not giving full credit; what are our revenue needs; what are our capital needs. She said it would put community energy around some of these issues. She asked if the Administration had an appetite for this. It would be like a Financial 2050. Mr. Schottke said he likes the idea, as well as Mr. Robinette. Ms. Houk will Draft a Plan for review. Mayor Stage said we do this to a degree. He said it will need to have good definition.

j. Formalize the City Opioid Action Plan.

Ms. Houk said we have many pieces in place. She feels it would be great if we could pull all parties together and formalize those pieces into a Plan. Mr. Davis said he could take that on. Mayor Stage said the reality is we are part of a bigger entity. This is going to be a trickle down from the State and County requirements, to a degree.

k. Develop a City Energy Sustainability Policy.

Mr. Berry said there are many things the City is already working on. He said Dublin has theirs packaged nicely. He said the City had an Energy Audit done. It may be time to update

that report. He said he would like to form a Sustainable Committee with Keep Grove City Beautiful. He passed out a list of items that are already done and some that Ms. Conrad is working on. Mr. Berry said he also has a draft ordinance on Electric Vehicle Charging Stations for Council to review. Mr. Berry said he is ready to take this on and bring back suggestions to Council, under Service. It was pointed out that we don't purchase many new cars. We also recycle vehicles between departments, but there is an opportunity to purchase a few.

Mr. Robinette said items 11-20 are from the Mayor's Budget. He asked the Mayor to address these items. Mayor Stage said all those items are being handled. He said they are still pursuing a place for a Higher Education facility. Mr. Robinette said he is supportive of the facility. Discussion took place over this idea. Ms. Houk said she isn't sure that a facility is a gold standard since classes can be taken on-line. Mayor Stage said the Community Survey from two years ago said they wanted one. Mr. Davis said if the market is there, it will come. Mayor Stage said the specialty trade is where the current need is and they are working on this with Columbus State and our businesses. It was suggested that we work to include more for a Trade tract, besides the collegiate track. Mr. Berry and Mr. Schottke will work on this with the Higher Ed. Committee.

l. Little Theater Off Broadway.

Mayor Stage said even though this is privately owned, there has been some discussion started on how to maintain it. Mr. Robinette said there have been some discussions on expanding all the arts for the community. Mr. Davis asked why the CVB is not helping with this in some way. The Theater is a draw and he feels they should be involved. It was agreed that this needs to continue to be explored.

m. Senior Services.

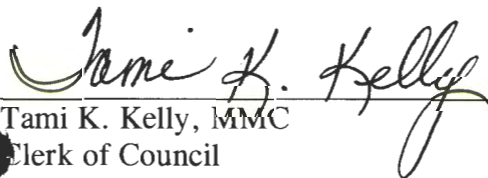
Mr. Berry said he has been working with the Mayor for transportation services. Mayor Stage said it is on the radar. Mr. Berry said the additional question is what happens after hours and on the weekends. Ms. Conrad said they have been looking at ride-share program (First Mile/Last Mile).

o. Miscellaneous.

Mr. Robinette said we might want to take another look at medical marijuana and what we allow or not allow. Mayor Stage commented that the Administration is working on the Service Dept.; the Zoning Code; and the Concierge Program. He said they will send the Concierge Program to all of Council. There will also be some changes to Section 161 to account for transitionary levels and some clean up measures.

2. It was decided that in order to make sure we are progressing on these issues, Council will either meet again in a few months or Ms. Kelly will work w/ President Robinette to keep track of these issues.
3. After closing comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 10:50 a.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Steven R. Robinette
President