

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

Sept. 18, 2023

Regular Meeting

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

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke Mark Sigrist Ted Berry Randy Holt Christine Houk

1. The Chair recognized Mayor Stage who presented a Proclamation to Friends of Faith Pruden Foundation, for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.
2. 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-22-23 (Accept the annexation of 98.7+ acres located north and South of Rensch Road in Jackson Township to the City of Grove City) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Glen Dugger, attorney for petitioner, stated that he wished to defend his integrity and has taken great offence to being accused of fraud on Sept. 05, 2023. He said the fact is this: Pastor Chad did own the property when the application was filed with the Franklin County Commissioners. He said the closing of the sale of that property happened two days later on March 10 and provided a copy of the paperwork. He said if someone tells Council something different, they should not be listened to. He said he is happy to answer questions of Council on this petition.

Ms. Houk asked if there would have been a responsibility to disclose the annexation to the new owners of the church. Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, stated that the application followed the law. As for any disclosure, we have no idea. The County and Council had full discretion in determining if they wish to accept this annexation petition.

Mr. Schottke asked if the church could de-annex if the petition was approved. Mr. Smith said theoretically, yes. The church could detach from the city, but there are three factors that need met before a detachment would be permitted. Mr. Schottke asked if a detachment were granted, would the rest of the property be allowed to remain in the city. Mr. Smith said yes, but said he believes that a detachment that creates an island, like this, would be looked at problematically from the County's perspective.

Ms. Christi McClellan, Rensch Rd., stated that the letter from the church said it closed on March 3. She said she wasn't being derogatory toward Mr. Dugger, she was going off the information she had. She wonders why we are all here and annexing a property that the church doesn't want. She is concerned with what will happen on the property if it is annexed.

Mr. Brian Weaver stated that he is a former member of Freedom Christian Church and they knew about the annexation well before March 8. He asked if the wells would be tested and if the tap fees would be waived in an attempt to cover up contaminated water.

Mr. Greg Gottemiller, Rensch Rd., asked if we know what the property is going to be used for. He feels that this is relevant to the annexation because the church indicated that they did not want to be

close to a data center. They would rather be near housing. He feels this is why there is some confusion. He asked if all members received a copy of the request to withdraw from the annexation from the church.

Mr. Schottke noted that the property will come in as SF-1, single family residential. He then asked if there was any representative from the Church present. He said he has never seen a spokesman from the church at any of the Council meetings. He said he hopes they feel welcome to come in and speak to Council.

Mr. Dugger, attorney for petitioner, explained that when he learned from Pastor Chad that they may sell the property, he asked who the buyer was being represented by. He said that representative was Russell Cunningham, attorney for buyer. He said they had several conversations about this annexation and the new church went into this transaction with eyes wide open.

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

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	No
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Ms. Houk	No

2. Ordinance C-38-23 (Accept the Plat of Farmstead, Phase 10, located West of S.R. 104) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 10/02/23.
3. Resolution CR-36-23 (Set forth, as required by Section 709.023 of the Ohio Revised Code, the municipal services that can be furnished to 0.505+ acres located at 2304 White Rd., upon its annexation to the city) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Teaford, Dir. of Safety, reported that Mr. Boso, Chief Building and Zoning Official, inspected this property and it meets City Code with respect to property issues.

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

Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

The Chair recognized Ms. Houk, Chairman of Service, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Resolution CR-37-23 (Appoint Joey Hoffman to the Grove City Higher Education Investment Program Committee) was given its reading and public hearing and with no comments, Ms. Houk moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Holt.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes

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

1. Ordinance C-37-23 (Authorize the City Administrator to enter into an Agreement with Pure Storage Inc.) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Holt explained the agreement is for the IT Department.

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

Mr. Holt	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

2. Ordinance C-39-23 (Appropriate \$250,000.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of matching a Grant from Google for the Expansion of the Buckeye Ranch) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 10/02/23.
3. Resolution CR-38-23 (Appoint Members to the Beulah Park New Community Authority) was given its reading and public hearing and with no comments, Mr. Holt moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes

4. Resolution CR-39-23 (Accepting the Amounts and Rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary Tax Levies and certifying them to the County Auditor) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Holt explained that this sets the city property taxes for next year and for the 35th year in a row, there will be no increase for the city portion of the tax bill.

Mr. Sigrist asked how much of the property tax bill is truly the city's portion. Mr. Boso, City Admin., shared the breakdown on where the full amount goes, on a \$300,000.00 home. The city's portion is \$311.00 per year.

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

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes

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

1. President Berry recognized members of the Diversity Task Force for a presentation and report.

Ms. Miracle Reynolds, Chair, recognized the members of the Task Force and shared a presentation that highlighted items of the Year One report that was submitted to Council prior to the meeting. She read the Mission statement and the Value statement. She explained that the Task Force members created definitions for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, as they relate to Grove City. She reviewed the tasks outlined in Resolution CR-06-22 and shared how they addressed some of those tasks. She shared how they will work to complete the remaining tasks. She said they are requesting an amendment to the resolution in order to accommodate current and future members to the Task Force. She said they are looking forward to capitalizing on the momentum that was started, to advance their journey of this work. Their aspiration is to make Grove City the best place to live for everyone. She thanked Council for having the motivation and vision that provided the platform to do this work. They look forward to a productive year two.

Members of Council and Mayor Stage expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the members; their report; and what they will share in the future.

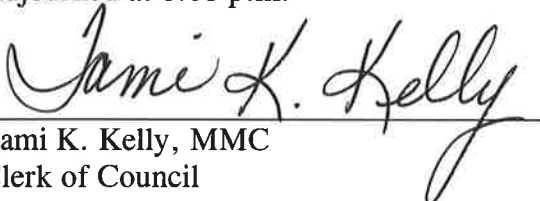
2. Ms. Christi McClellan, Rensch Rd., stated that month after month several of them have been sharing their concerns over the annexation on Rensch Road. She said Mr. Dugger has a job of representing the Trapp family. She asked why some Council Members didn't trust her or the church and didn't hear the residents of Rensch Road.
3. Mr. Brian Weaver said he finds it hypocritical and ironic about the discussion of data centers. He said the electricity was increased to the AEP substation to accommodate a data center. He thanked the Mayor for attending the 60th anniversary of the Nazarene Church and hopes he heard the word of God and what He says about hypocrisy. He mentioned harassment, cybersecurity and missing records. He believes the Diversity Task Force was a dog and pony show about harassment.

Mr. Smith commented that there was an allegation of harassment and before there was a written report, an investigation was conducted because those issues are taken seriously. He said he finds it ironic that Mr. Weaver quotes NY Times v Sullivan, because that is the statute that refrains the City from suing Mr. Weaver for defamation of character. He said these claims are all wrong and if someone as questions, he would be happy to discuss it with them outside the meeting.

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

1. Mayor Stage reported that the 60th anniversary of the Nazarene church was interesting in that they went through a history of their church and mentioned that they have the largest move-forward organization here in Grove City. He noted that the church is working on a new vision for their campus. He also said Arts-in-the Alley was a success and the amphitheater was dedicated. He mentioned the G.C. Higher Education Investment Program, which is eight years old, and is quite a useful tool for the city. He thanked those who serve on this committee.
2. After closing comments from Council and Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 8:08 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Ted A. Berry
President

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL CAUCUS NOTES

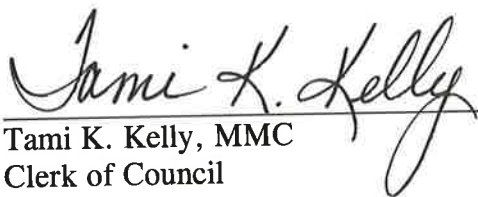
September 18, 2023

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

Council Members reviewed the Agenda items.

Ms. Rowe, Asst. to Clerk of Council, submitted a liquor permit request, which Council had no objection to. It will be marked as "not requesting a hearing" and returned it to Liquor Control.

Council retired to the Chambers to begin the Regular meeting.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Ted A. Berry
President of Council