

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

February 05, 2024

Regular Meeting

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

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Jodi Burroughs, Melissa Anderson, Mark Sigrist, Christine Houk, Randy Holt, Ted Berry, Rodney Dew

1. Ms. Houk moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, as written; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Dew	Yes

2. The Chair read the agenda items and they were approved by unanimous consent.

The Chair recognized Ms. Burroughs, Chair of Lands, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-02-24 (Accept the annexation of 59.743+ acres located South and East of Thrailkill Road in Jackson Township to the City) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Craig Moncrief, attorney for petitioner, explained that there are no plans for this property and no changes to its current use at this time. He said the west side of SR104 is open storage and the east side is a single-family home.

Mr. Holt stated that any development of these parcels would require them to come into compliance with City Code. Mr. Moncrief stated that they were aware and understood.

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

Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Dew	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes

2. Ordinance C-03-24 (Approve a Special Use Permit for Outdoor Seating for Upper Deck Sports Bar located at 4067 Hoover Road) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Trent Willis, petitioner, was present to answer any questions.

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

Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Dew	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes

The Chair recognized Ms. Anderson, Chair of Safety, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-50-23 (Amend Various Sections Chapter 732 titled Medical Marijuana and Section 1135.09(b)(15) titled Cultivation, Processing, or Retail Dispensing of Medical Marijuana Prohibited in All Districts and declaring an emergency) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Dr. Marie Schiff, resident, read a statement where she shared that Ohio is the 24th State to legalize recreational use of marijuana with a 57% majority. She said this statute obligates legislators to determine the best way to enact the rules and regulations for the best interest of their community. She said research shows that marijuana is a gateway drug that leads to the addition of more harmful substances. She said we do not want unregulated sales that we cannot enforce. She said it would be a disaster for the city to have people buying property and setting up businesses when there isn't clarity from the State on the rules and regulations. She asked that Council place a moratorium on marijuana until the State's ground rules and regulations are determined.

Mr. Stephen Smith, Dir. of Law, stated that the City finds itself in a unique situation. He explained that Issue 2 was passed as a law and not a constitutional amendment. That means that the State Legislature can make amendments to the law, which there are many Bills attempting to do that now. He said if Council was being asked to evaluate what the voters put in place that would be easy. However, the State House has not provided clear rules and regulations for this Issue yet. He stated that the amendments to the Ordinance can be changed at any time the Council feels is appropriate. This would treat recreational marijuana the same as medical until the State figures things out.

Ms. Houk stated that she cannot deny that her work with the Substance Use Task Force has left a mark and feels it should be part of Council's decision making. She said wanting to have a healthy community has its challenges. She also stated that we do not know the rules today. It is Council's charge to do what is best for Grove City when they know the rules for businesses. The legalization of marijuana has already been decided and other conversations have taken place around how to handle this change. She said she feels that until we know the path forward, they put a bookmark in this.

Mr. Holt moved to postpone this ordinance until July 15; seconded by Mr. Sigrist.

Mayor Stage said they went through this same exercise in 2016 and waited a year for the State to provide rules on medical marijuana. Finally, Council took the initiative to put a permanent medical marijuana prohibition in place. This ordinance is a mini net for recreational. He said it has been 6.5 years for medical and we do not have anyone knocking down the doors to locate here. He said he does not see what postponement buys us. He also suggested removing the emergency clause and adding a drop-dead date of February 2025 to automatically expire this ordinance.

Mr. Berry said he doesn't think the postponement will do any good. He said the State Legislature has

put every municipality in a bad position. He said legislating morality is nonsense. He said if we allow a business to put something into play now, it could be changed later. He feels it should be voted on now.

Mr. Holt said he bases his opinion on what the residents express to him. In addition, he doesn't want to take Grove City out of the running for the social equity and jobs programs. By putting a moratorium on this now, those businesses will look elsewhere, and he does not want to send that signal.

Mr. Sigrist said he believes residents know it is o.k. to consume marijuana now and if we put another layer of regulations in place, it would be seen as subverting the will of the people.

Ms. Houk said her constituents have a million questions and we don't have answers to those questions. She said Council has no business green lighting this until we have answers to those questions.

Mr. Berry asked what this ordinance does. He asked if people can grow it, sell it, use it, etc. Mr. Smith stated that this ordinance deals with everything that requires a license from the State. This would put a hold on those in Grove City. Mr. Berry said he thought the State has put a hold on all this right now. Mr. Smith said everything is up in the air at the State House right now. He said if they were implementing the regulatory scheme, we could figure this out. However, they are looking at making wholesale, substantive changes to what was voted on. That is why we are asking for a hold. *Mayor Stage* said the reason for doing this now is because we are a large community and he wants to go on record that we are frustrated and want direction from the State.

There being no additional questions, the vote to postpone was called.

Ms. Houk	No
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	No
Mr. Dew	No
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Ms. Anderson	No
Mr. Sigrist	Yes

Ms. Anderson moved to amend Section 3 to replace the emergency language with the normal language for the effective date of the ordinance; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Dew	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes

Ms. Houk moved to amend Section 3 to state that this ordinance shall automatically expire on 03/21/25 and the language in Section 3 shall become Section 4; seconded by Ms. Anderson.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Dew	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	No
Ms. Anderson	No

Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes

There being no additional questions or comments, Ms. Anderson moved it be approved, as amended; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Mr. Dew	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	No
Ms. Anderson	No
Mr. Sigrist	No
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	No
Mr. Berry	No

- Ordinance C-05-24 (Amend Various Sections of Chapter 521 and 903 of the Codified Ordinances to Prohibit Vaping in Public Buildings and Parks) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on February 20, 2024.

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

- Ordinance C-06-24 (Amend Various Sections of Chapter 161 of the Codified Ordinances titled Employment Provisions for City Employees) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on February 20, 2024.

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

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

- Mayor Stage commented that if Council feels so strongly about marijuana, he suggested one of them putting forward legislation to rescind the medical marijuana statutes. He then submitted the Monthly Mayor's Report and Ms. Houk moved to accept same; seconded by Ms. Burroughs.

Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Sigrist	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Dew	Yes

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

Adjourned at 7:53 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Christine Houk
President of Council

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL CAUCUS NOTES

February 05, 2024

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

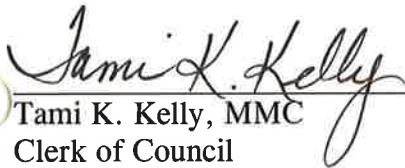
Ms. Kelly, Clerk of Council, asked about the new liquor permit request for Mi Tradicion 4 LLC located at 3131 Broadway. There being no objections, Ms. Kelly said she would mark it accordingly and submit to Liquor Control.

Ms. Kelly passed out the Emergency Management & Operations Manual and Mr. Vedra, Deputy City Admin., provided a quick overview.

Ms. Kelly passed out the written comments and information sheet from Dr. Marie Schiff about Ord. C-50-23 – recreational marijuana.

Council Members reviewed the Agenda items.

Council retired to the Chambers to begin the Regular meeting.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Christine Houk
President of Council