

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

May 13, 2024

Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Houk at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, 4035 Broadway – Lower Level.

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 introduced Ms. Judith Zimomra, Facilitator and OSU Professor at the John Glen College of Public Affairs, for the session.

Ms. Zimomra shared information on the different forms of government. She shared statistics about Grove City's growth in the State, County, and within Franklin County – citing that Grove City has the greatest population and most area for future growth. She shared governmental options and noted that according to the National League of Cities, there is less distinction between Mayor/Council and City Manager forms of government. The more common practice is to incorporate best practices of structural features. She then opened it up for Council questions and comments.

Council discussed these types and whether any would be a better fit for Grove City.

Mr. Sigrist said he doesn't feel we have a good cadence for business planning. He said he doesn't know if this needs a change of government, but there are some things that could be improved. In today's environment, if the Mayor says "no" then it seems like it all stops.

Ms. Houk said she felt like the last Charter Review Committee focused more on boards/commissions rather than changing the form of government.

Mr. Berry said the appointment of boards/commissions has always been an issue for him. He said those and the Directors of Departments could be confirmed by Council. He said there isn't a lot of collaboration built in to the current structure.

Mr. Holt said he believes there is an inherent conflict of interest with an elected Mayor, as he will have an interest in what those who support him want. He thinks the Mayor will have priorities based on what his supporters want and has more power than Council does, to get those done. He feels a change would take the Mayor out of the position of doing things for their own future good and not necessarily doing things for the whole good.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, commented that he serves municipalities with all different forms of government. What Council is highlighting as concerns are strengths of Grove City. He said there will be conflict no matter who appoints people to positions because people have their own ideas and do what they want. He said Grove City has the ultimate check & balance system with their current form of government because everything lands in Council's lap. Council controls the budget and in terms of employees – Council sets the positions, the salary ranges and the strength of staffing.

Ms. Houk shared concern over an elected official and the way that they get to wield their power, as Mayor. She said one elected official, who really isn't any different than the rest of the elected officials, who gets put into a position where Boards and Commissions are somewhat beholden to

that one person; and a considerable number of the staff are beholden to that position. She said she wonders about the overall culture that is created by that environment and the ability to really operate like a business. She said while there is still a flaw with a City Manager form, that City Manager needs support from four (4) council members which is better than one (1) elected person calling all those shots. She said we have been fortunate in the way that has played out, but what about the next person.

Ms. Anderson asked if any municipalities have term limits. Ms. Zimomra said not in Ohio. It goes back to the electorate. She said those working for the municipality always give ideas for the betterment of the city, but they have a close-up view. The questions is: what does the community think. Ms. Anderson said it was interesting to hear about the trends and a hybrid-type approach. She said he thinks they all want to make sure we are setting up the City for the future. She said we are approaching an interesting time, where we have had the same person in office for so many years that if a new person comes in they could change a lot of people and running on their own issues. She wants to know how Council can be effective. It may be time to look at if we want to move forward in the same way.

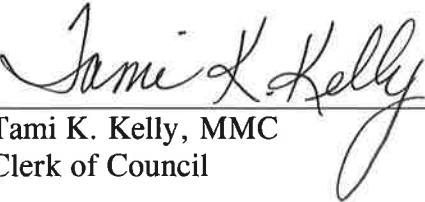
Council shared their thoughts over the current form of government and the potential for new directors and leadership positions coming up. They questioned if this is the time to look at changing the government structure since many positions may be turning over. They discussed being efficient and effective as well as having more consensus, with a full picture of the issues as they go along, between Council and Administration. They reiterated wanting more of a business model and having more effectiveness/consensus building on running the government.

Next steps:

Council agreed to list their issues/concerns, with what changes they would like to see in the Charter. Each Council Member is to send their list to Ms. Kelly within one week. It was suggested to add this to the June 10 meeting as a second topic to review those items and see how best to address the items.

Council will decide if they want to form a Charter Review Commission or if Council will adopt ordinances to send questions to the voters themselves.

Adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Christine Mouk
President of Council

City of Grove City Form of Government Workshop

May 13, 2024

Judith Ann Zimomra, J.D., M.P.A

Workshop Agenda

- ✓ Opening Comments
- ✓ Foundational Factoids
- ✓ Local Landscape
- ✓ Open Discussion
- ✓ Next Steps

Disclaimer

My role today is as an unbiased facilitator providing a framework for the discussion on next steps as the Council continues strategic planning. I am not providing legal advice nor financial advice to the Council. All legal questions should be referred to the City's Law Director.

Grove City Factoids

✓ As of 2024, Grove City is
the 29th largest City in
Ohio based upon on
population

(of 931 municipalities – 247 cities & 684 villages)

Grove City Factoid

- ✓ Of the 30 largest Ohio cities, as of 2024, 10 are experiencing population growth (2020 to 2024)
- ✓ Of those 10, 2 are experiencing growth population greater than 1%, 2020 to 2024, Grove City (1.09%) and City of Delaware (2.45%)

Grove City Factoid

- ✓ Of the 16 cities located in Franklin County, 8 increased population 2020 to 2024
(Canal Winchester, Columbus, Grandview Heights, **Grove City**, Hillard, New Albany, Pickerington & Reynoldsburg)

Grove City Factoid

Of the 8 Franklin County cities with
population increase 2020 to 2024,

4 exceeded 1% growth

✓ Pickerington +2.51%

✓ Canal Winchester +2.4%

✓ Grandview Heights +2.2%

✓ **Grove City +1.09%**

Final Factoid

Of the 4 Franklin County cities
increasing population greater than
1% Grove City has the greatest
population & MOST AREA FOR
FUTURE GROWTH



Governmental Structure Options

Ohio is a Home Rule State

Cities have the authority to adopt laws to govern as the City sees fit, as long as consistent with State and Federal constitutions and laws (NOT pre-empted)

First Two Options

- ✓ **Statutory (ORC)**
- ✓ **Non-statutory**
(Electorate Approved
Charter)

Statutory Form of Government

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- ✓ Described in Ohio Revised Code Title 7
- ✓ The form of government of municipalities if the electorate has **NOT** adopted by vote on of the other forms of government
- ✓ Elected Mayor, Auditor, Treasurer, Law Director & Council
- ✓ All 16 Franklin County cities are Charter Cities

Basic Forms of Charter Governed Cities

- ✓ Mayor-Council Form
- ✓ Council-Manager Form
- ✓ Commission-Manager Form

Franklin County
Cities
Mayor-Council

- ✓ Bexley
- ✓ Canal Winchester
- ✓ Columbus
- ✓ Gahanna
- ✓ Grandview Heights
- ✓ Groveport
- ✓ **Grove City**
- ✓ Reynoldsburg
- ✓ Whitehall

Franklin County
Cities
Council-Manager

- ✓ Dublin
- ✓ Hilliard
- ✓ New Albany
- ✓ Pickerington
- ✓ Upper Arlington
- ✓ Westerville
- ✓ Worthington

Title 7 Ohio Revised Code Municipal Corporations

Chapter 705 ORC

Plans of Governments

Important to Note
the Final Decision on Form
of Government
Rests with the
City's Electorate

Mayor- Commission Plan ORC 705.41

- ✓ Mayor-Commission Plan is used nationally in approximately 3% of cities
- ✓ Most common in the early 1900s
- ✓ Dayton and Springfield are Ohio Commission Forms of Government

City Manager Plan ORC 705.51

Council Duties:

- ✓ Pass Ordinances
- ✓ Adopt Resolutions
- ✓ Appoint the City manager
- ✓ Approve City Manager Appointments with ORC exceptions
- ✓ Fix All Employee Salaries
- ✓ Appoint the Civil Service Commission, Board and Commissions

City Manager
Plan
ORC 705.58

- ✓ Council Appoints the City manager
- ✓ City Manager Serves at Council's Pleasure

City Manager Plan ORC 705.59

Duties of City Manager:

- ✓ Executes the Law & Ordinances
- ✓ Attend all Council Meetings as Required
- ✓ Recommend Measures to Council for Adoption
- ✓ Appoint all Classified Employees, consistent with the ORC
- ✓ Prepare & Submit to Council all Required Reports
- ✓ Keep Council Advised of Current Conditions & Future Financial Needs
- ✓ Submit Tentative Budget to Council
- ✓ Perform other Duties as Determined by Council
- ✓ Signs all Contracts & Bonds

Per the National League of Cities:

- ✓ Less distinction between the forms then there once was
- ✓ More common practice to incorporate "Best Practices" of structural features



Trends

Trends

Per the National League of Cities 3 Most Common

Changes:

- ✓ Increasing or Decreasing number on Council
- ✓ Modifying Method of Electing/Appointment Mayor
- ✓ Modifying Mayoral Authority

Discussion

Franklin County
Cities
Council-Manager

- ✓ Dublin
- ✓ Hilliard
- ✓ New Albany
- ✓ Pickerington
- ✓ Upper Arlington
- ✓ Westerville
- ✓ Worthington



Next Steps

Facilitator Contact

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