

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

May 20, 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. Burroughs moved to excuse Mr. Berry; seconded by Mr. Dew.

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

2. Ms. Houk moved to approve the minutes of the previous two meetings and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Holt.

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

3. Ms. Houk recognized Mayor Stage who administered the Oath of Office to Officer Cindi Fitzpatrick as Deputy City Administrator. He then presented a proclamation for Public Works Week.

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

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

1. Ordinance C-21-24 (Amend various Sections of the Codified Ordinances to Increase the Penalties for Distracted Driving and Violations in a Crosswalk that result in harm to pedestrians) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Ms. Anderson explained that this ordinance needs to state throughout “person” rather than “pedestrian”.

Ms. Anderson moved that “pedestrian” be changed to “person” throughout the ordinance; seconded by Ms. Houk.

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

Ms. Sharon Montgomery voiced support for the ordinance. She believes that this will have far reaching benefits as a deterrent, and show support for victims and their families. She said she hopes this encourages other communities for increasing their penalties.

Ms. Sandra Hooker, resident, thanked Council for this ordinance and voiced support. She said this speaks loud to motorists who are distracted drivers. She asked that paralysis be included with death. She said she would also like to see this reviewed in six (6) months to see how effective it has been. Ultimately, she would like to see this be a criminal offence for someone who has had a catastrophic injury or loss of life.

Mr. Holt said he would be following up in six months to a year to make sure the courts are enforcing the statue as intended. He said after that review, Council can look at any additional changes that may be needed.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, stated that the law only provided for a minor misdemeanor and this change takes it up to Misdemeanor 2 for physical harm and Misdemeanor 1 for cases of death. He said by using the term “physical harm” instead of “serious bodily harm”, it expands the protection of persons, which would include paralysis. He said they reserved an M1 for cases of death. He said unless there is alcohol involved, there is no way to get to a felony under Ohio law. This is the highest we can go.

Mayor Stage stated that the City is taking a two-prong approach, with looking at the crosswalks and properly marking them, along with this new ordinance. He said the City’s job is to keep residents safe and make sure that these incidences don’t happen.

Mr. Teaford, Dir. of Safety, said they are working on preventative measures and conducting safety audits throughout the city. He said they will be educating the public through social media and enforcement and recommend any adjustments from the information of the audits.

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

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

2. Ordinance C-23-24 (Enact Section 351.21 of the Codified Ordinances titled Parking Direction) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on June 03, 2024.

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

1. Ordinance C-22-24 (Appropriate \$250,000.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of Gantz Park Recschool Center Construction) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Sigrist explained that all the bids were higher than the architects estimate and this is the additional amount needed to complete the project.

Mr. Boso, City Admin., stated that the architect and contractor said higher bids were a result of this being a small project, due to all the other construction happening in Central Ohio. He said every trade came in higher than expected.

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

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

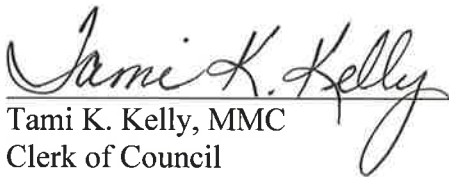
The Chair asked that any new business to be brought before the attention of Council be done so at this time.

1. Mr. Vedra, Deputy City Admin., introduced Mr. Phillip Freeman, Teacher from Grove City High School, who explained that after taking part in the focus group for the City's new website, he assigned a project to his students to create an app that residents could use to access all city resources in one location. He said another teacher has picked this up for next year so that it can be finalized and implemented for little cost. Three (3) of his students (Andrew Skibiski, Jordyn Sterling & Luke Baumgartner) presented their concepts. Council thanked the students for their great work and Mr. Sigrist said he looks forward to the day when the app can be used by the public to send concerns to the right areas of the city.

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

1. Mayor Stage reported on last week's events, noting that \$11,000 was raised at the Mayor's Cup Golf Outing for meals-on-wheels; he announced the Boy Scout Breakfast; Hawthorne Parkway extension is being worked on; the Beulah Park Arch will be getting underway soon; he is finalizing offers on the Public Information Officer, Parks & Rec. Director and Service Director positions.
2. Mr. Hurley shared that they are in the property acquisition stage of the Cell Tower coverage initiative. He said once sites are identified and providers are engaged, we may see a new tower in 2025.
3. After closing comments from Council and Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 8:13 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Christine Houk
President of Council

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL CAUCUS NOTES

May 20, 2024

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

Ms. Kelly submitted a liquor permit for the American Legion. Council had no objection.

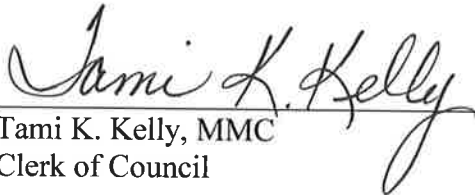
Ms. Kelly reported on a webinar that she sat in on today concerning Adult Cannabis with the Ohio Municipal League and the Ohio Township Association. Once the recording is sent, she will forward it to Council for their review.

Council Members reviewed the Agenda items.

Ms. Houk reminded Council of their homework to get Ms. Kelly their list of items concerning the Charter by Friday. If they have no suggestions or changes, let her know that as well. She asked for consensus from Council to include this topic on the June 10 Special Meeting. Hearing no objections, Ms. Kelly said she would include it.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, provided an update on the issues with Jackson Township. He said the County prosecutor's office will not weigh in. The Township has issued citations on two developments in the City. There will be a hearing on May 28 for the first citation, which is on a project that the Township approved and signed off on two years ago, but chose to file on anyway. He said he was hoping that the County would explain the law to the Township, but they won't, so he believes we are at an impasse. He said the biggest fight is with the road width. The Township has taken the position that a fire apparatus lane (such as an area in front of a store) is the same as a public road and needs to be 26' in width. He said the widest fire truck is 14'. The City's salt trucks are wider. He said he would keep Council posted on the hearing and any further discussion with the Township.

Council retired to the Chambers to begin the Regular meeting.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Christine Houk
President of Council