# CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
# COUNCIL MINUTES

May 05, 2025 — 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, Anthony Wilson, Christine Houk, Ted Berry, Rodney Dew*

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

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|---|---|
| Ms. Burroughs | Yes |
| Ms. Anderson | Yes |
| Mr. Wilson | Yes |
| Ms. Houk | Yes |
| Mr. Holt | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Dew | Yes |

2. Ms. Houk recognized Mayor Stage who presented a Proclamation to the Building Division for Building Safety Month; a Proclamation to the Service Dept. for Public Works Week; and recognized the Month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

3. Ms. Houk recognized Bev Babbert, Board President, and Amanda Davis, Director of Visit Grove City, for their quarterly report.

4. 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-13-25 (Accept the Plat of Farmstead, Phase 7) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Troy Cameron, developer, was present to answer any questions.

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

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|---|---|
| Ms. Anderson | Yes |
| Mr. Wilson | Yes |
| Ms. Houk | Yes |
| Mr. Holt | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Dew | Yes |
| Ms. Burroughs | Yes |

2. Ordinance C-14-25 (Accept the Plat of Meadow Grove Estates, Section 10) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Ms. Burroughs explained that the Developer sent a written request to postpone this item until 06-02-25 in order to catch up to the Zoning Text Amendment Ordinance and moved it be postponed to 06/02/25; seconded by Mr. Wilson.

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|---|---|
| Mr. Wilson | Yes |
| Ms. Houk | Yes |
| Mr. Holt | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Dew | Yes |
| Ms. Burroughs | Yes |
| Ms. Anderson | Yes |

3. Resolution CR-18-25 (Set forth, as required by Section 709.023 of the Ohio Revised Code the Municipal Services that can be furnished to 0.848± acres located at 2255 Holton Road upon its annexation to the City) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Shamp, Law Dept., explained that this is the first step in the annexation process and is required by the Ohio Revised Code.

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

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|---|---|
| Ms. Houk | Yes |
| Mr. Holt | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Dew | Yes |
| Ms. Burroughs | Yes |
| Ms. Anderson | Yes |
| Mr. Wilson | Yes |

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

1. Raven Tadlock, resident, addressed Council about the increased difficulty for the LGBTQ community, with the Federal Government declaring two (2) sexes only and the Ohio budget doing the same. These actions are erasing people like her. She asked Council to pass a resolution to condemn the LGBTQ language in the Ohio Budget.

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

1. Mayor Stage submitted the April Mayor's Court Report and requested it be accepted. Ms. Houk moved to accept same; seconded by Mr. Dew.

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|---|---|
| Mr. Holt | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Dew | Yes |
| Ms. Burroughs | Yes |
| Ms. Anderson | Yes |
| Mr. Wilson | Yes |
| Ms. Houk | Yes |

Mayor Stage also commented on the Ohio Budget and the shared the concerns of the Mayor's Alliance; he reminded everyone to go vote tomorrow and asked for a "yes" vote on Issue 2; he expressed condolences for the loss of Rich Muir, former employee, Mark List, former Council Member & Township Trustee, and Bill Cahill, employee's father/brother.

2. Closing Comments were given by Administrative staff members and Council.

**At 7:46, The Chair declared a 15 minute recess, after which time Council will reconvene in the Lower Level to discuss different forms of government. Council reconvened at 8:00 p.m.**

1. Ms. Houk said the last meeting was a surface level discussion about changes to the Charter and Council set aside this time to informally discuss what the next steps, if any, they wanted to take. She said this was a high priority during Council's retreat and asked members what their sticking points were. She mentioned the appointment of Boards and Commissions; the Mayor's relation to staff; and the appointment of the City Administrator and Department Heads.

Discussion took place over these items. Mr. Berry brought up long range planning for the City. Ms. Houk said it is difficult to have a collaborative long range strategic plan under the current form of government. A comment was made about a single elected official appointing a City Administrator who could be fired at any time; Dept. Heads serving at the pleasure of the Mayor and Civil Service employees serving for a Dept. Head that serves the Mayor. This could create a bad culture if the wrong people are in those positions. Mr. Boso, City Admin., said he must be missing the point because the role of City Manager would be the same, with the exception of being hired.

Ms. Anderson called out the thoughts of the Charter Task Force. She said now that there are seven members of Council, she wonders if they are now positioned for a different form of government. Ms. Houk said she believes it is a natural progression to move toward a City Manager form and they should let the citizens decide. Mayor Stage said he initiated the conversion to seven council members with the idea of collapsing the Township and putting two trustees on Council.

Mayor Stage said he will not support the removal of an elected Mayor. At the last election, the second most voted on item was the Mayor.

Ms. Anderson said she wonders if we are at the point of asking the community what they think. Ms. Burroughs said there is nothing wrong with how we operate now. This is for the future. Mr Holt said he wants Council to have more influence on the big picture. He said a Strong Mayor has too much influence on the Administration. With seven members representing the entire City, a City Manager form creates a clear line of representation and direction.

Ms. Houk asked if the exercise is to be: passing pieces of legislation to change some items of concern or a large overhaul to change to a City Manager form of government. After some discussion, support was voiced to move forward with pulling together a Commission to submit changing the Charter to a City Manager form of government and create an education timeline for the public.

2. A motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Christine Houk
President of Council

# CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
# COUNCIL CAUCUS NOTES

May 05, 2025

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

Ms. Kelly, Clerk of Council, shared a liquor permit for BP at 1881 Stringtown Rd. There being no objections, Ms. Kelly said she would return it to the Liquor Dept. not requesting a hearing.

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

SOUTHWEST PUBLIC LIBRARIES

# The Impact of House Bill 96 on Our Library

## Key Challenges

- Cut in state funding 2023 to 2024

- Historical Inflation from 2022-2024

- House Bill 96 freezes library funding at 2024 levels — equivalent to what libraries received in **2000**, without accounting for 25 years of inflation or growth

    - Inflation has increased costs by over 80% since 2000

    - Grove City population up 61% since 2000

- HB 96 imposes costly censorship compliance

    - $450,000 in annual unfunded censorship costs

    - $100,000 one-time facility modification cost

## Call to Action

- Advocate for restoring PLF to 1.75% of GRF as requested by Gov. DeWine

    - Amendment number SC 1236 (Restores the Governor's proposal to increase the PLF to 1.75%)

- Oppose the shift to line-item funding

- Reject unfunded censorship mandates

    - Amendment number SC 1542 (Removes language pertaining to library materials)

- Support local funding solutions