CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

December 01, 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, Randy Holt, Ted Berry, Rodney Dew

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

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

2. The Chair recognized Ms. Cheyenne "Autumn" Young and administered the Oath of Office as Deputy Clerk of Council.

3. 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-46-25 (Accept the Plat of Courtyards at Harris Farms, Phase 1) was given its second reading and public hearing.

   Ms. Kelly Fankhauser, representing petitioner, was present to answer any questions.

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

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

2. Ordinance C-48-25 (Accept the Annexation of 46.904 acres located at 4910 Hoover Road in Jackson Township to the City of Grove City) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on Dec. 15, 2025.

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

1. Ordinance C-49-25 (Adopt Chapter 550 of the Codified Ordinances titled Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on Dec. 15, 2025.

2. Ordinance C-50-25 (Amend Section 376.02 of the Codified Ordinances titled Restrictions) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on Dec. 15, 2025.

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

1. Ordinance C-47-25 (Appropriate $25,000.00 from the Senior Nutrition Fund for Current Expenses) was given its second reading and public hearing.

   Mayor Stage noted that the appropriation is for $25,000.00, but the check will be for $30,000.00. He explained that this is money raised from the Pickleball Tournament and the Mayor's Golf Outing for LifeCare Alliance.

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

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

2. Ordinance C-51-25 (Amend and Extend the Pinnacle No. 1 Incentive District, the Pinnacle No. 2 Incentive District and the Pinnacle No. 3 Incentive District) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on Dec. 15, 2025.

3. Ordinance C-52-25 (Appropriate $150,000.00 from the Scioto Township Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) Fund for the Current Expense of making payments in accordance with the JEDD Contract) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on Dec. 15, 2025.

4. Ordinance C-53-25 (Appropriate $1,500,000.00 from the Deposit Trust Fund and Reduce Appropriation Amounts for Various Funds) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on Dec. 15, 2025.

The Chair recognized Mr. Wilson, Chair of Administration, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Resolution CR-52-25 (Accept and Approve the Cybersecurity Program and designate the Director of Information Systems responsible for said Program) was given its reading and public hearing and Mr. Wilson moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Houk.

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. Mr. Holt, Chair of Finance, asked Mayor Stage for an overview of the 2026 Budget.

Mayor Stage stated that a couple of items that are the major drivers of the aggregate numbers are the Capital Improvements and the health care costs. He said in 2025, $20 million was appropriated for Capital Improvements and for 2026, they are requesting $33 million – some of which comes from grants and loans. He noted that the General Fund is 3% less than last year, but the healthcare costs have increased 21% to $5,295,000.00. He said the budget has been presented to Council, per the Charter, and is now in their hands to accept by December 20.

Council reviewed the details, asked questions and clarified many items. Some of the questions included:

Page 69 – Business/Community Relations: Clarify the additional full-time employee. Mr. Turner stated that Chapter 161 increased Business/Community Relations Specialist by one employee in 2024. This was anticipated in 2024, however, the position was not filled until Sept., 2025. An appropriation for the full salary is needed for 2026. Mr. Holt questioned the need for part-time salary amounts if there is an additional full-time employee. Mr. Turner said that could be removed, if there is no need for part-time assistance.

Mr. Holt moved to amend the budget to remove all part-time salary amounts in Business & Community Relations Fund (pg. 69) and Community Development Fund (pg. 96) for a total of $65,000; seconded by Mr. Berry.

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

Page 47 – Parks & Recreation Maintenance: Please clarify the transfer of employees out of the Service Dept. and into Parks & Rec Dept. Mr. Castle & Mr. Hamons shared that these 10 employees are park maintenance personnel that take direction from Director Castle and it is more efficient to have them in the Parks Dept. rather than have them in Service, reporting to Director Hamons. This will align and serve the community better.

Page 49 – Lands & Buildings: Please explain the credit card charges and why the 3% charge is not passed on to the user. Mr. Turner said when credit card machines were instituted in several departments, they chose to review the fees the city charges to build in this cost rather than pass on the credit card fee to the user.

Mr. Holt asked about the Opioid Settlement under Estimated Fund Balances. Mr Turner said we will continue to receive opioid funds and they will be appropriated as approved by Council. Mayor Stage stated that this is shown but not appropriated, as they felt it was better to hold onto the funds for the time being.

Page 2 – Convention Bureau Allocations. Mayor Stage stated that the amounts shown are estimates and have yet to be collected. He said they do use a formula to allocate these dollars and the percentages are the same as last year, with 74%to Visit Grove City; 12% to the Chamber; 1% to Little Theater Off Broadway; and 13% to Town Center Inc. *Ms. Houk* stated that she believes 80% was given to Visit Grove City last year and the remaining 20% allocated to all other groups. She said they now have a written agreement with Visit Grove City and would like to see the total percentage of the Bed Tax given to Visit Grove City. The other organizations should be on a Grant Reimbursement Program. She believes that dividing the Bed Tax dollars has only hurt relations with the City and the dollars are not being used to their maximum potential because we are spending too much time battling. Mayor Stage stated that when this Bed Tax was initiated, the entire percentage went to the Visitors and Convention Bureau and they provided grants to the other organizations who complimented the ability to attract visitors to Grove City. However, the VCB Board stopped the Grant Program. This splintered relationships. He believes that providing a percentage of the Bed Tax to each organization is the best way to address the issue since the VCB no longer allocates grants. *Ms. Anderson* agreed with Ms. Houk but, would want to make sure that the City can establish a Grant Program that is sustainable for the other organizations – especially for the Little Theater. *Ms. Burroughs* voiced support for Visit Grove City receiving the full 25% of Bed Tax. *Mr. Boso, City Admin.,* explained that 25% is the total estimated amount shown on page 2. If that occurs, then the other organizations will not have any funding unless Council appropriates monies from the General Fund or somewhere else. Further discussion took place over the Bed Tax. Mayor Stage stated that two (2) groups submitted budget requests to him and Visit Grove City was not one of them. *Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law*, explained what the City Code states for Council to understand what must be done.

Ms. Houk moved to amend the Convention Bureau appropriation shown on page 2 to reflect that the Grove City Area Convention and Visitors Bureau shall receive $650,000.00; seconded by Mr. Holt.

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

Ms. Houk asked about the need for part-time salaries in the Council budget, since a full-time employee is now on-board. Ms. Kelly said she didn't care if this was removed. It was left for general purposes.

Ms. Houk moved to remove the part-time amount of $24,000 in the Council area, on page 14; seconded by Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Dew	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes

Mr. Wilson	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

Page 55 – Miscellaneous Utilities. Ms. Burroughs asked if this was for Brookpark building utilities. Ms. Fitzpatrick, Asst. C.A., stated that this is for all the small utilities at various locations – not Brookpark.

Page 64 – Southwestern City School Career Center Funding. Ms. Burroughs said they received a letter from the School District noting that they have received some funding through a different source and believes the City should reduce their funding. Mayor Stage recommending not reducing this amount as the State budget it volatile. He believes this is money well spent for Adult and Career Education for our residents and business owners. *Mr. Rauch, Dir. of Dev.,* shared that the Adult Career Center has reduced their offerings this year, due to cost. He said there is a huge demand and they have waiting lists for some of their career paths. He said this helps our community businesses and is a good economic development tool that helps them. *Mr. Wilson* said he would like more information from the School District on this issue. Mr Berry said businesses are contributing to the Career Center as well. He said if we want to attract jobs, we need to have these types of programs. Mr. Holt said the School District could ask for more later, if necessary.

Mr. Holt moved to reduce the Career Academy allocation, on page 64, to $100,000.00; seconded by Ms. Anderson.

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

Mr. Berry asked about the $1.3 million for Broadway Live. *Mr. Boso* said this is the appraised amount to buy the property for parking. He said the amount in the resolution that Council passed is not reflected in this budget. *Ms. Houk*, said this project is not ready and asked if it would be better to remove this until there is a plan. Mr. Boso said he would agree. He said public parking is a good thing for the Town Center and that is why they included the amount that could secure the property.

Mr. Berry asked about the number of Police Officers. *Mr. Teaford, Dir. of Safety*, explained the number of officers and said the budget reflects the needs for the Safety Services Division for 2026.

Also on page 64 is funding for the CARES Program. Ms. Anderson questioned this funding. *Ms. Houk* said she does not believe local government should be in the Health Care business, however she feels this Program needs more time and attention to get it set up. She feels the narrative provided needs a lot of work and feels it is a distraction from where the focus for the community should be. *Ms. Anderson* commented that with such a hard look at all the dollars being budgeted, she wondered if this is the right time to allocate these dollars.

Ms. Anderson moved to remove the allocation for the CARES Program, shown on page 64; seconded by Ms. Houk.

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

2. Mr. Brent Miller, Director of Grove City Town Center Inc., said, on a macro level, he agrees with the changes Council made with the Bed Tax dollars. However, it puts them in a tough spot and he asked that they be speedy with a Grant Program. He said this would mean no Food Truck Friday Nights; no Mistletoe Market; no Christmas Parade, etc.

3. Mr. Randy Little, Chief of Fire, thanked Council for their support with the Levy. He then asked Council to consider the impact extending the Pinnacle TIFF would have on the Fire Department and their future funding. He said it diverts voter levy dollars away from fire and EMS services and asks that they protect those dollars for safe, reliable service for the community.

4. Mr. Jeff Buskirk, Chair of GC Chamber, stated that not receiving the dollars anticipated will really put the Chamber in a tough spot.

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

1. Mayor Stage submitted the Mayor's Court Report and Ms. Houk moved to accept same; seconded by Mr. Wilson.

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

In closing, the Mayor said this weekend is packed full of holiday events and all are listed on the City's website and social media.

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

Adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Christine Houk
President of Council

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL CAUCUS NOTES

December 01, 2025

Council met at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Council welcomed Ms. Autumn Young, the full time Deputy to the office.

Council Members reviewed the Agenda items.

Council retired to the Chambers to begin the Regular meeting.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Christine Houk
President of Council