

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

January 20, 2026

Regular Meeting

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

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Mohamed Omar, Melissa Anderson, George Holinga, Ted Berry, Randy Holt, Alan Sturm, Jodi Burroughs

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

Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes

2. The Chair read the agenda items and moved that Resolution CR-02-26 be removed, as the County will use the 2025 resolution; seconded by Mr. Holinga.

Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes

Mr. Berry moved to remove CR-03-26, as it has been revised with the new version; seconded by Mr. Holinga.

Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes

All other items were approved by unanimous consent.

3. Mr. Berry recognized Mr Shannon Hamons, Dir. of Service, who recognized his staff for a job well done in obtaining re-accreditation for the Department. He shared a video from American Public Works Association recognizing Grove City's Service Department for receiving 100% and reaccreditation.

The Chair recognized Mr. Holinga, Chair of Lands, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-01-26 (Implement Sections 3735.65 thru 3735.70 of the Ohio Revised Code establishing and describing the boundaries of the City of Grove City Community Reinvestment Area #5 in the City of Grove City, Ohio) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 02/02/26.

Mr. Kyle Rauch, dir. of Dev., provided a quick synopsis of this ordinance and Ord. C-02-26. He said this is a blighted area that could be revitalized. The developer has agreed to provide substantial infrastructure improvements by extending the water and sewer lines at their expense. This will open up the area for new development. Currently, the Development Dept. is short on sites to bring in new jobs. When we have sites that provide these types of incentives, we can compete with others for quality jobs.

2. Ordinance C-02-26 (Authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement with MWI Properties, relative to property within Grove City Community Reinvestment Area #5) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 02/02/26.
3. Ordinance C-03-27 (Approve a Special Use Permit for a Marijuana Dispensary for ACT Investments located at 3989 Jackpot Road) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 02/02/26.
4. Ordinance C-04-26 (Approve the Rezoning of 4.13+ acres located at 4745 Big Run Road from SF-1 (single-family residential) to PUD-R (planned unit development - residential) with Zoning Text) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 03/02/26.
5. Resolution CR-01-26 (Appeal the decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals granting variances for a Sign for American Legion, Paschall Post 164 located at 3363 McDowell Road) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Ken Flaute, representing the American Legion, explained that they are a non-profit organization and requested this new sign to be able to provide information to the veteran community and the community at large. He said a denial would provide a hardship because the sign was already purchased by an anonymous donor. He said they cannot give it back. He said their Legion is hidden behind another building and the current sign is old and run down. It needs replaced with a sign that doesn't require their older members to climb ladders to use.

Mr. Jason Morris, member of American Legion and works in the computer industry, where Ohio has made great strides in the digital space. He said it is confusing to him to see Grove City remain in an antiquated space. He said this doesn't fit in the current role data plays in our world. He said while the primary sign would be to highlight what the Legion does for the veterans, it can also share messages from the City and Township. He said he hears the concerns for their neighbors, but those have been addressed. He feels this seeks to punish these veterans and hopes that they will allow the sign to stand and inspire innovation.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, noted that Mr. Holinga was previously on the Board of Zoning Appeals and reviewed this item, however, there is no conflict of interest and his participation in this action is permitted.

Ms. Burroughs explained that she appealed this decision due to the approval with 11 stipulations and felt it needed further review. She also felt it was important to discuss how this sign aligns with the current City Sign Code. In addition, she wanted to explore American Legion's needs without setting a precedent and unintended consequences for our City. She shared that she has met with Legion members several times to better understand the needs of the American Legion. She said she contacted Stewart Signs and was told that they asked if the sign purchased would follow local Codes.

Unfortunately, that was not followed, but the Sign Co. is willing to help find some other Legion that would be willing to purchase it. She also shared other ways to assist the American Legion. She said her goal is to support the American Legion, follow our City ordinances and find a solution that work for them and the community.

Ms. Anderson commented that she appreciates the work that Ms. Burroughs has done. She believes that the hard part is setting a precedence for other sign requests. She said there were fair points brought up about digital signs and perhaps our Sign Code needs to be reviewed and what signs we want to allow. However, until that work is done, she hopes that the American Legion can look into viable options.

Mr. Sturm said he is concerned that if we say yes to one, we have to say yes to everybody. However, with the stipulations in place, he wonders how close it gets this sign to being compliant. *Mr. Smith* said the purpose of the BZA decision is not to get it close to Code, it was to say they felt it was acceptable with the 11 stipulations, even though it does not meet Code.

Mr. Holinga said each application is looked at on an individual basis. He said the application was going to be turned down, but the American Legion asked for more time to work with Mr. Boso, Chief Building and Zoning Official, to see if they could address all the concerns. He said this is how the 11 stipulations came together and they addressed the concerns. He said a precedent is not being set for others, according to the BZA legal counsel. He said because this was for a non-profit organization, the BZA felt it was an unusual situation and agreed to the sign with the stipulations.

Mayor Stage said he is basically against the digital signs, but could rationalize this one by getting some of the Code requirements brought into compliance and the 11 stipulations that provide discipline for what the sign can and cannot do. This is also for a non-commercial entity and may need to come into a different age.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holinga moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Berry	No
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	No
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Holinga	No

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

1. Ms. Kyra Paul, Promenade Ave., commented on removed Resolution CR-03-26. She said she think we should take a look at what actually happens rather than telling people how to behave with police. She questioned the timing of this resolution with all that is happening in Minnesota. She said for her, this resolution was tone deaf and unnecessary. She appreciates that they took the feedback and changed the resolution.

2. Rev. Ron Campbell, shared his background and spoke about Res. CR-03-26 and strongly urged that the language be further amended. He said when we include blanket support for visitors we signal support for agencies like ICE and believes that we are telling our immigrant neighbors that our police are indistinguishable from ICE agents. He said we need to protect our community and not open the door for outside interference. Keep the focus on Grove City and not Washington, DC.
3. Mr. Adam Sigrist commented that he is grateful that language has been removed from Res. CR-03-26. However, he spoke about Federal Law Enforcement and asked Council to go out and ask residents who is missing. He asked that they listen and find the bread crumbs for people who are missing because they are closer than we think.
4. Mr. Charles Austin, voiced concern over people being harassed at the voting poles and believes citizens need to be protected and their right to vote.
5. Mr. Jacob Dilley, voiced concern for a government that shows support to a Federal goon squad that tears apart families. He voiced opposition to supporting Federal Law Enforcement and feels it is a slap in the face to some of our residents.

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

1. Mayor Stage reported on Martin Luther King Day and shared that he was part of an audience with Dr. King years ago. He said Dr. Kings' meaning of what it means to be an American sets the standard and continues to prevail. He said next month he will be traveling to Washington DC to represent MORPC and meet with the Ohio delegation to discuss our East/West Corridor and our Community Center and request funding. He said they are conducting a Housing Study and will be releasing it soon. There was also a Community Survey conducted and information on that will also be shared soon.
2. Ms. Kelly, Clerk of Council, asked about the Liquor Permit transfer for The Time Zone. Council had no objections and Ms. Kelly said she will mark it as such.
3. Ms. Burroughs reminded everyone about the Citizen's Police Academy and shared that the application deadline is 2/18/26.

Mr. Omar thanked everyone who came to speak about CR-03-26. He said he stands with them and will speak up and advocate for marginalized community members that are being attacked throughout the Nation. He acknowledged Martin Luther King Day. He thanked the Police Dept. for their commitment to keep the community safe and shape Grove City into what it is today.

Ms. Anderson also recognized Martin Luther King Day; thanked the speakers that took the time to speak this evening; announced the first Park Board meeting this week and a work session for Council to get an update on the Community Center.

Mr. Holinga said his heart is with the immigrants. He teaches English as a second language and citizenship classes and has a heart for all of them. He said Edmond Burk said the only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to be quiet, so he can't be quiet. He said he is appalled that many of our good Federal & State law enforcement officials are being demonized and that is not right. It fuels the problems that we are having in this Country.

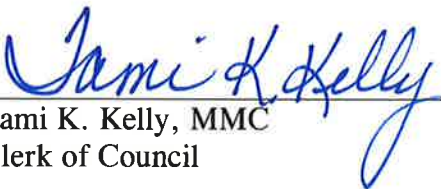
Mr. Holt explained his reason for introducing the Resolution to support the police. He said after the approval of the FOP contract and remembering that we typically do something in May, he

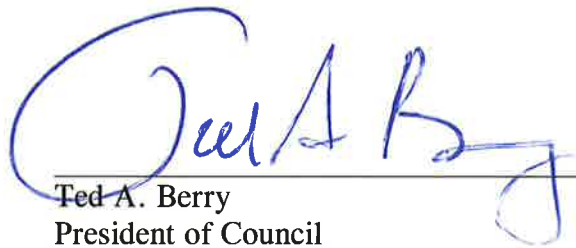
thought it would be a good idea to do something now. He said he reflected on the Oath of Office, which all City Officials and employees take, that states we will support and follow all Federal, State and Local laws. That is why he used those words in drafting the resolution. After hearing back from Council, he revised it with only Grove City comments. He said he didn't want to have a Council Member vote no by using "city, state, federal", because they have taken an oath to obey all the laws of the land. He shared examples of how our Police Div. already work with State and Federal jurisdictions, such as: multi-agency operations against human trafficking; solving complex criminal cases by sharing resources; finding stolen vehicles by using FLOCK cameras. He said cooperation does not mean surrendering local autonomy, it means smart coordination. Grove City Police remain committed to respectful, constitutional public safety. He said crime doesn't stop at the city limits and cooperation/collaboration means a unified front against threats, whether it is rural or urban and this will continue. Cooperation with State and Federal law enforcement is about prevention, protection, community partnership and doing everything possible, within the law, to keep Grove City safe and prosperous.

Mr. Berry said Council appreciates the comments this evening and respect them. He said as a community that has always lead with kindness to others, he will continue that and regardless of someone's opinions, we need to listen to each other and be courteous. He announced that the Council meetings in February will begin at 5:30, with Goals being discussed on 2/2 and the Community Center on 2/17, if Goals discussions have been complete.

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

Adjourned at 8:26 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Ted A. Berry
President of Council

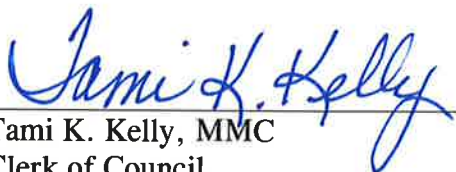
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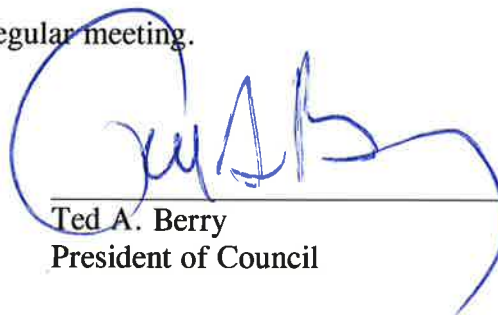
Council met at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Council Members reviewed the Agenda items.

Council retired to the Chambers to begin the Regular meeting.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
President of Council