

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 02, 2026

Special Meeting

The Special meeting of Council was called to order by President Berry at 5:30 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 recognized Mayor Stage who explained that since 1992, the City has been conducting an Attitude Survey in the community. He said the last two (2) surveys has shown a trend that he wants to discuss with Council while deciding on priorities and goals for 2026.

Mr. Marty Saperstein, Saperstein and Associates, shared the attached data from the 2025 Community Attitude Survey. He explained that the sampling was split between phone calls and on-line surveys. Overall, there is a downward trend in the "excellent" satisfaction for Police, Service, Parks & Rec., Library, Southwestern City Schools and Jackson Township. He said traffic, infrastructure, cell phone dead spots, green space, planning, loss of home town feel were reasons given for lower rating.

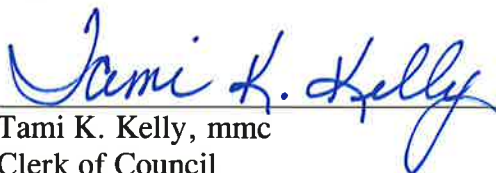
Mr. Don Walters, Community & Business Relations, shared some action items that they have identified to improve on-line communication and share the positive work of the City. He said they would like to contract with Murphy-Epson, a company that many municipalities use, to help mitigate negative comments such as roadway improvements. He said they have moved two part-time staff to full-time. Mayor Stage shared that we are #2, behind Delaware, in housing starts. So, if people are so unhappy, why are others moving here, as it can't be all bad.

Council shared some initial thoughts and it was suggested that a "did you know" post be implemented every day on our social media outlets.

Mr. Saperstein noted that from the small group that they brought in to further survey, there were some consistent comments of: small town feel is being diminished by growth; growth coupled with inadequate infrastructure is causing traffic and flooding; there are too many fast food places and no upscale restaurants; short on cultural arts, green space, ammenities; big box and retail shops are limited; suffer from meaningful planning.

5. There being no further questions or comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 6:34 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, mmc
Clerk of Council


Ted A. Berry
President of Council



2025 Grove City Community Attitudes Trends

Saperstein Associates





Community Focus Groups

- Conducted the focus groups following 2023 survey
- 24 residents randomly selected from those who rated the city poorly

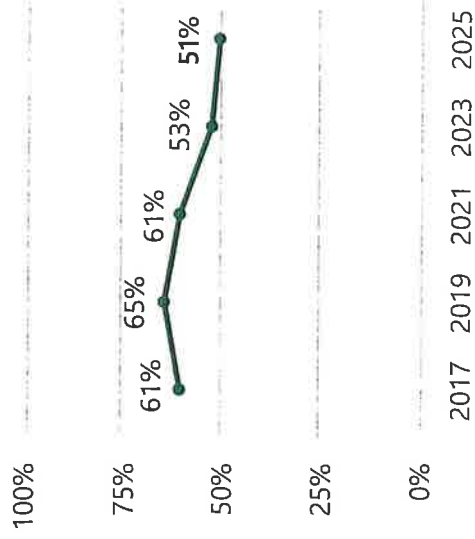
1. "In 1996 ... I remember there was a Big Bear on Stringtown Road. Now it's hugely developed. It's not even a road you want to drive on. There's a lot of restaurants and things like that, but it's very commercialized and it's all chains. The mom-and-pop places are disappearing, the places that give [a community] that home feeling."
2. "The things that made Grove City have its personality and its down-home feel are slowly being stripped away by major chains. Everything's the same. We're trying to modernize so much that we're not paying attention to what it's doing to the heart of Grove City."
3. "How about a Costco? People have been wanting Costco forever. How about Trader Joe's ... or a Fresh Thyme, but no, we're getting another Moo Moo car wash [and] ... another burger King. It's really gotten out of control, the crap we end up getting in Grove City."
4. "Property taxes are very high compared to other places. Lowering them would make me a happy camper."
5. "None of us [in the focus group] have a feeling that the community has been asked their opinion as to what is built -- and where. We don't know who to go to and voice our opinion."
6. "We don't have a well-defined growth plan to understand what land is going to get annexed and how it's going to get developed. We are still trying to figure out what we're going to be when we grow up."

Q6a:

Grade each from A to F:

"The Grove City Division of Police"

"A, Excellent"

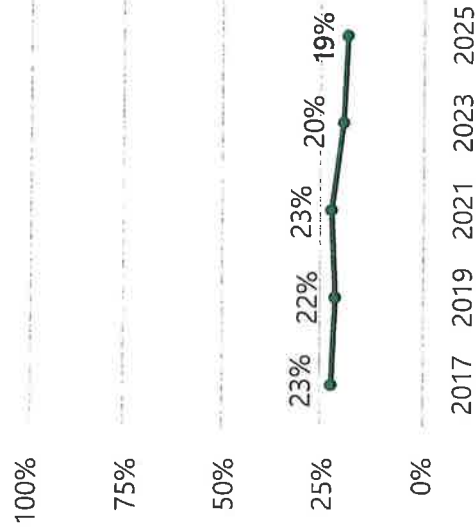


Q6b:

Grade each from A to F:

"The South-Western City Schools"

"A, Excellent"

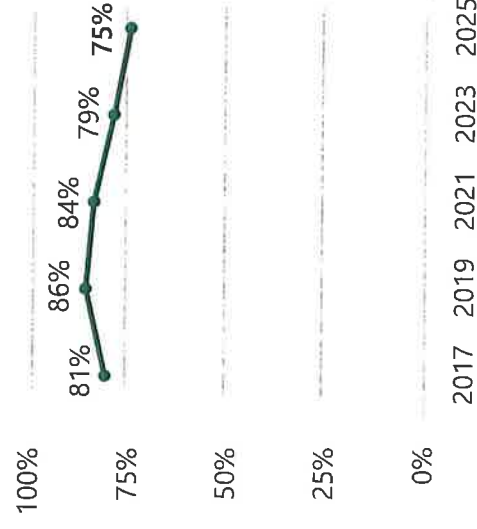


Q6c:

Grade each from A to F:

"The Jackson Township Fire Department, which also provides emergency medical services, or EMS"

"A, Excellent"





Action Items

- Accelerate emphasis on social media by featuring positive information about the negatives cited in 2023 focus group (62% get their Grove City news from social media)
 - Infrastructure improvements
 - Parks improvements
 - Cell phone dead spots
 - Highlight events with videos from the 125 days of events planned for 2026
 - Promote all 30 parks and 4 miles of trails
 - Planning – e.g. Grove City 2050
 - Feature the planned Community Center as an aspirational and inspirational rallying point
 - Ensure we retain the Town Center's Food Truck Fridays, Wine and Arts Festival, Bourbon and Spirits Festival
 - Commission an outside consultant specializing in communicating development projects and integrating results (e.g. traffic congestion).
- Moved part-time allocation to a full-time Social Media Administrator
- Receiving a scope of work from Murphy Epsom – firm used by many central Ohio communities.
- Discuss Grove City as number two in central Ohio housing units



Ohio Ethics Commission Filing Reminder

2025 Financial Disclosure Statement to be Filed in 2026

Dear City Official,

You are receiving this letter because you are currently serving or have served at some point in 2025 or 2026 in a city elected office. Ohio law **requires** that all individuals serving for any amount of time in **2025** or **2026** in such positions file a calendar year 2025 financial disclosure statement.

The filing deadline is **FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026**, unless you are filing for any of the following reasons:

If you were appointed to an unexpired term in 2026, you are required to file a 2025 financial disclosure statement within **fifteen** days of being sworn in.

If you will be a candidate in 2026 for the same office or any other elected office which would require you to file a calendar year 2025 financial disclosure statement **and** are certified to a ballot prior to May 15, 2026, you are required to file 30 days (20 days for write-in candidates) before the first primary, special, or general election when your name will appear on a ballot. If you are not certified to the ballot prior to May 15, 2026, you must file by May 15, 2026.

CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINES:

ELECTION	ELECTION DATE	CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE
Primary	Tuesday, May 5, 2026	Monday, April 6, 2026	Wednesday, April 15, 2026
General	Tuesday, November 3, 2026	Monday, October 5, 2026	Wednesday, October 14, 2026
Special		30 days before election	20 days before election

HOW TO FILE OR OBTAIN A STATEMENT TO COMPLETE:

You may file electronically at <http://disclosure.ethics.ohio.gov>. Alternatively, blank calendar year 2025 financial disclosure statements are available for download on the Commission's website at <http://ethics.ohio.gov>.

If you have any questions regarding financial disclosure, please feel free to contact me at (614) 721-8670.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen Boger".

Jen Boger
Financial Disclosure Coordinator

City of Grove City
4035 Broadway
Grove City, Ohio 43123

All Elected and Appointed Officials:

Plattenburg & Associates, Inc. is presently conducting an audit of the City of Grove City for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

In connection with the audit please respond to all questions in the attached questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to provide guidance for identifying material transactions that may be indicative of the existence of related party relationships. We have also included questions related to actual or suspected fraud. Please return the completed questionnaire to the following address:

Plattenburg & Associates, Inc.
8230 Montgomery Road, Suite 150
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

Related parties include members of the City Council, administrative officials, immediate families of administrative officials and City Council members, and affiliated governmental units not included in the financial statements.

Your cooperation and promptness in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Plattenburg & Associates, Inc.

Plattenburg & Associates, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants

Enclosure

RELATED PARTY AND FRAUD QUESTIONNAIRE

Yes ____ No ____

1. Have you or any related party of yours had any material interest directly or indirectly, in any of the following transactions, or pending or incomplete transactions, since January 1, 2025 to which the City or any of its affiliates (including pension or similar plans), was, or is to be, a party? Transactions, including, but not limited to: Sale, purchase, exchange or leasing of property; Receiving or furnishing of goods, services, or facilities; Transfer or receipt of income or assets; Maintenance of bank balances as compensating balances for the benefit of another; Other transactions, including side agreements, implicit or informal understandings, or other arrangements (whether oral or written). Do not include payment to a plan or payments by the plan made pursuant to the terms of the plan.

Yes ____ No ____

2. Have you or any related party of yours been indebted to or had a receivable from the City OR any affiliate, including a pension or similar plan, at any time since January 1, 2025? Please exclude amounts due for ordinary travel and expense advances. Do not include payment to a plan or payments by the plan made pursuant to the terms of the plan.

Yes ____ No ____

3. Are you aware of any other related party transactions, including side agreements, implicit or informal understandings, or other arrangements (whether oral or written) involving the City, or its related parties other than yourself?

Yes ____ No ____

4. Are you aware of any actual instances of fraud within the City?

Yes ____ No ____

5. Do you have any reason to suspect fraud may be occurring within the City?

6. If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please describe the transaction or situation:

Dollar amount of the transaction: \$_____.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Title:

Date:

City of Grove City