

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 17, 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 Mr. Holinga.

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

2. Mr. Berry recognized Mayor Stage, who administered the Oath of Office to Nick Bolin and Drew Rosengarten as police officers, and Melanie Jean Shonkwiler as a Mayor's Court Account Clerk. He also recognized Don Walters, who introduced his replacement – Pat Kindig; and Jack Castle, who introduced Brianna Ross, Deputy Dir. of Parks & Rec.

Mr. Berry then recognized Senator Michelle Reynolds, who shared that the State is working on the Capital Budget. She explained that there are four (4) general areas they focus on: mental health, parks and recreation, cultural/sports facilities, and higher education. She said projects must be bondable and shelf-ready. She said she hopes to help Grove City with any projects they submit.

Mr. Berry recognized Representative Mark Sigrist, who provided a list of Bills he is working on. He said he is committed to passing Bills that help the district and turning down those that do not. He shared his thoughts on eliminating property taxes and funding the school districts. He noted that cutting taxes at the State level cuts into assistance at the local level.

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

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

1. Ordinance C-05-26 (approve a Special Use Permit for Outdoor Seating for Mi Tradicion located at 3131 Broadway) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 03-02-26.
2. Ordinance C-06-26 (approve a Special Use Permit for Outdoor Seating for Stringtown Gantz CB located at 1947 Stringtown Road) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 03-02-26.

3. Ordinance C-07-26 (approve a Special Use Permit for A Drive-Thru for Stringtown Gantz CB located at 1947 Stringtown Road) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 03-02-26.
4. Ordinance C-08-26 (approve the Use for an Indoor Kids Play Facility for Little Diggers Play Space located at 4076 Hoover Road) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 04-06-26.
5. Resolution CR-05-26 (approve the Development Plan for Stringtown Gantz CB Development located at 1947 Stringtown Road) was given its reading and at the written request of the petitioner's agent, Mr. Berry moved it be postponed to 03/02/26; seconded by Mr. Holt.

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

6. Resolution CR-06-26 (approve the Development Plan for Healthy Pets Grove City, located at 3400 Broadway) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Brad Bloomerstein, the petitioner's architect, was present to answer any questions. Mr. Holinga reviewed the stipulations set by the Planning Commission, and Mr. Bloomerstein agreed. Ms. Burroughs asked if there were any new curb cuts to service this parcel and Mr. Bloomerstein said no. It will utilize the shared curb cut with McDonald's.

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

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

7. Resolution CR-07-26 (approve the Development Plan for Green Oaks of Grove City located at 4745 Big Run Road) was given its reading and at the written request of the petitioner, Mr. Berry moved it be postponed to 3/2/26; seconded by Mr. Holt.

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

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

1. Ordinance C-09-26 (Authorize the City Administrator to enter into an Agreement with Govwell Technologies Inc.) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 03-02-26.

The Chair asked that any new business brought before Council be presented at this time.

1. Ms. Luann Beckstead, resident, spoke in favor of the YMCA and asked Council to consider a partnership with the Y for a community center. She does not believe an income tax increase will be successful.
2. Mr. Terry Bowshier, spoke on safety for Grove City. He said law enforcement should uphold the laws and cooperate with Federal and State agencies. He said where there has been cooperation, there has been great success. He said he wants Grove City to remain safe and any movement to limit such cooperation is a move away from safety and security.
3. Pastor Campbell, said he is here to stand up for the black and brown neighbors. He said he is pro-law enforcement, but he needs to stand up for morality and when the law is wrong. He said Jesus gave us the Golden Rule and that we should follow it. He wants to know that Grove City will not stand for hate.
4. Mr. Andy Kopolchek, spoke on the issue of ICE and shared what the Bible tells us, as a retired pastor. He said Christians should follow the law of the land unless it goes against God's law. He said we should not rush to judgment. As Christians, we are called to support the government.
5. Ms. Sandra Hooker, voiced support for Rep. Sigrist's Bill to increase penalties for those hurt in a crosswalk. She shared that Mr. Teaford, Dir of Safety, is coordinating an open house for May.
6. Ms. Mandy Gooding voiced opposition to rejecting the dispensary. She then said that the Police Dept. should state its process for policing neighborhoods. She said we can be a City that respects the Law and respects the residents.
7. Ms. Misty Gibson voiced support for obeying the law unless it goes against God. She said the Commandments say to love God and to love God is to obey the laws of the land.
8. Ms. Thomas stated that all authority comes from God. If you rebel against the Law, you go against God. She said her grandfather was an immigrant and he came here legally. She voiced no objection to immigrants and noted that she served in the U.S. Military. She said she just wants the laws followed.
9. Mr. Don Gibson voiced support for obeying the Laws. He said he hopes that they never ask the Police to stand down and not help their brothers, Federal Officers. He said we need to respect them and the law.
10. Ms. Carol Hall commented that as a community, they are not here to ignore the immigrants and don't hate the poor. She said it is easier to demonize than to understand. She said wanting secure borders is not hatred; wanting law and order is not oppression; wanting a functioning Country is not cruelty. A nation without borders is chaos and chaos hurts the poor first. She said you can't use empathy as a weapon to silence debate. You can't label every non liberal thinker heartless because we disagree with your methods. We want safe communities, legal immigration, thriving families, strong faithful churches, local solutions and personal accountability. And yes, we do want to help people, but we refuse to believe the only way to help is to centralize power and grow

government forever. That is not compassion. That is control disguised as compassion. If you keep trading liberty for feelings, you won't like what you wake up to.

11. Mr. Greg Smirthwait passed out some information about the YMCA and voiced support for joining together with the Y. He asked Ms. Anderson to meet with him in order to understand her points.
12. Ms. Patti Hammond asked what the process would be to select a location for the Community Center, and it was explained that Council would have to pass legislation to commit to a location.
13. Mr. Chris Smirthwait read a statement from a friend (Mike) who voiced support for partnering with the YMCA. He then shared his own opinion on what he has seen on the news about ICE, saying they need to follow the law. He asked every member of the community not to be complicit in violations of the Constitution. He said it is not just about loving your friends, but also about loving your enemies, so let's treat everyone with compassion.
14. Mr. Dennis Robinson voiced support for the YMCA. He said we may want a grand building, but that is only part of the equation. He feels a partnership would be best.
15. Mr. Craig Lansey voiced support for the YMCA and asked that we partner with them and share benefits.
16. Mr. Patrick O'Block voiced support for the YMCA. He said pairing with them would be more cost-effective with public funds.

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

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

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

In closing, the Mayor announced that the Library will be placing a levy on the May ballot. He suggested to the Library Committee that they attend the 3/16 Council meeting to share details. He also shared that work is being done on North Meadows Drive, and while trees are being removed, they will be replanted.

2. Council thanked everyone for their comments. Ms. Burroughs announced a new Coffee & Chocolate Walk event from Town Center Inc. Mr. Sturm said America is an experiment in self-government and the presentations & comments are examples of that at work. He said liberty requires responsibility, growth requires discipline, and public trust requires transparency. As we continue to celebrate America 250, we need to focus on governing thoughtfully, strengthening public safety, and using taxpayer money wisely. That's how we will remain strong. Mr. Omar said he is 100% supportive of local law enforcement, however, he will not support masked Federal Agents coming into our community and tearing us apart. He also recognized that Ramadan starts on 2/18 and wished everyone a Happy Ramadan. Ms. Anderson reiterated the

significance of the TIF extension to the community center and stated that, in her understanding, these funds can only be used for owned and operated facilities. She said she has every confidence in the City's Parks & Rec. Dept. in running a community center. Mr Holt said he is sworn to uphold the laws of the Federal, State & Local community. He said the police work with Federal, State, and County agencies every day. When the Federal government calls, our local police will respond and that's how he expects to continue.

3. Mr. Berry announced that Council will start at 5:30 on 3/2 to discuss the Community Center again.
4. After closing comments from Council and Administrative staff, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 8:47 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
President of Council