

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO  
COUNCIL MINUTES

May 18, 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*

1. Mr. Berry moved to excuse Ms. Burroughs; seconded by Ms. Anderson.

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

2. Mr. Holinga moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Omar.

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

2. The Chair read the agenda items and rearranged the order of items under Finance to place Res. CR-14-26 first. This was approved by unanimous consent.

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

1. Ordinance C-16-26 (Accept the Annexation of 15.3+ acres located south and West of Haughn Road in Jackson Township to the City of Grove City) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Ms. Leslie Garman, applicant, was present to answer questions.

Mr. Teaford, Safety Director, explained the property's conditions and the violations that would occur if annexed to the City. Mr. Holinga asked Ms. Garman whether she could get these issues resolved before annexation goes into effect. Ms. Garman said the gravel lot is due to future construction plans and Jackson Township allowed her to keep the gravel for this construction. The trailers can be removed and the weeds can be taken care of, but a portion of their property is being farmed. Mr. Berry asked whether farming could continue. Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, said the proper way to keep the non-conforming farming use would be to rezone the property to a PUD zoning. Mr. Rauch said they have spoken with the property owner and felt it was appropriate to annex the ground and extend city services first.

Ms. Anderson asked what the current business is. Ms. Garman said she owns Vitality Cheer Center and desires to have a full sports complex. However, she cannot expand until the property has city services.

Mayor Stage said they spoke two years ago and this annexation should have occurred then. He said it is better to have it in Grove City and put or discipline on the property.

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
Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes

2. Ordinance C-20-26 (Accept the Plat of Hickory Creek, Section 2) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on June 01, 2026.

**The Chair recognized Ms. Anderson, in the absence of Ms. Burroughs, Chair of Safety, for discussion and voting under said Committee.**

1. Ordinance C-15-26 (Enact Section 505.19 of the Codified Ordinances Titled Chickens and Ducks and Amend Section 505.14 titled Animals Prohibited in the City; Exemptions) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Ms. Anderson explained that there is an updated version to this ordinance and moved to replace C-15-26 with the amended version; seconded by Mr. Holinga.

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

Mr. Berry said he has had many people ask for this and many suburbs around Central Ohio have similar ordinances. He said he met with Ms. Burroughs, Mr. Sturm and Mr. Boso to make amendments to this ordinance. He said it does not allow roosters; you can't sell the eggs or the meat.

Ms. Ashley Feltz, Rose Ave., voiced support for the ordinance and modernizing the Code with standards, permits, and inspections. She said they have hens in their backyard and their children have learned so much by having them. She said reasonable ownership can coexist with responsible standards in the city.

Ms. Jana Bosch, Williamsburg Ct., voiced support for the ordinance and believes it is reasonable. She said all pet ownership comes with responsibility.

Mayor Stage said he understands the desire for this, but feels it puts an undue burden on the City's Code Enforcement Officers.

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

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

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

1. Resolution CR-14-26 (Create the Community Grant Program) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Holt explained that several non-profit groups were receiving funding in the City's budget. In 2026, the Council removed that funding in order to create a program. This is what was designed. It is primarily a reimbursement program for expenses incurred during qualifying events. He said this provides more transparency and accountability. It will require an appropriation ordinance to be approved by Council. A program like this opens up the possibility of other events occurring with some city assistance. He said there is a provision allowing an advance in special circumstances, but it is meant primarily for reimbursement.

Mr. Omar asked if there was a maximum grant amount. Mr. Holt said no. Each application will be reviewed and recommendations will be submitted to the Council for approval.

Mayor Stage said he does not have an issue with this program, but one of the reasons a Visitors & Convention Bureau was formed was to provide each entity with up-front funds for their project, with an annual audit. However, he agrees with this alternative plan.

Mr. Holt moved to amend Attachment A to remove all references to 2026, as this is preliminary and really meant to be the 2027 program; seconded by Mr. Holinga.

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

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

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

2. Ordinance C-18-26 (Appropriate \$47,856.78 from the General Fund for the current expense of

2. Ordinance C-18-26 (Appropriate \$47,856.78 from the General Fund for the current expense of assisting with the Grove City Town Center Wine & Arts Festival expenses) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Brent Miller, Town Center Inc. Executive Director, said there has been a funding partnership with the City for years. In years past, it was not tied to a specific event. He said they have a brand new staff and Board Members. They are in good standing with the IRS and have improved their bank balance for 2026. He said their long-term goal is to produce these events without any city money. He noted that the City would also assist with paying for tents, tables, entertainment and marketing in the past Mr. Holt asked Mr. Miller to explain the need for a partial advance for this event. Mr. Miller said they were not in a good place financially in 2025 and this will help get them through their first event.

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

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

3. Ordinance C-19-26 (Authorize the City Administrator to execute an Agreement with Axiom Ventures, LLC for the development of the Broadway Live Project) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Ethan Tamianka, Axion Ventures, said they are very excited about the agreement and the project. It includes parking and over 0.5 acre of green space. Mr. Omar asked what this agreement actually commits the City to. Mr. Tamianka said the City will invest \$6.5 million and receive a 2+ acre parking area (125 spaces), along with improvements to Cleveland Ave.

Mr. Holt stated that he wants to add sequencing to determine what is built first. He said the Council is more interested in the public part of the development rather than the apartments. He said he doesn't want to be here a year from now, with apartments and the City left to deal with the rest of the development. Mr. Tamianka said their top priority is the mixed-use portion of the plan and doesn't see the apartments going first. If anything, they would go simultaneously.

Mr. Sturm said the agreement has a disbursement period in chunks and asked Mr. Boso, City Admin., to discuss that further. Mr. Boso said the initial project is the parking lot, which the City will pay \$4 million for 2.19 acres of ground and construction of the parking lot for general use. The second half is for improvements to Broadway and Cleveland Ave. He said they felt these road improvements would not be necessary unless the commercial part of the development was underway. Once the road improvements are completed, the City will release \$1.5 million. The final \$1 million would be released upon full completion of the approved development plan. Mr. Sturm said he knows there is land in the floodplain and asked what that process entails. Mr. Kaskewisky, of Axiom Ventures, explained that they will apply to FEMA for local and federal approvals to raise the elevation and move the floodplain line closer to the stream.

Mr. Berry reminded the developer of our greenspace requirements that floodplain areas do not count towards the greenspace acreage.

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

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

4. Ordinance C-21-26 (Authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to enter into an Agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1116, Ohio Council 8, AFL-CIO) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be on June 01, 2026.
5. Resolution CR-15-26 (Appointing Members to the Beulah New Community Authority) was given its reading and public hearing and Mr. Sturm moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Holt.

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

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

1. Ms. Jennifer Marple, Larchmere Dr., asked for a 12-month moratorium on data center applications. Although the Director of Law explained that data centers are not permitted under any zoning code, she feels there is a way to allow a vote for a data center. She feels they should take 12 months to conduct independent studies, have proper standards and then decide.
2. Rev. Ron Campbell, Maplegrove Dr., voiced opposition to a data center and putting the community first. He demanded to know where each Council Member and the Mayor stood on a data center. He said that if they ignore the people's voices, there will be consequences at the ballot box. He said they elected them to protect the community.
3. Mr. Charles Johnson, Marsol Ave., said AI means more cancer. Data Centers use a lot of electricity, and the toxic fuels they generate cause additional pollution and increased cancer risks.
4. Mr. Bob Ruth, Count Fleet Dr., commented that, despite what the Law Director says, they need a moratorium. He asked that Council give people time to understand the issues around this project. He said the Texas Company doesn't want a moratorium because time is their enemy. Council should call their bluff and enact a moratorium.
5. Mr. John Ruth, Rensch Rd., voiced opposition to data centers. He said there was a story on 10tv about how electricity is going up because of them. He said the State has allowed data centers to install their own power plants without local approval. They do not want a small nuclear reactor next to them and jeopardize the health of our children.
6. Ms. Jen Belt, Kinglet Ct., explained House Bill 15. She said once a data center is approved, the conversation is not over. There may be approvals without City authority. She said putting a pause on this development is not a rejection. A pause is responsible leadership.

7. Ms. Patricia Spillman, Beatty Rd., began with a definition of “greed”. She said Headwaters reached out in May, 2025 to buy their property. She said 45 families on Rensch Rd. have supported Grove City and ask if Council would be willing to explain to them why they fail them so miserably.
8. Dr. Amy Watson-Grace, Bellflower Ct., voiced concern for a data center. She said that there is no plan, actions are being taking to lay the groundwork for one. She believes Headwaters has lied to surrounding residents. She said it feels sneaky and they all deserve answers before the annexation is approved. She said data centers are not neutral developments and the taxpayers should not be made to bear the cost.
9. Ms. Sandra Hooker, with the assistance of Mr. Teaford, Dir of Safety, announced a Traffic Safety Town Hall meeting on June 4, 2026. She said they are building a safer community together.

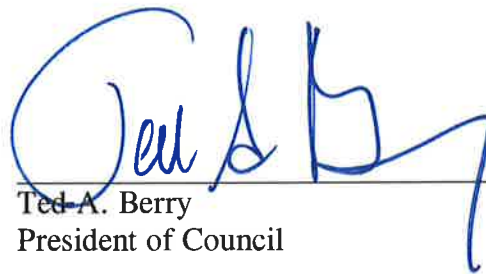
**The Chair recognized members of Administration and Council for closing comments.**

1. Mayor Stage reported that the Sons of the American Legion were in town over the weekend; Children’s Hospital Urgent Care had their ribbon cutting; the Library Levy passed; noted that we are #2 in Franklin County in growth, which is a compliment on the great community we have; provided the Clerk of Council with a copy of a letter he sent to Jackson Township concerning the initiation of a T.I.F; and announced the Memorial Day Parade this Monday at 11:00 a.m.
2. Council Members expressed their concerns about data centers and committed to educating themselves and the public before approving any proposals. Ms. Anderson gave an update from the Park Board on the Community Center, Town Center Park, and an update on the Parks Master Plan.
3. After closing comments from Council and Administrative staff, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 9:13 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC  
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry  
President of Council

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO  
COUNCIL CAUCUS NOTES

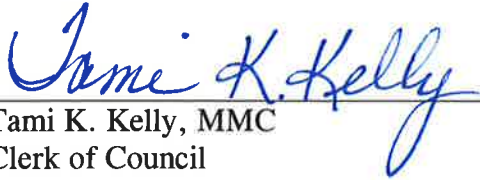
May 18, 2026

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

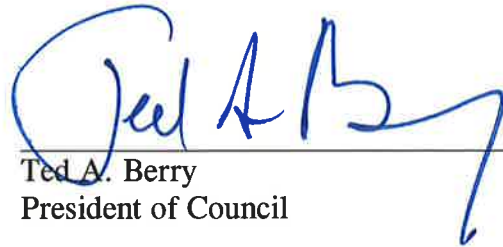
Council Members reviewed the Agenda items.

Council retired to the Chambers to begin the Regular meeting.



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Tami K. Kelly, MMC  
Clerk of Council



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Ted A. Berry  
President of Council