CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 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, George Holinga, Ted Berry, Randy Holt, Alan Sturm, Jodi Burroughs

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

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

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

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

3. Mr. Berry recognized Mayor Stage, who, with the assistance of Safety Director Teaford and Chief Scott, administered the oath of office to three (3) new Police Officers -

4. 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. Resolution CR-27-26 (Approve the Preliminary Development Plan for The Shoppes at North Meadows located on the northeast corner of London-Groveport Road and North Meadows Drive) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Rauch, Dir. of Dev., explained that this preliminary plan is a spec building for three or four tenants. It shows access from North Meadows Drive and a right in/out from S.R. 665.

Ms. Burroughs asked if all the homes would be removed. Mr. Rauch said there will be one home, between this and the Waffle House. However, the developer has designed this to incorporate the land in anticipation of the future sale of that home.

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

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

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

1. Ordinance C-29-26 (Levying Special Assessments for the construction of various sidewalks in the City of Grove City, Ohio) was given its second reading and public hearing.

   Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, explained that this is the final cost for each homeowner in the 2025 Sidewalk Program. If approved, this will be forwarded to the Auditor for inclusion on the property owners tax bill to be paid over twenty (20) years, interest free.

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

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

2. Ordinance C-32-26 (Replace Exhibit "A" of the Town Center Commercial Revitalization Grant Program as approved by Ord. C-09-19) was given its first reading. Second reding and public hearing will be held on August 03, 2026.

The Chair, in the absence of Ms. Anderson, Chair of Parks, was recognized for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Resolution CR-28-26 (Move forward with the Multi-Generational City-Owned and Operated Community Center to be located at Pinnacle Park) was given its reading and public hearing.

   Mayor Stage commented that this is a significant piece for the City. He believes that it is important to state that this would be in collaboration with many stakeholders in the community. He read an amendment that he asked be incorporated.

   Mr. Berry moved to add the following *Whereas* statements to the resolution:

   Whereas, a multigenerational community center will be a community wide asset providing opportunities for collaboration with our community partners, i.e., Southwestern City Schools, Jackson Township, Pleasant Township, Village of Urbancrest, the YMCA our business community and more; and

   Whereas, Grove City Council recognizes the economic, social and health benefits associated with a well-designed, multi-use community center and acknowledges the positive impact it would have on our overall community well-being by being inclusive and accessible for residents of all ages, while offering diversity programs such as recreational activities, fitness programs, arts and cultural events, educational workshops, and community gathering spaces.

Seconded by Mr. Holinga.

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

Mr. Smith commented that in caucus, Council discussed being a bit more specific with the location. If it is the desire of Council to amend Section 1 to do so, the amendment could be to add ". . . adjacent to I-71, if feasible, Mr. Berry moved to amend Section 1 to add: This Council hereby selects the Pinnacle site "adjacent to I-71, if feasible," . . .; seconded by Mr. Holt.

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

Ms. Ann Fowble, Orders Rd., said she appreciates their vision for expanding recreational facilities for the community. She believes a cooperative partnership with the Y is the very best way to do that. She said there are consequences like dividing the community; competing for members and staff; diminishing of the Y. She believes we have had a very fine recreation center in the YMCA for years and that is what we need to support and build on. Just focusing on the physical facility is missing the bigger picture will have on the community.

Ms. Sarah Antolio, resident, believes that the City should collaborate with the YMCA instead of wasting taxpayer dollars. She believes this is the best decision.

Ms. Luanne Beckstedt, Linkhorn Dr., stated that the Pinnacle Homeowners pay a monthly fee to use their community center. This is a mile away for Pinnacle Park. She questions if this is the best location for all residents. She questioned the traffic on Holton Road. Mr. Omar asked about the fee she described. Mr. Holinga, President of the Pinnacle HOA, said the center is free for all Pinnacle residents. It is part of the overall HOA fee.

Mr. Ryan Joyce, Chickasaw Dr., shared his story and how much the YMCA has done for him.

Mayor Stage said they have been speaking with the YMCA and are watching the situation in Hilliard, with a Y and a Community Center. He said he just doesn't want any losers.

Mr. Sturm said he has been thinking about how the population has grown by 10% in the last five years, but the income tax has stayed flat. He said he struggles why they would choose the most expensive community center option that has been presented. It is projected to operate at a loss and need subsidized by the City, increase traffic through Pinnacle, and require a membership fee. He said we need to focus on the economic development side that are needed to increase the tax base and not place a greater burden on the taxpayers. He said is constituents in Ward 3 have voiced support for a collaboration and he concurs that this would be the most fiscally responsible approach.

Mr. Holinga shared the same financial concerns as Mr. Sturm does. He believes that there are things that are needed from a safety standpoint that need addressed. He said if you ask people if they want a city owned/operated community center, they will say yes. However, from a fiscal standpoint, he cannot support this.

Mr. Berry said regardless of the community center, the City is going to have to ask for an income tax increase to 2.5% in order to sustain police, infrastructure, staff, etc. He said this resolution is simply about location. He said it moves some planning forward. This is a very small portion of the overall dynamic of the budget. He said adding to the Y building has no net gain in amenities for the community, as discussed previously. We have to look at all directions.

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

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

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

1. Ordinance C-30-26 (Authorizing the City Administrator to execute all documents necessary to accept ownership of the Borror Road Bridge, located between Quail Creek Blvd. and Buckeye Parkway, from Franklin County) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, explained that anytime we annex property that touches County roadways, the County makes the municipality accept it. This fell through the cracks and should have been done in 2015.

Mayor Stage commented that Borror Road was in the Township and the City improved and enhanced it and the bridge, while still outside the city.

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

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

2. Ordinance C-31-26 (Amend Various Section of Chapter 161 titled Employment Provisions for City Employees) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Vedra, Asst. City Admin., explained the various factors used to request amendments to the salaries. This is an annual review. Mr. Omar asked about the Administrative Secretary position for the Council office and who would hire that person. Mr. Vedra said that position would be filled as determined by Council.

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

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

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

1. Ms. Lisa Ross, Blodwin Circle, voiced concern over the lack of checks and balances with the current structure. She said she wasn't supporting a change in the form of government, but believes that no one is going to go against their boss. It is not a way to set a business up for success. She said she only gets to vote for three (3) Council Members and suggested making it four (4) – a majority for each voter. She said she is looking for transparency and accountability.

2. Ms. Elizabeth Silcox, Gershwin Ct, voiced concern about the beautification of the City. She said she sees a lot of Code violations – grass, dilapidated buildings, and vagrants. She said this needs to be addressed. She asked why we aren't taking care of the existing buildings rather than building new. She said they should use the money to take care of what we have, rather than building things people didn't ask for.

3. Ms. Trish Zelnick, member of Park Board, stated that the Park Board specifically chose the east side in Pinnacle Park over the west side, because the west side is heavily forested. She asked that the west side be studied to preserve the mature trees. Ms. Fitzpatrick, Asst. City Admin., commented that the Urban Forester and she walked the area and believe there is a distinct line between the scrub trees and the mature trees. They, too, want to make sure the mature trees are preserved.

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

1. Mayor Stage commented about the Initiative Petition for a Charter change. He said this is a significant amendment and the effects it would have on economic development. He commented on the Homecoming and Annual Alumni Softball Tournament and the comments about the YMCA.

2. Mr. Patrick Kindig, shared one of three candidates for a new flag, as part of the on-going rebranding of the City. He said this is the one that stood out, but nothing has been purchased.

   Ms. Burroughs said there is some concern about losing the tree.

   Mr. Berry said the flag is not a banner. He said it should represent the history of the City and why the City Seal and tree is on the flag. He said he doesn't understand why the flag should be changed. He said the State or County flags have never been changed and the City flag should not be changed either.

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

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council

Ted A. Berry
President of Council