

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 31, 1994

Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Grossman at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

After a moment of silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, roll was called and the following members were present:

Mike Milovich

Todd Hurley

Cheryl Grossman

John Schreck

Jeff Warner

President Grossman recognized Mr. Schreck, Chairman of Safety, for discussion and voting of items under said committee.

1. Resolution CR-62-94 (Approve the Fact-Finder's Recommendations regarding the F.O.P., Capital City Lodge No. 9 Contract with the City of Grove City) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Mike Mathews, representative of police department, stated that they had no comments other than to answer any questions Council might have. He did say he feels this is something that can be worked out.

Mr. Chuck Boso, City Administrator, explained that the City has had an agreement with the Police since 1981 and in that 14 years, this is the first occasion that they have had to go to a Fact Finder. He said the most controversial issue, as with most labor contracts in the U.S., is health care. The City made a proposal and the fact finder concurred. There were two other issues of wages and longevity and the Administrator agrees with the Fact-finding Report and recommends the approval of City Council. He concurred with Sergeant Mathews - citing that reasonable people can work out situations and alternatives to positions. He doesn't feel that they are that far off and will come to an agreement before arbitration. He said no one is crying foul, this is the process we go through under State Statute. He said he is not a proponent of the Collective Bargaining because it takes away City Council's authority and responsibility in terms of approving contracts. He again concurred with Sgt. Mathews and hopes it will come to a close in a very short period of time.

Mayor Stage commented that he hated this. He said we have one of the finest police forces of any community in the whole U.S.A., bar none. He too, hopes to get this worked out. He said he manages 900 people and 870 of them have the same issue - health care. He said it is unfortunate and we are caught in the midst of it in City Government. He said it has wasted a lot of energy on everybody's part. He despises it most because of the morale issue. We have a good police force because we have high morale and getting a third party involved is not in his cards. He hopes and prays that we can get it worked out.

Chief McKean stated that the officers are professional and dedicated to the community. They are certainly able to disagree on an issue and feels confident that their service to the City is not in any way impacted by their disagreement. They are professionals and act as professionals. He said he is certain that their commitment to the citizens is the same today, tomorrow and feels that he can speak for all of them.

Sergeant Mathews noted that the vote on this package was 27-0, officers and 5-0, sergeants - against.

Mr. Milovich stated that the single most important thing that we can do as elected officials is to show concern through the introduction of this legislation or we can sit back and watch the events of the contract negotiations without uttering a word. The leadership of this City and Police Department have worked hard with the police officers to present the City with a model law enforcement team. Two prime examples are the increased public acceptance of our police force as shown in our current Community Survey and the overwhelming response of hundreds of applicants for three new officer positions. The cooperative spirit that has been developed and nurtured over the years should not fall prey to complacency nor sway the path of effective compromise. In continuing the negotiations, both the F.O.P. and the City agreed to introduce a Fact Finder for which both the desires of the City and F.O.P. were reviewed and both parties were presented with viable alternates. Since both groups agreed to the outside party, those results should be enforced. In the spirit of compromise, he said he would cast his vote tonight.

Mr. Hurley said he sits here tonight and tries to identify what appears to be the areas that are of issue and looks through those. He rode with the officers two weeks ago and he realizes how much Grove City has to offer in terms of our police department. Every officer he encounters show the pride they have in Grove City. So, when we come to a situation like this it is disturbing that things have to be carried out this far. At the same time, he personally has received his benefits package for next year and they are going up. Health Care is an issue staring us right in the face and is on every level. He said he is very hopeful that a compromise can be reached and once the situation is ratified, it is left behind and we move on in a positive light. He said he has put much time and effort in this issue and doesn't want it to be construed that he is just passing on the recommendations presented to them.

President Grossman voiced her comments of pride for the Department and the professional job that they do. She feels badly that we are at this point and hopes that compromise is possible. She wants what is best for everyone concerned and to move forward.

Mr. Warner said he also shares a great deal of concern and recognizes the importance of the contribution the officers make to provide the comfortable feeling we all have here. He said he works in the health care industry and sees, on a day to day basis, what impact those costs have on a business. He said whatever the outcome, he believes that they have all put a considerable amount of thought and consideration into their decision.

Mr. Schreck commented as Chairman of the Safety Committee. He said he has gone through a lot of personal thought and there may be some things that he does not agree with. However, he asked Tom Clark, Director of Law, to give his legal opinion regarding his ability to vote this evening.

Mr. Clark stated that after conversations with John, it is his understanding that he is on the list of potential candidates for selection as a police officer for the City of Grove City. With that in mind, if he were to discuss and/or vote on the issue tonight that it would be a conflict of interest. He said he believes that John has checked with the Ohio Ethics Commission as well as two other sources and they concur with his opinion. It is also his understanding that John can either choose to take his name off the list, which he feels would be a grave mistake, or abstain from voting.

Mr. Schreck thanked Mr. Clark and then moved to be excused from voting due to a conflict of interest of him being on the current candidates list; seconded by Mr. Hurley.

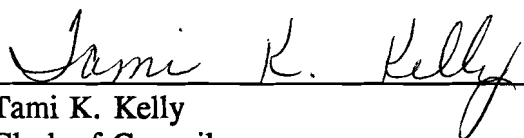
Mr. Milovich	Yes
Mr. Hurley	Yes
Ms. Grossman	Yes
Mr. Schreck	Yes
Mr. Warner	Yes

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Schreck moved Resolution CR-62-94 be approved; seconded by Mr. Warner.

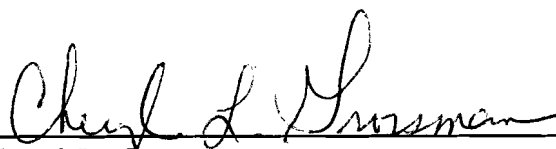
Mr. Hurley	Yes
Ms. Grossman	Yes
Mr. Schreck	Abstain
Mr. Warner	Yes
Mr. Milovich	Yes

2. There being no other comments, a motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly
Clerk of Council



Cheryl L. Grossman
President