

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

October 05, 2009

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Berry at 8:00 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:

Larry Corbin

Maria Klemack-McGraw

Ted Berry

Mike Uhrin

1. President Berry moved to excuse Mr. Grinch; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes

2. President Berry recognized Girl Scout Troop #2548, who gave a presentation on the Land Labs they conducted at Hencforth Park. They showed before and after pictures of the different projects - Butterfly trail, Birdhouses, Herb Garden and Tree Identification/rubbing station. Council congratulated them and thanked them for all their hard work.

President Berry then recognized Andy Furr and the Grove City Girls Club, who presented the Awards for this year's Parade. Winners were the YMCA, Victorious Living and St. John's Lutheran Church. He then thanked the Service Dept. and Police Div. for all their assistance.

3. Mr. Corbin moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Uhrin.

Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes

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

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

1. Ordinance C-70-09 (Appropriate \$37,872.42 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of the 2009 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Chief Wise explained that this is a 100% funded grant for police equipment.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Uhrin moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes

2. Ordinance C-71-09 (Appropriate \$69,872.00 from the Community Environment Fund for the Current Expense of Tree Installation) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Joe Heiby, Asst. Urban Forester, explained that this appropriation will cover new installation of trees and replacement of damaged trees from Hurricanes Ike. President Berry asked if someone loses a tree, would it be replaced by the City. Mr. Heiby said in most cases, but it depends on where & when it was put in and the Code requirements at that time.

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

Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

3. Ordinance C-72-09 (Direct the Certification to the County Auditor of the expense for Cutting Weeds on Private Property) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Uhrin moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes

4. Ordinance C-77-09 (Appropriate \$75,000.00 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund for the Current Expense of Republican Run Stream Bank Restoration and to declare an Emergency) was given its first reading and Mr. Uhrin moved that the Rules of Council be suspended and the waiting period waived; seconded by Mr. Corbin.

Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes

Mr. Keller, City's Consulting Engineer, explained that part of our 484 sanitary sewer line became exposed after the last "25 year" rain. The stream bank was washed out and the ground under the line is washing away. There is also a manhole upstream that is exposed that needs repaired immediately, before the sewer line is compromised.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Uhrin moved it be approved as an emergency; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes

Ordinance C-78-09 (Appropriate \$59,500.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund for the Current Expense of the Fryer Park Water Tank and Water Main Extension) was given its first reading

Mayor Stage requested this item be withdrawn.

There being no additional questions or comments, President Berry moved it be withdrawn; seconded by Mr. Corbin.

Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

6. Ordinance C-79-09 (Appropriate \$96,497.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of Building a Neighborhood Park in Scioto Meadows) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on October 19, 2009.
7. Ordinance C-80-09 (Appropriate \$85,000.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of the Holton Road Bike Path) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on October 19, 2009.
8. Ordinance C-81-09 (Appropriate \$55,000.00 from the Drug Law Enforcement Fund for the Current Expense of Police Equipment) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on October 19, 2009.
9. Ordinance C-82-09 (Dedicate Baseball Field #6 at Windsor Park as the "Ernie Plank Field of Dreams" and Appropriate \$3,200.00 from the Parks Donation Fund for the Current Expense of a Scoreboard) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on October 19, 2009.

The Chair recognized Mr. Corbin, Chairman of Safety, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

Ordinance C-73-09 (Amend Section 543.02(f)(2) of the Codified Ordinances titled Weeds Prohibited; Notices; Noncompliance; Remedies; Costs) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Honsey, City Administrator, explained that this will allow the certification of weeds to come from our Finance Director, which will allow for a more timely assessment of those fees, to the County Auditor.

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

Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes

2. Ordinance C-74-09 (Authorize the Charitable Solicitations Board to issue a permit to the Ohio Newsboys Association, Inc. per Section 371.06(b)(2) of the Codified Ordinances) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Corbin moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes

The Chair recognized Ms. Klemack-McGraw, Chairman of Service, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Resolution CR-51-09 (Support Issue 4 for Franklin County Children's Services) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Honsey, City Admin., noted that not only does this express concern for the Children of our County, it also supports the Buckeye Ranch, who is a large employer for Grove City of Grove City and receives much of its funding from Children's Services.

Mayor Stage pointed out that this is a replacement and reduction levy.

There being no additional questions or comments, Ms. Klemack-McGraw moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Corbin.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes

2. Resolution CR-52-09 (Support Issue 47 for South-Western City Schools 7.4 Mill Operating Levy) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Steve Feucht stated that he wanted to speak about accountability. He said the Levy is a very personal issue and he must do some soul searching. He said he urged everyone to pass this last time and that a storm was brewing, but now the storm has hit and damaged the community. He now has mixed feelings, as he passes the school that he, his wife, his father and grandfather graduated from. His son will now graduate from West Jefferson High School this year, as his family decided that a well rounded education was the best choice. He said he is angry that our School Board put our District in this position and inflict so much pain on its own people. He read some of the Bylaws & Constitution of the School District, which states that "the complete function of education is not achieved until the school facilities are made to serve the total community". A fee to use those facilities by community groups is to be established. It goes on to state that "Co and Extra Curriculum activities are an essential part of the required and general curriculum and the elective or special curriculum". He asked why the District shut down their facilities and cut extra-curricular activities. He said he doesn't believe that the District operated under their own laws. He said this is important because every well-informed society lives by a set of rules, values and laws. If the laws are broke, some form of accountability has to take place. At some point the District must be held accountable. He asked Council to consider what the School District will change if the Levy passes. If Council does support this Levy, he asked if the District would give back. He said this has been an unfair practice to Council and they have stood strong in the face of criticism.

Ms. Karen Evans, voiced support for the Resolution. She feels it is important to give this Levy a voice. She said our school system is in crisis and our community is suffering. The impact on our citizens and the economic security is far reaching into the years to come. She asked that our local officials to help educate the public to the facts. The State has answered the question - they do not have the money and cannot help us. They have not found an agreeable alternative to funding and will not in the near future. They are only trying to maintain their existing state finding. She said full support of this Levy and its passage is the only way to stop the enormous impact on the community. The entire value of our City could decline, with businesses and employers not wanting to locate here. If the levy does not pass, we risk into academic receivership. The City, Township, and Schools need to stand united and support this fully. She asked that Council approve this Resolution and lead our city to understand the importance of Issue 47 and its passage on November 3.

Mr. Jim Swearingen, voiced support for the Levy. He thanked Council for their service and reminded them that it is their duty to protect our community. He said when he moved here, he and his wife came with the dream of having a house, finding friends and a chance for their children to grow and prosper. He said for many years, those dreams were fulfilled to the fullest. Now, they are in a different stage. The value of their home isn't the same as it has been; many of their friends have moved out of the School District to provide a better quality of their children; and the very education of their own children have been put on hold. He said SWCS is the poster child for other communities who said they don't want to be like SWCS's. He heard all the reasons for voting No, and as a yes voter he agrees with some of those reasons. He said every District/group should be accountable and responsible for their actions. He said the list for voting no may be long, but for yes voter it is simply a question of how much longer can we put on hold the passage of this Levy so that we can protect the rights of our children for a decent education and for our community to live in a place that they can take pride in, and not be a tarnished image that is spread all over newspapers throughout the United States. He said he has heard the reason that the teachers make too much money. He said it costs \$30,000.00 a year at Capital University, plus another \$30,000.00 to get your Masters. That's \$150,000.00 a teacher will pay, all to get paid a maximum of \$81, 0000.00 a year after hitting the top of the pay scale and 24 years of service. He urged support for Issue 47.

Mayor Stage said there is a long list of negative items that will happen to this community if this Levy is defeated. He said he agrees with all the speakers tonight. He said everyone needs to be accountable. He then showed a video that is on UTube in support of the Levy.

President Berry said that Council has supported the Levy and understand that there are many concerns. He thanked Sam for putting together the video as it focuses on the children. He said regardless of how you feel about the School Board, know it will change over time. He asked that everyone dig deep into their hearts and give these children the same opportunities that they were afforded when they were students.

There being no additional questions or comments, Ms. Klemack-McGraw moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Uhrin.

Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

In the absence of Mr. Grinch, Chairman of Lands, Mr. Berry took the Chair for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-75-09 (Accept an Easement from Shirley E. Chaffin for the Orders Road improvements) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Berry moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Corbin.

Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes

2. Ordinance C-76-09 (Authorize the City Administrator to purchase necessary Land and Easements for the Orders Road Improvement Project) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, explained that the last ordinance was for a specific property. This ordinance is more general to allow the city to acquire any other property to help facilitate this improvement. He noted that this does not appropriate for any additional monies for the project.

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

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes

3. Ordinance C-83-09 (Accept the Annexation of 1.07+ acres located at 1827 London-Groveport Road into the City of Grove City) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on October 19, 2009.
4. Ordinance C-84-09 (Approve a Special Use Permit for Outdoor Seating for Candlestick Lounge located at 4066 Hoover Road) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on October 19, 2009.
5. Resolution CR-53-09 (Approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for Exterior Building Modifications to 3278 Columbus Street in the Historical Preservation Area) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Kim Roose, petitioner, was present to answer any questions. There being no questions or comments, Mr. Berry moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

The Chair asked that any new business to be brought before the attention of Council be done so at this time.

1. Mr. Rob Starrett said that he has heard the Mayor speak three times and say that there are businesses who are putting their move to Grove City on hold because of the school issue. He asked for the names of those businesses so he could meet with them, as a candidate for school Board, and help bring them into the community and assure them that our School Board will return to the excellent status we had. Mayor Stage said he cannot provide those names. They are all confidential. Mr. Starrett asked if they are asking for tax abatement and how many jobs they would bring in. Mayor Stage said one company only brings about six (6) jobs, but they are high tec. jobs. There is no tax abatement involved. The other company is looking at sites and one is already tax abated, but the abatement is not the issue – it is the location. They would bring anywhere from 4 to 16 people. Mr. Starrett said that some people wondered whether or not these companies really exist and thought if he could get a meeting with them it would dispel that rumor.

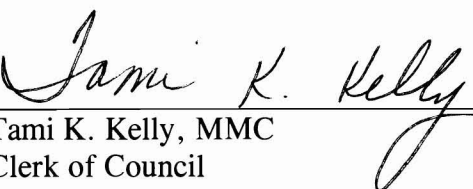
The Chair recognized members of Administration and Council for closing comments.

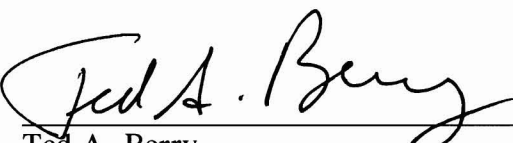
1. Mayor Stage submitted the Mayor's Monthly Report and President Berry moved to accept same; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes

2. Mr. Honsey and Ms. Conrad, Parks & Rec. Dir., gave a presentation on the many Parks projects for 2009-2010. Mr. Honsey recognized the many groups, clubs and volunteers who help in upgrading our Parks. Ms. Conrad thanked Girl Scout Troup 2548 and said they are a prime example of volunteer efforts to improve our parks. Ms. Conrad then highlighted five upcoming projects. The Fryer Park Shelter House has support from the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Rotary Club. She pointed out that Rotary has already done some significant work at Rotary Lake. The Expansion of the Gardens @ Gantz would add herbal trees, shrubs and a Labyrinth. The Gardens @ Gantz Volunteers are partnering with the City on this and have already made a pledge and working on fundraising. The Scioto Meadows Park is needed for the southeast quadrant of the community. The City would partner with the Scioto Meadows Homeowners Association. The Windsor Park Improvement Project would put trails from the Park to the Town Center area. We have received Federal and State Funding to assist with this project. Finally, the Westgate Trail will connect the west side of the City to the Town Center. Ms. Conrad recognized members of the Rotary and Gardens @ Gantz Volunteers who were present and offered comments on their efforts to partner with the City on their projects.
3. Ms. Klemack-McGraw commented on the School Levy campaign. She said, just like standing up for the children, she is standing up for this Council. She said the Resolution tonight, just like those in the past, does not appropriate any money to the school levy campaign or any political entity. It simply shows the support to our schools and the economic importance that the Levy has on our community. At no time has this Council appropriated any money to any school levy campaign. There was \$25,000.00 provided to the SWCS's for their campaign by the Community Improvement Corporation, over which the Council has no authority.
3. After additional comments from Council and Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 9:12 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Ted A. Berry
President