

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

October 04, 2021

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Houk at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall – 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke Aaron Schlabach Christine Houk Randy Holt Ted Berry

1. Mr. Schlabach moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

2. President Houk recognized the Mayor who administered the Oath of Office to Grace Keys, GIS Analyst; Terry Haughn, Building Inspector; and Terry Barr, Dev. Dept. He also shared, with the assistance of Todd Hurley, IS Dir., the Best Practices Award for GIS that our IS department received.

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

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

1. Ordinance C-51-21 (Accept the Annexation of 0.551 acres located at 2277 White Road) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Ms. Kacie Waugh, attorney for petitioner was present on-line to answer any questions.

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

Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

2. Ordinance C-52-21 (Accept the Annexation of 0.460 acres located at 2155 White Road) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Ms. Kacie Waugh, attorney for petitioner was present on-line to answer any questions.

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

Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes

3. Ordinance C-53-21 (Accept the Plat of Pinnacle Quarry, Section 1) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Mike Reeves, representing petitioner, was present to answer any questions.

Mayor Stage asked if the bike trail has been nailed down yet. Mr. Rauch, Dir. of Dev., said yes. There is an easement shown on the plat for the piece that is part of this Section.

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

Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes

4. Ordinance C-54-21 (Approve a Special Use Permit for a Drive-thru for Pizza Cottage located at 4065 Marlane Drive) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Don Kiley, architect, was present to answer any questions and accept the stipulation set by Planning Commission. He said there were some trees and shrubs that have disappeared over time and they are working with the Urban Forester to replace them.

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

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes

5. Ordinance C-57-21 (Authorizing the Appropriation of Property and Easements from Multiple Properties for the Public Purpose of Making, Repairing, and Improving a Public Road, specifically, the Demorest Road Corridor Improvement Project) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held 10-18-21.

The Chair recognized Mr. Berry, Chairman of Service, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-58-21 (Authorize the Director of Public Service to enter into a Franchise Agreement with Local Waste Services, LLC for Solid Waste, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection, Transportation and Disposal) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held 10-18-21.

2. Ordinance C-59-21 (Authorize the Director of Public Service to enter into an Agreement with Rumpke of Ohio, Inc. for Acceptance and Processing of Recyclable Materials) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held 10-18-21.

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

1. Ordinance C-55-21 (Appropriate \$2,576,471.50 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Current Expense of Mulberry Run Sanitary Sewer Extension Improvements) was given its second reading and public hearing.

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

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

2. Ordinance C-56-21 (Appropriate \$5,590,349.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Current Expense of Phase 1 Demorest Road Improvements) was given its second reading and public hearing.

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

Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

3. Ordinance C-60-21 (Authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a Loan Agreement with Franklin County, Ohio in the maximum principal amount of \$1,015,000.00 for the purpose of paying the costs of Improving the City's Public Roadway System by constructing, reconstructing, extending, opening, widening, grading and paving, installing electric, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water utility improvements, lighting and conduit, curbs and gutters, ADA compliant handicapped ramps, sidewalks, multi-use trails, signage and signalization, traffic pavement markings and landscaping, and Acquiring any necessary Real Estate and Interests therein and providing for related site preparation, together with all necessary and related appurtenances thereto, and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of any additional documents related thereto and declaring an emergency) was given its first reading.

Mr. Turner, Dir. of Finance, explained that this is the last piece of funding for the \$9 mil. Demorest Road Improvement Project, which is a roadway and sanitary sewer project. This loan closes a gap in the funding that they were able to get from the Franklin County Infrastructure Bank. He said they are requesting an emergency due to Franklin County scheduling.

Mayor Stage said this is another huge infrastructure project for the City. Mr. Boso, City Admin., noted that if this passes, they will sign contracts tomorrow. Mayor Stage said they are trying to coordinate this improvement with the opening of the Brookpark Middle School.

Mr. Holt asked what the term of the loan is. Mr. Turner said it is 1% for 10 years.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holt moved that the Rules of Council be suspended and the Waiting Period waived; seconded by Mr. Schlabach.

Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes

Mr. Holt moved it be approved as an emergency measure; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes

4. Ordinance C-61-221 (Enact a Voluntary Vaccination Incentive Program for City Employees and Appropriate \$300,000.00 from the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for the Current Expense of the Program and declare an emergency)

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, explained that Council Members and the Mayor are not eligible for this program, as they are elected officials and not employees. He also stated that this would be a taxable benefit to those employees who receive it.

Mr. Boso, City Admin., stated that the decision of vaccination generates a lot of emotion. He noted at present, they estimate that less than 50% of the City's employees are vaccinated. He said 127 have had or been exposed to the virus. In September, there were 126 absentee days due to COVID - 119 from unvaccinated individuals. He said we are charged with the health, safety and general welfare of the community. He said the time off has resulted in overtime for others and stress for employees. He said they believe something needs to be done. No initiative has been done for the employees and he believes that if nothing is done, the numbers will get worse.

Mr. Smith said Mr. Schlabach asked him if this Program would have any impact on anyone with a religious or health exemption. He said he does not believe this has any impact on those individuals. This is a voluntary program and does not put the city in a position of any potential liability.

Mr. Berry said he wants to make sure people are not shamed into doing something they do not want to do. He doesn't want a list of people floating around. Mr. Smith stated that this is set up so there will not be any of that. Proof must be provided to the HR Dept. and will become part of the personnel file. It will not be subject to any public list.

Mr. Schottke said he would like to see something extended to our residents. Mr. Smith stated that this program has been vetted to confirm that it meets the requirements and is a proper use of COVID spending.

Ms. Houk shared the concern of a resident who reached out to her over this being a government handout of tax dollars. She said for her, this goes back to 2020 and staff adjusting to an ever-changing world. She said the key to this is protecting the workforce. She said this is what we can do to protect the public health and push the community forward in a positive way.

Mr. Smith said the request for the Emergency is due to the tight time frame for which employees can get vaccinated. The ordinance gives them until December 17, 2021.

Mr. Schlabach said it is nice to show solidarity and work with those who have not been vaccinated, however it says to him that those unvaccinated may have concerns that this incentive won't alleviate. This may just be a way to congratulate those who have gotten the vaccine and not incentivize the others.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holt moved that the Rules of Council be suspended and the Waiting Period waived; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes

Mr. Holt moved it be approved as an emergency measure; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	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. Ms. Jennifer Rotruck, via Webex, said she had questions about Ord. C-61-21. Ms. Houk asked her to continue. After clearing out some technical difficulties, Ms. Rotruck asked how the number of days off quoted compare to previous years and why is this an emergency. Ms. Houk stated that the numbers quoted tonight were just for COVID related days off for the month of September. The reason for the emergency is due to the timeline to get a vaccine. Ms. Rotruck said the days off might be typical of a regular flu season. Mr. Boso said they would get Ms. Rotruck that information, as they do not have it tonight. Mr. Smith commented that COVID has mandatory days off if exposed or if someone has caught the virus, which is different from the flu. Ms. Rotruck acknowledged Mr. Smith's comment. She said she is concerned that this will lead to coercion and force people who don't want the vaccine to get it. She feels this is setting up a two-tiered society and she doesn't like that. She said she is also not happy with her tax dollars being used to potentially coerce people. Ms. Houk asked her to contact the Clerk of Council with her contact information. She reiterated that the only person who will know is the HR Director and the employee. This was done intentionally to stay out of any coercion. As far as spending these dollars, she said there are costs associated with overtime, illness and healthcare assistance. She said she feels that we would come out ahead on a cost analysis. Mr. Schlabach further explained that this is not using local tax dollars. This will come from the Federal COVID related monies that if not spent must be returned. He said he it might as well be used in our own community rather than return it for federal spending. Ms. Rotruck said she appreciates that and thanked Council.

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

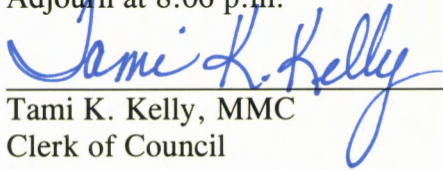
1. Mayor Stage submitted the Mayor's Court Report and Mr. Schottke moved to accept same; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes

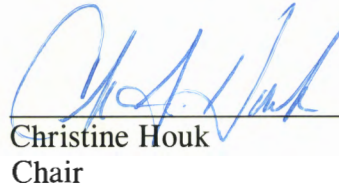
In closing, Mayor Stage reported on last week's events including: the opening of Columbus Street; dedication of the Train Station; lights turned on at the Buddy Ball field; Shred-It Day. He shared a video of the Marsh Run reconstruction & Home Road Improvements. Finally, he announced the passing of former Police Officer Jeff Townsend.

2. After comments from Council and Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourn at 8:06 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Christine Houk
Chair

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL CAUCUS NOTES

Oct. 04, 2021

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

Council Members reviewed the Agenda items.

Ms. Kelly stated that Mr. Joe Merth, Audit Committee Member, resigned after the meeting last month, due to moving out of State. This leaves a Council appointed seat open on the Committee that needs filled. She also shared that she and Mr. Nick Soltice, GIS Coordinator, conducted a preliminary review of the Ward population figures, using the Block counts from the Census. She said they were supposed to meet to go over the process, but the meeting was cancelled and must be rescheduled. However, the preliminary figures show the Wards well within the required 40% difference between largest (Ward 4 = 26.02%) and smallest (Ward 2 = 23.97%). So there is no change required according to Section 7.03 of the Charter.

Council retired to the Chambers to begin the Regular meeting.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Christine Houk
Chair