

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

January 20, 1998

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by Tami Kelly, Clerk of Council, 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:

Vaughn Radi Steve Bennett Budd Eversman Chris Fulton

1. Ms. Kelly opened the floor for nominations for a Temporary Chairman.

Mr. Fulton nominated Mr. Bennett. There being no additional nominations, the floor was closed by unanimous consent.

Mr. Radi moved to appoint Mr. Bennett Temporary Chairman; seconded by Mr. Eversman.

Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes

2. Mr. Eversman moved to excuse Mr. Milovich; seconded by Fulton.

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes

3. Mr. Bennett recognized the Mayor who administered the Oath of Office to the following: Mr. Harold "Butch" Little as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals; Mr. Lee Schreiner, BZA; and Mr. Tom Sennhenn, Park Board.

4. Mr. Radi moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes for the previous meeting and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Eversman.

Mr. Eversman	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes

Mr. Bennett read the Agenda items and acceptance was made by unanimous consent.

Mr. Bennett, Chairman for the Lands Committee, took the floor for discussion and voting of items under said committee.

1. Ordinance C-77-97 (Approve the rezoning of 21.479 acres and 35.065 acres located on Seeds Road, south of S.R. 665, from IND-1 and Rural to OLR) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Charlie McJunkin, representing Water Fuel Cell, requested a favorable decision in the change of zoning from IND-1 and Rural to OLR. Mayor Grossman commented that the OLR zoning classification was added about three years ago and this is the first opportunity to utilize it. She is very pleased to have Water Fuel Cell locate here. Mr. Radi asked if there were any chemicals involved in the process and any waste disposal. Mr. McJunkin said there were none.

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

Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes

2. Ordinance C-1-98 (Accept the annexation of 22.6± acres located west of Hoover Rd. and south of State Route 665 (Kenneth A. Snyder)) was given its second reading and public hearing.

There being no representation, Mr. Eversman moved to postpone this ordinance to February 2, 1998; seconded by Mr. Radi.

Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes

3. Ordinance C-2-98 (Accept the annexation of 8.8± acres located at the southwest corner of Hoover Road and State Route 665 (Kenneth A. Snyder)) was given its second reading and public hearing.

There being no representation, Mr. Eversman moved to postpone this ordinance to February 2, 1998; seconded by Mr. Fulton.

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes

4. Resolution CR-2-98 (Approve the Final Development Plan for Water Fuel Cell Development Center, located on Seeds Road, south of Enterprise Parkway) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Charlie McJunkin, representing Water Fuel Cell, commented that all modifications have been submitted. Mr. Bennett read the stipulations set by Planning Commission and Mr. McJunkin agreed and commented that they have been completed. Mr. Radi asked if there was a timeline set for construction. Mr. McJunkin said they are ready to begin the Demonstration Unit as soon as possible. Mr. Radi asked if they would develop the rest in phases. Mr. McJunkin said yes. They will begin with the Demo Unit immediately and hope to have the first research building started in September. Mr. Fulton asked how many employees they anticipate. Mr. Meyer, owner of Water Fuel Cell, indicated 200 - 230 employees for one - two years at a time. They will be high-tech. people and anticipate the market impact to be around 8.3 million per year, including salaries.

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

Mr. Eversman	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes

5. Resolution CR-6-98 (Approve the Final Development Plan for The Buckeye Ranch Executive and Administrative Office Building, located at 5665 Hoover Road) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. John Emerick, architect for The Buckeye Ranch, was present to answer any questions. Mr. Bennett reviewed the stipulations set forth by Planning Commission to which Mr. Emerick agreed.

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

Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes

The Chair recognized Mr. Radi, Chairman of the Safety Committee, for discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said committee.

1. Ordinance C-4-98 (Amend Section 1101.07(b) of the Codified Ordinances titled Submission Procedures) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on February 02, 1998.

The Chair recognized Mr. Eversman, Chairman of the Finance Committee, for discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said committee.

1. Ordinance C-3-98 (Authorize the City Administrator to advertise for bids and award a contract and appropriate \$143,000.00 from the Street Fund for improvements to Home and Gantz Roads) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mayor Grossman stated that after concerns from residents of that quadrant of the City, a traffic study was completed and results indicated that a traffic light may be beneficial at this intersection. She said bids will be taken in March, with construction anticipated in the summer and completion in September.

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

Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes

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

1. Mr. Bennett announced that there were 10 speakers signed up to address Council regarding the Grove City Baseball Association and it appeared to be evenly divided between pro and con. In an attempt to allow these 10 speakers time, he moved that the Rules of Council be suspended to allow these 10 speakers, three (3) minutes each; seconded by Mr. Fulton.

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes

2. Mr. Mike Absten, commented that although he has seen the Baseball Association do things that shouldn't happen, he is opposed to the City taking over. He said he grew up with his parents and their parents, putting work into the fields and kids. It was a community working for the kids and not a government run agency. For as long as he has been a part, the parents have been active with the kids. From the information he has, he doesn't feel this is a positive step (government agency taking over). He commented that if it isn't broke, don't fix it. There are problems with any organization, but, internally, they get fixed by the parents and as the children become adults, they take over and fix things. He knows this was well intended and loves what the Parks & Rec. does, but, feels there are some consequences - if tax dollars are not provided, kids won't be able to play sports; there is a liability issue for the city; he feels there will be less community involvement. Once government gets involved, people expect it to solve the problem and that is our tax dollars.
3. Mr. Mike Haines, President of G.C.B.A., said he has been a part of the Association for 17 years and although he no longer has children playing, he has remained involved because he believes in it. The Association has provided baseball to children of Grove City and the surrounding area for 35 years. They have helped transform Windsor Park into a premiere youth baseball facility in Central Ohio. They are proud to provide baseball to youth, ages 5 - 18 and travel teams have been all over the country representing Grove City. They do this for one reason - the kids. Now, they have no home. All because some paperwork was not filed in time. He asked if this isn't a fine example of government acting in the best interest of the people. A volunteer organization that has served 1,100 kids a year, can't provide baseball because of a clerical error or oversight. The move to run the Baseball Association out of town was not done with the best interest of the kids at heart. In fact, it appears that the kids are not being considered at all. It is very disappointing to think that an Association that has done so much good for the community is being tossed out for no good reason. He feels this is personal. They have operated in the City for decades without problems with the City. The City asked the Association to take over T-Ball and Coach Pitch, which they did. They have always gotten along with the City until the recent Administration. Now, the Association is under attack. He said the organization is not perfect, but, you cannot run an organization that serves 1,100 people and keep everyone happy. Still, when you look at the big picture and ask if the children have been positively served, the answer is yes. No one sees the hours the volunteers put in. He is proud of the Association and what the people have done. The Association has served Grove City well and deserves better treatment from the Administration. He hopes they will reconsider their decision and, for the sake of the kids, allow GCBA to provide baseball for the kids.
4. Mr. John Galasso, commented that there has been a years commitment with this organization to the City and the youth program. In the last ten years, the Association has spent \$160,000.00 at Windsor Park on improvements and constructing buildings. He feels that it is a shame to allow politics interfere with something like this. He doesn't feel it is broke and said it wasn't too late for the Mayor to reconsider.

5. Mr. Bob Carmean stated that he has served quite a bit of time on and off the Board. He asked that the Administration reconsider. He feels that the Administration's best interests lie with the City and knows that the Association's best interests lie with the kids.
6. Mr. Ted Angle, stated that he has been a volunteer for 12 years with baseball associations. He moved to Grove City five years ago and became a coach, was voted onto the Board and on May 10, 1997, he resigned. He said it is broke. It needs fixed. He commended the City for jumping in now, for the kids, and doing what needs to be done before it's too late.
7. Ms. Kate Clark, said her boys have been involved with GCBA since 1989. They have had wonderful experiences and terrible ones. She said she went to the Board five years ago with a problem she saw forthcoming in the following year and was laughed at and mocked. In that following year her youngest son did play with GCBA (because there was nothing else). At the end of the season, her husband took the team to the concession stand for snowcones and the coach's wife said "See, I told you they were good people". When Ms. Clark questioned her, the coach's wife said they had been warned about taking her son on the team. Ms. Clark said she has known Barry Babbert, Parks & Rec. Director, for some 24 years and knows he has children at heart every day. The Parks & Rec. Dept. runs a wonderful series of programs for the children. She said she doesn't look at this as government and she is not anti-GCBA, but, there are a lot of problems. She attended a meeting a couple of years ago between the Association and the City and came away with a good feeling. However, when suggesting that a bulk mailing go out to all participants for election of Board members, she was told they didn't have enough money. She asked how much was in the treasury and was told the high \$30,000.00. You can say that GCBA has spent \$160,000.00, but, that was all our money. We have all worked hard and put time in. It's not GCBA. GCBA is everybody. She feels there needs to be more credibility and accountability.
8. Mr. Chris Wade, has been a Grove City resident for 10 years. He has two sons participating and his oldest has grown-up in the League. He has participated as a parent, Asst. Coach and Coach. He said working with the kids was the most enjoyable part of the entire thing. By the end of the season, he was left with a very sour taste in his mouth. After a season of frustration in terms of what rules they were playing by, who was interpreting them, at what time, for who's team they were playing against - his team was bounced out of the tournament and he was accused of cheating, attacking his personal character. He said he honestly played by the rules that were given to him. Those rules are four (4) years out of date and no board member interpreted them the same. He received multiple interpretations of the same rule. He said it was a very poor end to something that he was willing to devote a large amount of time to. He said there are many, many parents in this town that are willing to step forward and devote the amount of time that is necessary for this. He volunteered and said he would recruit people. There are many parents that are more than willing to give their time and energy to make this program what it should be. He commended Council and/or the Mayor for taking these actions. He whole heartedly supports it.
9. Mr. Rocky Black, stated that he was pleased to see Parks & Rec. taking over the operation of youth baseball, at this time. He realizes that there are other entities interested in doing this also and that may happen in the future, but for now, he feels this is a necessary move. Parks & Rec. has the resources to do this. The City has a long term interest in the facilities and putting capital improvements back into the facilities. There is, also, a wealth of experience in the Association that the City can draw from. As many have pointed out tonight, volunteerism is a very important point. As the City moves forward, he hopes they take advantage of those who have been involved in the past. There are some very well meaning, hard working folks within the GCBA and he salutes their

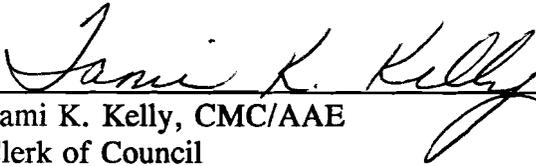
involvement. GCBA has a long history in Grove City and there is no question that they have done an admirable job. But, changes do need to be made and feels now is the time. Although he is grateful for the past service of GCBA, he could give examples of inefficiencies. The City is going to have to watch out for these same inefficiencies. With the fine facilities at Windsor Park, Grove City can and should have a top notch youth baseball program. Nevertheless, it is a privilege not a right to provide this service and the City now has that obligation. He asked the City to double their efforts to run a top notch program.

10. Mr. John Mott, an acting President for GCBA several years ago, commented that he didn't understand what was going on. He said during his tenure, they did have difficulty working with the city asking for finances and improvements. His plea is to get more information out to the people. This has come to him suddenly and knows there is some misinformation out there. He said GCBA has done a very good job with a lot of kids in town and he would like to see it keep going.
11. Mr. Bill Sanders, a former coach and past president of the Babe Ruth League, commented that he no longer has children in GCBA, however, grown-up's can mess up a lot of things. He sees it when he goes to sporting events that his grandsons participate in. He said the last time he spoke before council, Chris Fulton was the Safety Director. He doesn't come out often and wouldn't be here this evening, but, he feels it is time the grown-up's remember who this is really for. He doesn't feel the Parks & Rec. Dept. should just take over the league. He is not a member or officer of the League. He is a concerned, 40 year citizen of Grove City. He urged Administration to reconsider and think of all the things that could occur by doing this. One thing to remember is that it brings parents and kids together, doing things that we all say is what we want families to do.
12. Mr. Barry Babbert, Director of Parks & Rec., stated that over the years, GCBA has had first rights to Windsor Park, a city-owned facility. However, just as the GCBA has grown, so too have the inquiries from other community groups to use the public park - thereby making it difficult to justify the use of one group over another. He quoted the Mission Statement of his Department - "To offer as many and diverse programs, activities, parks and opportunities for leisure to as many people, for as many age groups, at the most economical cost possible". He said this decision is a natural fit. The professionals of his Department have a proven track record in organizing and administering this kind of program. Mr. Dick Lester has been affiliated with the Dept. for many years and brings a background, dating back to 1961, with youth sports in our communities. He said they will make mistakes and the community will be involved with the development of the program. The first meeting is scheduled for January 29, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers for all potential coaches and volunteers for their input. His personal conversations with people in the community are 44 - 1 in favor of the decision. He appealed to the current GCBA Board Members, who have not already approached him, stating that as of tonight, we are beginning a new era in Grove City baseball. Having the administrative duties carried out by the City should not eliminate their interest, desire, or volunteer effort to provide a summer baseball program for their community. If those Board members do not wish to have such involvement because the City has taken over the administrative duties, then they have been involved for the wrong reasons. If anything, it will allow them more time to concentrate on the hands-on aspect of coaching and managing, which should add to the skill levels of the baseball program. The City will need their volunteer efforts to continue the success of baseball in Grove City. The choice is now theirs.

Mr. Bennett recognized members of Administration and Council for closing comments.

1. Mayor Grossman welcomed Water Fuel Cell to the City. She voiced appreciation for those here concerning baseball. She understands that some feel very strongly about supporting or not supporting what the City has done. She assured them that the priority of the children of this community are #1 to her also. She then shared some construction projects coming up: Kingston lighting; Haughn Road construction to begin on 1/26/98 and completion in 220 days; S. Broadway should begin in late April and Hoover Road in August.
2. After additional comments from Administration, the Chamber and Council, a motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, CMC/AAE
Clerk of Council



Steven M. Bennett
Temporary Chairman