

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 05, 2011

Regular Meeting

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

Greg Grinch Maria Klemack-McGraw Ted Berry Steve Bennett Melissa Albright

- 1. Ms. Klemack-McGraw moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Grinch.

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| Mr. Grinch | Yes |
| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |

- 2. President Berry recognized Mayor Stage and Ms. Conrad, Director of Parks & Rec., for a presentation. Ms. Conrad explained that Ellis & Associates conducts three audits on the Big Splash facility each year. This is the second year in a row to receive the Platinum Award. Congratulations were expressed to the Big Splash staff.

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

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

- 1. Ordinance C-30-11 (Appropriate \$100,000.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of the Town Center Commercial Revitalization Grant Program) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Chuck Boso, Dir. of Dev., explained that there was \$50,000.00 appropriated in the Budget. They have awarded over \$25,000.00 and have \$32,000.00 in applications waiting to be awarded. Further, there are five other projects in negotiations. If those are all approved, they would take \$55,000.00. This additional appropriation would leave \$42,000 to use to the end of the year. He said last year, they processed \$127,000.00 in grants. He said they didn't anticipate as many applications this year, but they are happy to have them and believe this is a reflection of the investment people are putting into the Town Center. He said during the budget process, the Mayor requested that they find other means to fund this program. Chuck said they have contacted MORPC, HUD and others, but have not been successful yet. They will continue these efforts.

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

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| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |
| Mr. Grinch | Yes |

2. Ordinance C-31-11 (Appropriate \$40,000.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of Additional Information Systems Personnel Costs) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Hurley, Information Systems manager, stated that this was to fund the new position that Council approved at the last meeting. Discussion took place about staffing levels for this area.

Mr. Berry asked how many months this salary covered. Mr. Turner said it would cover five (5) months, including salary, health insurance, and benefits. Mr. Berry asked if copies of any contracts relating to information services would be provided to Council. Mr. Turner said yes.

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

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| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |
| Mr. Grinch | Yes |
| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |

3. Ordinance C-32-11 (Levy Special Assessments for the purposes of Relocating, Widening, Reconstructing and Improving Haughn Road from its existing location, West to Gateway West Drive) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Turner, Dir. of Finance, explained that this is the assessment for the rerouting of Haughn Road. The Solid Waste Authority is the only property owner and they are a willing party to the assessment. However, they have asked that the ordinance be changed to allow for 60 days to pay the assessment in total rather than the 30 days currently noted in the legislation. It is their intention to pay the City in full, rather than allow the assessment to be placed on the tax duplicate, but will need more than 30 days to make that happen.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Bennett moved that Section 3 be amended to say within "60" days rather than 30 days; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

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| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |
| Mr. Grinch | Yes |
| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |

Mr. Bennett moved it be approved, as amended; seconded by Mr. Grinch.

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| Ms. Albright | Yes |
| Mr. Grinch | Yes |
| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |

4. Ordinance C-33-11 (Reauthorize an Agreement between the City of Grove City and the Board of County Commissioners, Franklin County, Ohio on behalf of the City of Grove City in order to participate in the Franklin County, Ohio Department of Housing and Urban Development Entitlement Program and abide by the covenants of that Program and declare an emergency measure) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, explained that this is an on-going program that the City has been involved in for many years. It is a three year agreement and is required to be adopted by ordinance. Due to the County's deadline, he requested Council approve this as an emergency measure.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Bennett moved that the Rules of Council be suspended and the Waiting Period be waived; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

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| Mr. Grinch | Yes |
| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |

Mr. Bennett moved it be approved as an emergency measure; seconded by Ms. Albright.

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| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |
| Mr. Grinch | Yes |

5. Resolution CR-24-11 (Approve the Budget Estimates for the Fiscal Year of 2012) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Turner, Dir. of Finance, explained that this is required by State Law. It sets the limit for each fund. He said property tax expected to decline 11%; Local Government Funding from State has been cut and equates to a 37% decrease for Grove City; the Estate Tax has been eliminated; and the personal property tax is being phased out by the State. These decreases are accounted for in these estimates. He said the millage will remain exactly the same. However it does shift 2/10ths of a percent from the Police Pension Fund to the Bond Retirement Fund to even them out. This is monitored regularly and shifts made in the past. He said the County will take these estimates and send back rates for Council to approve later in the year. Mr. Bennett noted that we have the ability to levy up to 7 mills and we aren't suggesting any increase. He said that speaks well of how we are doing things.

Mayor Stage said when the County reviews the property values that may have an impact on the amount collected also.

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

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| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |
| Mr. Grinch | Yes |
| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |

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

Resolution CR-25-11 (Waive the provisions of Section 903.05(a & c) of the Codified Ordinances for the Annual Softball Tournament on July 30 & 31, 2011 at Fryer Park.

Mr. Troy Speakman, petitioner, explained that this came up very quickly in a conversation with Steve Carr. He thanked Council for considering this so fast. He explained about their organization. Mr.

Grinch asked if they were non-profit. Mr. Speakman said yes. Mr. Grinch asked if they were travel teams. Mr. Traversa said yes, they are taking them to South Carolina next week for tournaments. Mr. Grinch said he views their organization as exclusive, rather than an organization like GCKA that is inclusive. Mr. Traversa said they have about 64 children and are growing. They don't have the facility available to care for as many as GCKA. He said they play a higher level of competition and cares for that arena.

Mr. Bennett asked if their organization had public liability insurance. Mr. Traversa said yes. Mr. Bennett asked if they had liquor liability coverage. Mr. Traversa said he thought so, but would have to double check. Mr. Bennett said for his support, they would need to have this coverage with the City being a certificate holder and additional insured on the policy. Mr. Traversa said he understood.

Ms. Albright asked about their experience in handling these types of events. Mr. Traversa said he worked for the Franklin County Sheriff's office for 20 years. He does boxing events at Promo West Pavilion; he did the Hilliard County Fair beer sales. He said if someone is showing signs of intoxication, he cuts them off. Mr. Speakman said he has been running the alcohol sales at Our Lady of Perpetual Help during the Alumni Tournament for many years. He said Mr. Carr has been asked to go from two officers to four this year.

Mr. Bennett said with this being on City property, he moved that Section 2 be amended to include: a certificate of liability insurance be provided, stating the City as a certificate holder and additional insured, with respect to \$1. million per occurrence; \$2. million aggregate liability insurance; and liquor liability insurance; seconded by Mr. Berry.

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| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |
| Mr. Grinch | Yes |
| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |

Mr. Berry asked Mr. Wayslik the Administrations position on this. Mr. Wayslik said the organization has been working closely with Ms. Conrad and the Police Dept. He said they think it can exist peacefully and properly and benefit everybody well.

Ms. Klemack-McGraw noted that some of the profits will help defray the costs for security and she believes it will better maintain the consumption during the tournament.

Mayor Stage commented that this is a mixed bag. He doesn't like alcohol in the parks, but this got started because people were bringing in their own alcohol and disguising it in many ways. That ended up with situations that were difficult to deal with. It was decided that it is best for everyone if some alcohol is allowed to be sold, but it takes close monitoring. He said raising the security up to four officers will give some added protection in the over consumption and any other consumption done except from this organization. However, the Administration is not in favor of alcohol in the parks.

Mr. Bennett suggested that the organization consider adding checkpoints at the gates.

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

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| Ms. Albright | Yes |
| Mr. Grinch | No |
| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |

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

1. Ordinance C-34-11 (Approve a Special Use Permit for South-Western City Schools Transportation Facility located at 3427 Southwest Blvd.) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Gary Sigrist, rep. SWCS, explained that they need to meet the 2013 narrow banding radio requirements. After evaluating the system, it was determined that only half the busses would comply. They have completely revamped their radio system and it will allow them to communicate with the entire district. There will be radios in all busses, schools, and one in the City's dispatch center (for emergency purposes). To do all this, they need to replace the existing antenna with one that is 130' high so it transmits across the entire district.

Mr. Bennett asked if this will have any interference with this high frequency system. Mr. Sigrist said no. It is all digital. It also has security features so it is difficult for others to listen. Mr. Bennett asked if the antenna could be used for commercial use-i.e. cell tower. Mr. Sigrist said yes, but they are very limited in what they can put on the antenna and they have no plans to do that.

Mayor Stage said this is the epitome of partnerships. Mr. Sigrist said they have working with the Police Div. for two years. It is very expensive, and they caught it early. The Police Div. helped him write grants; Todd Hurley has been most helpful. He said the City would love to have them on their 800 MHz system, but that would cost three times as much.

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

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| Mr. Grinch | Yes |
| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |

2. Ordinance C-35-11 (Approve a Special Use Permit for Outdoor Seating for Starbucks located at 2191 Stringtown Road) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Brian Lorenz, representing petitioner, explained that this is currently a legal non-conforming use, but they are upgrading the property and the tables. In addition, they have agreed to upgrade the area with decorative fencing and some greenery. Ms. Klemack-McGraw asked if there would be any umbrellas. Mr. Lorenz said yes. They will be solid green with no advertising.

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

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| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |
| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |
| Mr. Grinch | Yes |

Resolution CR-26-11 (Accept the 2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan) was given its reading and public hearing.

Ms. Conrad, Dir. of Parks & Rec., reviewed the plan with Council. She shared the many ways they requested feedback from the community, in every step of the process. She said the Plan is a resource

manual, a snapshot and a fluid document. Many things won't get addressed due to time and budget. She said they plan to update it every five years. She thanked all the staff who helped and the Park Board for their efforts.

Mr. Dave Rosa, Park Board Chair, said it has been quite a journey and is excited about the Plan. He sees it as a guideline and working plan. There is a chapter that is like a checklist to be used to help set priorities, assess progress and a list of things to be done. Approval is needed to receive accreditation next month.

Mr. Bennett said it is a very impressive document and a lot of thought has gone into it. However, Council has approved ideas and guidelines in the past that have meant something else later. He questioned the meaning of Council's approval. He said there is some wording in the document that gives him pause (like on page 50) and he wants assurance that this is a fluid document and not whatever is written shall be done. Mr. Rosa said there is no money being asked for and any pieces for planning would have to be funded. As for the lumberyard area, what they were trying to say was that the Downtown Center Plan should be followed.

Mr. Berry asked Mr. Smith what Council's approval meant – does it mean they approve everything in it Mr. Smith said by approving it, they are saying that this is the Plan that the City will work from. He said a lot of the wording is very flexible. Most of it is a recommendation and a guideline for going forward. Nothing is set in stone and it can be changed at a later day. He said it does not tie Council's or the City's hands in any way. It lays general groundwork to be used for future planning. Mr. Berry said he wants to make it clear that they are accepting the Park Boards work and not approval of all the ideas and statements within it. Ms. Conrad said she believes that is what they are asking them to approve. Any park facility change they want to make, they want to work with Council to make those a reality. She said it is the people's park system and that is why they got so much input from the residents of the City. Ms. Klemack-McGraw noted that 59% of our residents think we need more investments in our parks.

Mr. Bennett asked the Mayor his view and asked if it is akin to our Thoroughfare Plan. Mayor Stage said that is exactly what he was thinking of. He said we pencil in possible side streets and thoroughfares on it also. He noted that the Park Board is not a policy-making group. What is being accepted is a concept. He said there are things in it that he is not in agreement with either, but he likes the idea of having something to work from.

Ms. Albright noted that this is a fabulous plan and she learned a lot about our Park system from it. She said there is a lot that goes into getting accredited and keeping it. Ms. Conrad said Park accreditation is fairly young. We were the fifth in the State to receive it. There are now 8. Renewal takes place this year and there will be a group arriving in the coming weeks to review the Department.

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

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| Mr. Berry | Yes |
| Mr. Bennett | Yes |
| Ms. Albright | Yes |
| Mr. Grinch | Yes |
| Ms. Klemack-McGraw | Yes |

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

1. Mr. Walters, Information Systems Officer, provided an overview and the reason behind doing this survey. He then introduced Marty Saperstein.

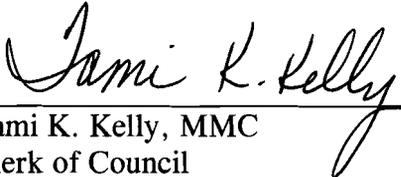
Mr. Marty Saperstein, Saperstein & Associates, presented the Business Survey to Council. He explained how they identified businesses in the city and how they contacted them requesting participation. About 35% refused to participate. He said it provided a list of businesses and over 700 updated email addresses to the City. The survey shows we have lots of satisfied businesses. He also reviewed the challenges of doing business in Grove City. The biggest answer to the challenges was attracting customers.

Mr. Walters said they will take this information and use it to start some new programs to communicate with businesses more regularly.

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

1. The Mayor reported that he met with residents of Sassafras Ave. to assure them that their street is a top priority. He said the Fireworks were great.
2. Mr. Turner noted that that there was an article in the paper about RITA and all the wrong letters they sent out. He said we do use RITA, but don't expect many Jackson Township residents to receive that letter in error.
3. After additional comments from Council and Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
President