

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

July 06, 2015

Regular Meeting

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

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

Jeff Davis Maria Klemack-McGraw Ted Berry Steve Bennett Laura Lanese

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

Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Lanese	Yes

2. The Chair recognized Mr. Chris Fulton, President, and Ms. Amanda Davis, Director of the GCVCB, for a brief update. Mr. Fulton recognized three of the Trustees present. Ms. Davis provided a handout for each member. She read their mission and said they do their best to be on the forefront of the Convention and Visitors business. She said they had the first FAN tour for travel bloggers and people in the travel industry. This tour shared Grove City with them and promoted the community, in the hopes that they would do the same and bring groups here. They are currently working on a Civil War tour. They changed their logo to have rainbow colors to show G. C. as an open and welcoming community.
3. The 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-31-15 (Adopt the Grove City Higher Education Investment Program) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Berry read a statement explaining the reason for this initiative. He said we need to keep students living and working in Grove City, and maintain an educated workforce. He said this Program is unique and requires a participant to: live in Grove City and give back through volunteer hours with a non-profit; church; or city event. He said this legislation is only a first step. The committee will meet and further define the Program. They will submit that to Council for final approval. He said we need to remember that people are our economic development engines.

Mr. Bennett asked Ms. Kelly, Clerk of Council, to read the letter from Ohio Senator Jim Hughes supporting this ordinance.

Dr. David Harrison, President of Columbus State, voiced support for this ordinance. He commended Council for a pretty bold vision. He said the approach is unique and Columbus State stands ready to assist any way they can. He said our region has a diverse employment base. The differentiating factor

will be talent and the ability for employers to have a steady stream of high-skilled employees. Ms. Klemack-McGraw asked if there is any other community offering a similar program. Mr. Harrison said he is only familiar with one in Florida which was successful and kept students in the community and helped spur economic growth.

Mr. Davis noted that this ordinance is two fold and asked how the \$100,000.00 for universities would work. Mayor Stage said they met with Dr. Harrison several weeks ago and have been working on getting a permanent residency here. He said they have a location at the school but it is not conducive for all the adult students and need for later hours. They asked if there was an incentive they could give to help offset renting, leasing, building, etc. He said the objective is to have a permanent residence in Grove City and feels this is a good start, as far as an incentive.

Ms. Lanese said she is curious why other locations haven't tried this. She said she hasn't found any study that can attribute any economic impact into these types of programs. Dr. Harrison said one of the variables that need to be looked at is the time horizon in terms of payback. Higher education is a long-term investment. He said he doesn't know what parameters she is looking at to gauge success. Mr. Berry named numerous communities that have similar programs. He shared statistics from some of these-specifically Cleveland and it has paid off for them. Ms. Lanese said Grove City is one of the fastest grows cities in Franklin County without any program. Mr. Berry showed Census figures that indicate Grove City does not have the same figures as surrounding communities. Ms. Lanese said she doesn't believe we have brain drain when we have Mt. Carmel coming and other things happening like the new library. She said she just doesn't see the correlation and feels we could use the money in a better way – like putting a fiber network – to bring more jobs. She asked Dr. Harrison why they chose to go north rather than south several years ago. Dr. Harrison said that happened before he got here, but at that time Delaware was the fastest growing community and the most underserved. He said they get students from SWCS, but what he doesn't know is how the employers feel.

Mr. Hugh Garside, SWCS, voiced support for the program. He said this will help their students. They are putting in an Accelerated Learning Center next year, which they hope will help too. He read a letter from Dr. Wise supporting this effort. It stated that they have created opportunities for education, but beyond high school there are many obstacles. He said if we are truly committed to building a community, we must make affordable higher education one of our highest priorities. Mr. Garside said cost and proximity issues are real, as a parent of two graduates of GCHS, he hears this from friends and parents. Ms. Lanese believes that SWCS is doing an outstanding job and feels the scholarship/higher education efforts should remain with the school system rather than the City getting involved. Mr. Bennett asked Mr. Garside if Grove City was more diverse then Dublin. Mr. Garside said yes, we are.

Ms. Lenee Pezzano, Pres. of Harrison College in Grove City, said when this was first presented to her she prayed which is what she does when something is very important to her. She gave a little background on herself and said she really got immersed in talent gap and “brain-drain” while running industry sector projects. She saw how it takes a village to reach a common goal. She saw industry, government, education and community come together and join forces. She said 94% of the Harrison College graduates stay and work in the communities they are in. They are committed to Grove City and will remain so. She said it is important to establish a set of circumstances that make it possible to do something. This program is a start in showing that this community believes education is important; that they are committed to the community; willing to lead by example; communicates to residents that they really matter and serious about wanting them here; it tells businesses that the City is serious about partnering with them to help meet their needs. She asked what if it creates momentum for others to follow. She congratulated Council for the heart and intent of the program and Harrison College is excited to be part of the landscape.

Ms. Lanese confirmed with Ms. Pezzano that the program she referenced in her comments was federally funded. She said it sounds like Harrison College is doing everything right, with the statistics that were

shared. Ms. Pezzano said it's about listening to the need of the community and their students. She said Grove City has a high rate of high school graduates and getting them to the next level is needed. Mr. Berry asked what the key is to getting more students in their door. Ms. Pezzano said knowing they are here and the cost.

Mr. Nick Amicucci, resident, voiced support for this ordinance. He said there is a sense of loyalty to Grove City. He said the key to our children's future is formal, higher education. Paying for that education is a worry and stressful for many parents. Some tell their children they are on their own or it can't happen. He said two of his siblings and many friends have large college debt. He said this program could be the leading edge to help younger generations get through college without such a burden. He believes it will form a stronger bond with the City - work here, live here, build families here. He said we need to make Grove City the best city in the area, so our children can live, work & play and stay here.

Mr. Roby Schottke, resident, said this is a wonderful opportunity to provide continuing scholarships to many. He said as a member of the South Western Education Foundation, they have many scholarships but not like this. He said the Foundation has the infrastructure in place to award scholarships, etc. and offered their infrastructure in helping with this program. Mr. Berry said that is one reason they have a member of the Foundation on the committee. Mr. Schottke said this can give the students more than the Foundation. However, the only concern is the corporate funding piece, as they are all chasing the same dollars. Mr. Berry said that is another reason to have the Foundation and a Chamber member on the committee to work those things out. Mr. Davis asked how long the Foundation has been in existence. Mr. Schottke said since 1985. Mr. Davis asked how many scholarships have been awarded. Mr. Schottke said he knows how many dollars have been awarded - over \$1 million. He has other statistics at home. Mr. Davis asked if they have statistics showing if the students have stayed in the community, etc. Mr. Schottke said they do not track that. Ms. Lanese said when government starts subsidizing something, she believes others stop. Mr. Schottke said for 10 years the City has been giving \$25,000.00 to the Foundation and no other donor has stopped giving, they only applaud the City's participation.

Mr. Hunter Swackhammer, resident, said his family is unable to help him pay for college. He did receive some assistance through academic and athletic scholarships, but he can't afford it on his own. He said he doesn't want to live on plastic and be in debt, yet he owes \$7,000.00 for just two semesters. He said a program like this could assist a student to continue their education. He voiced support for the legislation. Mr. Davis noted that there is a caveat that if a student doesn't finish college the City would want reimbursed. Mr. Swackhammer said that stipulations would give him incentive to finish and contribute to his community.

Mr. Anthony Brown, resident, said he thinks this program is outstanding. He went to OSU for 12 years and knows the debt of that, even though he lucked into his education. He works there now and knows that many things are being privatized. This will make college more expensive for the students. He said more help is going to be needed for those students.

Mr. Shaheen, resident, said with his experience traveling overseas and knowing what debt his friends have, he knows we are behind in helping educate its citizens. Many countries offer free higher education. Even Greece, who is bankrupt, sees the need in offering higher education to its citizens. He said Ohio students have an average of over \$28,000.00 in school debt. He said he fully supports this legislation. Every student in Ohio needs help, as we rank 9 out of 10 for the most college debt in the Country. Ms. Lanese said the countries mentioned are funded nationally, not locally. She said she doesn't think it is the local government's job to fund higher education. Mr. Shaheen said for change to occur, you must start at the bottom and work up. He said Germany funds at the local level.

Mr. Berry read a Section of the Ohio Revised Code that permits this type of program at the local level.

Mr. Bennett commented that this is not intended to take over any scholarship program. It is to augment those who need to make their education a success. He said Council is being asked to fund preservation of documents and restoration of an historical building. While preserving the past is important, we have to give people the seeds for the future. He feels this is a viable program.

Mayor Stage said it has been the city's goal to be a full service community. He read six attributes that he believes make it a full service community and those we are excelling at, with education being the last piece. This program goes toward their educational goal and gives another opportunity to bring in another school.

Mr. Davis said this has been great discussion and the questions on whether local taxpayers should fund scholarships. He said he feels there is merit on both sides. The other issue is implementation. He said the attachment doesn't layout how the money would get used and allocated. He offered amendments that he feels help protect the city. He said the City may become a collection agency and there is no structure in this ordinance. We do have an outline. The amendment would clarify that the recommendations from the Committee must come back to Council with a structure before any funds are allocated. He said he gets the intent, but wants to start out slower with less money and limit our liability.

Mr. Davis moved to amend the last Whereas statement to change the amount from \$250,000.00 to \$125,000.00; change Section 2 to Section 3; add a new Section 2 that reads - The Investment Committee shall submit the criteria and structure to Council for approval before any monies are granted and disbursed.; and in Exhibit "A", under Funding, change the first sentence to read "The City of Grove City shall consider an appropriation yearly for the GC Promise Scholarship.; seconded by Ms. Lanese.

Mr. Berry read from Exhibit A that stipulates that the criteria and structure will come back to Council for final approval. Mr. Davis feels that the amendment language is stronger and makes sure no funds are disbursed until that is approved.

Ms. Lanese said she appreciates Mr. Davis' attempt to strengthen the language, but doesn't want to get into a public relations nightmare in trying to collect money from a recipient because they didn't come back to Grove City. She sees this as very difficult to do. Mr. Bennett commented that anyone who signs a contract accepts the terms and consequences.

Mr. Berry	No
Mr. Bennett	No
Ms. Lanese	No
Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	No

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

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Lanese	No
Mr. Davis	No
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

2. Ordinance C-33-15 (Appropriate \$4,425.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of Records Preservation) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 7/20/15.
3. Ordinance C-34-15 (Appropriate \$690,000.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of Extending the 18-Inch Orders Road Truck Sanitary Sewer and Waiving Section 139.05 of the Codified Ordinances) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 7/20/15.

4. Ordinance C-35-15 (Appropriate \$350,000.00 from the General Fund for the Current Expense of Professional Services for the recommended Racetrack Redevelopment Projects) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 7/20/15.
5. Ordinance C-36-15 (Grant an Exceptional Circumstance for 3981 Broadway to Increase the Maximum Award under the Town Center Commercial Revitalization Grant Program) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 7/20/15.
6. Resolution CR-37-15 (Approve the Budget Estimates for the Fiscal Year of 2016) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Turner said this is required by the City Charter and the State Auditor. It is the first step for next years budget and gives a high level view of where we might stand. Mayor Stage said it is conservative and likes where it stands.

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

Ms. Lanese	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes

7. Resolution CR-38-15 (Waive the provisions of Section 139.05 of the Codified Ordinances for Repairs and Improvements to the property located at 4126 Haughn Road) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Vedra explained that they have discussed with a contractor the plans for restoration. He introduced Mr. Terry Sullivan, Schooley-Caldwell Associates. Mr. Sullivan said they were retained to do a study on the Grant Homestead. He said as they begin a restoration, they find that you don't want to open the bid up to everyone and take the lowest bid. They suggest maintaining the competitive bidding by prequalifying certain contractors to do work that is very specific to historic restoration. An overview of the different projects involved with the restoration was explained. Mayor Stage said they were only asking for the waiver because of the specialized nature of the work. Mr. Davis asked of Schooley Caldwell was involved with the State House renovation – Mr. Sullivan said yes.

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

Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Lanese	Yes

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

1. Ordinance C-37-15 (Authorize the City Administrator to enter into an Agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission for the West Water Run Stream Restoration Project) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 7/20/15.

2. Resolution CR-39-15 (Waive the City Fees associated with Water and Sewer Connections for the Development of the Scioto Grove Metro Park) was given its reading and public hearing.

The Mayor said the City only has so much power to waive fees. This would wave \$24,000.00 in fees. He said all the property will be annexed into the City of Grove City and feels this waiver is justified.

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

Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Lanese	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes

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

1. Ordinance C-29-15 (Approve the Rezoning of 3.25 acres located West of Broadway and South of Park Street from IND-1, C-2 and CBD to PUD-R) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mayor Stage began with providing an update on the financial arrangement. He shared a PowerPoint that showed a little history and the latest figures. He said there is no city cash being invested. The City would be party to the debt, but Pizzuti will guarantee payment to cover the debt. The next phase to create the pedestrian path and additional parking off Park Street would cost the City cash in the future. He compared this to the cost of the library and the extension of Columbus Street. He shared a projection that includes an \$8 million cost for a new City Hall. It can keep us on the same financial path over the next ten (10) years. He said they do have to work with the School District, but believe they are in agreement.

Mr. Bennett asked about the acquisition of all the property and such over the years and questioned not having City cash involved. Mayor Stage said Mr. Bennett is correct, but he means to say that the City would not have to write a check for this portion of the project.

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

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	No
Ms. Lanese	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes

2. Ordinance C-38-15 (Accept the Annexation of 5.46 acres located South of Borrer Road and East of Borrer Road) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 7/20/15.
3. Resolution CR-40-15 (Set Forth the Municipal Services that can be provided to a 1.5 acre parcel along Hoover Road from the Corporation Limits to Orders Road upon its annexation to the City of Grove City) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Christopher Buerkle, Epson Group, explained that they are currently working on a condominium project off Hoover Road. During that approval process, Franklin County requested their assistance in annexing portions of Hoover Road, to provide a more uniform roadway. He said the three property owners have consented to the annexation.

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

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Lanese	Yes
Mr. Davis	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. Chief Robinette introduced Andrew Chappellear, one of their Explorer's. He shared the achievements of Andrew, whose latest award is to be 1 of only 120 to attend the National Law Enforcement Explorer's Leadership Academy. He said this is a shining example of the youth in our community.
2. Mr. Robert Gardner commented on the success of the fireworks. He said there was some discontent with some and asked those why they were leaving the stadium. Some said they were leaving because there was no alcohol; some were going back and forth to their vehicles; some left because of the selected entertainment. He suggested having another stage of entertainment next year for others. All-in-all it was great.

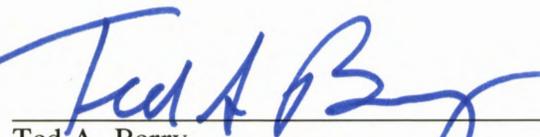
The Chair recognized members of Administration and Council for closing comments.

1. Mayor Stage commented on the excellent rate we received on the \$14 million bond; the excellent exit interview on the 2014 audit; and the super fireworks. He thanked everyone who worked on the fireworks show.
2. Mr. Turner said the Auditor will release the CAFR tomorrow. The Bond did close and we have the Library financing.
3. Mr. Bennett said with the current flooding event that occurred, he suggests looking into checking all the creeks for debris and putting together a plan for each of them. He commented on the potential City Hall relocation and suggested using the old library for the Safety Building Annex and move City Hall now instead of waiting five years, in order to get today's pricing rather than 5 years from now.
4. After comments from Council and Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
Chair