

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO

COUNCIL MINUTES

August 03, 2020

Regular Meeting

Council reviewed the agenda in Caucus at 6:30 and the regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Houk at 7:00 p.m. by a virtual Webex connection due to the Coronavirus-19 pandemic as temporarily allowed by the State.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke Aaron Schlabach Christine Houk Randy Holt Ted Berry

- 1. Mr. Schottke moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting and the Service Committee Meeting and approve as written; seconded by Ms. Houk.

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

- 2. The Chair read the agenda items and all items were approved by unanimous consent.

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

- 1. Ordinance C-34-20 (Approve the Plat for Autumn Grove, Section 4) was given its second reading and public hearing and 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-35-20 (Approve a Special Use Permit for Dog Grooming for Mutts & Co. located at 4170 McDowell Road) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Rauch, Dir. of Dev., explained that the applicant is proposing to have two (2) self-service dog wash stations. No groomers will be on site. The stations will be accessed from a drive-thru.

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

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

- 3. Ordinance C-36-20 (Approve a Special Use Permit for a Drive-Thru for Mutts & Co. located at 4170 McDowell Road) was given its second reading and public hearing and Schottke moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Houk.

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

- Resolution CR-26-20 (Approve the Development Plan for Silco Fire & Security located at 2346 Southwest Blvd.) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Rauch, Dir. of Dev., explained that this is the third plan that Silco has submitted for approval. This is for a new building, rather than an addition. This new building is meant to satisfy their long term goals. He said any future expansion would require variances and they have added a double row of landscaping with a mound to mitigate the closeness to the neighbors.

Mr. Kyle Weber, representing petitioner, was present to answer questions. He also introduced Mr. Pat Moore, developer. Mr. Weber accepted the deviation and stipulations set by Planning Commission.

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

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

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

- Ordinance C-37-20 (Authorize All Actions Necessary to Effectuate an Opt-Out Electric Service Aggregation Program pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4928.20; and Directing the Franklin County Board of Elections to submit the Ballot Question to the Electors and declare an emergency) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Berry moved to amend this ordinance and read the changes under Section 1, 2, 3 and 5; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Mr. Schottke asked about the change of the opt-out timing to three years. Mr. Berry stated that a person can opt-out at any time, but everyone must get a letter offering an opt-out option every three years. Mr. Smith stated that he changed this to mirror the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Schottke asked if we could add "or sooner" to show that in the ordinance. Mr. Smith stated that he had no issue with adding language for clarity.

Mr. Schlabach moved to amend the amendment to add "or at any time" after *three years*; seconded by Mr. Schottke.

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

The being no further amendments, the vote was called on the main motion.

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

Mr. Frank Wilson, AEP, provided some answers to questions from the last meeting. He said customers are on a standard rate of \$04.6 kWh. He said the aggregate rate is complicated but they strive to keep the price at or below the electric standard rate and explained options for grants. He said IRE is a different product than existing electricity. He said this product only adds wind and solar. Once those are built, they will come on-line for usage for customers. He said Columbus is going to voters this November for energy aggregation and Grove City could benefit from their substantial educational campaign. He said AEP is committed to helping educate the Grove City voters. He said Grove City is uniquely positioned to be a frontrunner and show the value of energy aggregation. *Mr. Schottke* asked how new types of energy would be added, since we have named the type of energy in this ordinance. Mr. Wilson said it is easy to add new types, once they are evaluated and adopted by AEP. They have the ability to add projects, as they become available and are economically feasible to the customer's rate. *Mr. Berry* asked where energy is coming from now. Mr. Wilson said the stack right now is coal, natural gas, solar, wind and hydro. Most is from coal. *Mr. Holt* confirmed that the solar and wind assets will be coming from Ohio. Mr. Wilson said yes.

Mr. Mary Mynatt, Voeller Circle, voiced support for this effort. She said she feels this is the time for Grove City to become a leader among the suburbs in Central Ohio. She feels we are leading in our recycling program and other programs that show we are forward thinking and attractive to citizens and businesses. She feels people want clean air and clean water. She believes they are ready to support a ballot initiative to use our collective power to purchase energy through our utilities. She said it is so important to reduce carbon emissions and the time is now to slow down our effects on the environment. She asked why we would not want to take advantage of this initiative. She thinks the leaders would look like heroes by saving money on energy and using those savings on other items in the sustainability plan. She said we could be swept along by the initiative of Columbus with little effort on educating the public.

Mr. Chris Moscato, resident, voiced support for this ordinance. He said as a member of the Financial Review Task Force, he learned about the addition of high speed internet and feels this is the time to embrace this ordinance and bring engineers, etc. to Ohio to build these energy sources.

Mr. Scott Belcastro, Trebel Company, voiced support for this ordinance and offered his companies services to assist the City in this effort. He said they are an approved broker and believe this is a great opportunity for the citizens of Grove City.

Ms. Kelly read two letters of support for this ordinance from Ms. Rachel Wagner and Cathy Cowan-Becker.

Mr. Holt said he thinks this is very positive for businesses and residents. He feels it is trend-setting and we can be a front runner. He believes the IRE is a creative way to get the energy to market in Grove City and looking forward to having competitive pricing for sustainable energy.

Mr. Schottke asked if the price per kilowatt is fixed or floating. Mr. Wilson said it is fixed for a predetermined period of time.

Ms. Houk commented that the Sustainability Committee embarked on a plan to find where we are with sustainability and where we would like to be with many different components. This is one of them. She said she appreciated everyone's information at the last meeting and she has done additional research. She said there is continued guidance about getting started and she feels we are leaping over getting started to putting this in front of voters in 92 days. She said she feels there needs to be a core team to carry this forward and for her, it is all about the time table. She doesn't understand why we are trying to put this in front of voters before we are getting the residents ready so they understand this issue before asking them to vote. She is supportive of the spirit and the concept of getting this moving, she is just not behind the "on fire" timetable.

Mr. Berry stated that the first step is asking if the voters want it. He said this year, we will be able to take advantage of Columbus and partnering organizations to help educate. If we wait, we will be paying for our own educational campaign. He said it is no different than running any campaign. He said there are many in the community that have already rallied around this issue. He said he feels we should let the voters decide. Then, the Administration will take on the next steps.

Mr. Schottke asked where the burden fall to implement this plan if it passes. Mayor Stage said this is a stand along question on the ballot. He said he thinks there is 18 months to implement a plan that the Administration will work on. He said the City cannot take an active role in campaigning to get the question passed. A campaign committee should be formed. He said if it passes, the Administration will handle the next steps.

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

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

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

Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	No

2. Ordinance C-38-20 (Authorize the City Administrator to enter into a Contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation to Utilize the Bridge Inspection Program) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on August 17, 2020.

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

1. Ordinance C-32-20 (Enact the Wet Basement Grant Program and Appropriate \$200,000.00 from the Sidewalk Program to the West Basement Program) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Schottke commented that we have had several hard rains lately that have contributed to draining issues for residents. He said this is only part of a much bigger program. He said our problem is that

some of the sanitary sewers, in certain parts of the City, are too small to handle the volume that is coming to them now. He said the City has done a nice job of lining old lines to prevent seepage, along with some other preventative measures. He said these sewer lines were built to Code in the 1950's, but the City has built up since then and modernization of homes allows the sewer lines to fill up quicker. He said after speaking with other Council Members, he has thought about making the program income related and some items should be free. He said no matter what program is adopted, there needs to be a larger, long term program to address adequate sized sewers in parts of our community. He said no matter what program is considered, there will continue to be problems until the sewer lines are addressed. He said he hopes to have a better program designed and *moved to withdraw this ordinance; seconded by Mr. Berry.*

Mr. Berry complimented Mr. Schottke on the phenomenal work he did with this program and the time he gave everyone to provide comments. He said he spoke to the Mayor yesterday about coming to an agreement on how we move forward to address all water issues. He said he has already planned to have some discussing under New Business at the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Stage said he would prefer that this not be withdrawn. He said he appreciates the surface water and storm water flooding, but there are 92 homeowners that need help. He said we have a health issue and asked that the Attachment be amended with the sanitary program. He said this infiltration is not going to go away in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Schottke said the ordinance refers to a Grant Program and the replacement program that is suggested is not a grant and he feels this needs to be withdrawn and started over.

Ms. Houk said she believes it is a grant program and there are many similarities. She said she realizes that this is a difficult transition with the core of one plan keeping a basement dry in a broader sense and the other one keeping the backup of sewage from getting into basements. She feels the latter is a health issue and is an urgent matter. She said Staff has done the leg work and they have data points to come up with the 92 homes that need help.

Mr Holt expressed his appreciation for the compassion Mr. Schottke has for this issue. He said it has gotten his attention and the attention of others. He feels we can adopt a short term plan now and work on a long term plan. He said he feels we need to do something for the 92 homes now and work on a long term solution. He feels Mr. Schottke has the attention of the Administration and the attention of other Council Members to work on this.

Ms. Kelly read the message from Ms. Melissa Monhart Capers, who asked Council not to let this go. She said this is desperately needed now and she is one of the 92 homes.

The vote was called on the Motion to Withdraw.

Mr. Berry	No
Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	No
Ms. Houk	No
Mr. Holt	No

Mr. Berry asked if Mr. Schottke would consider removing some of the items covered in his proposed program. Mr. Schottke said yes. Council discussed making amendments to the existing Exhibit A. Ms. Houk said she feels we are ready to act on the revised Exhibit that addresses the 92 homes for sanitary issues and feels we should work on a Phase II with Mr. Schottke's ideas later.

things that are health and welfare driven. They will commit to work on this as best as can be managed. He said if Council replaces the attachment, they will hit the road running and come back with a plan to help other pieces of this, with solutions. Mr. Holt said he thinks we can handle Phase I – the sewer backup; Phase II would include working on storm water, with Mr. Schottke’s plan; Phase III would be a long term plan to discuss larger pipes, retention ponds, etc.

Ms. Houk moved to replace Exhibit “A” with the Exhibit “A” – Sewer Plan; seconded by Mr. Schlabach.

Mr. Schottke	No
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

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

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

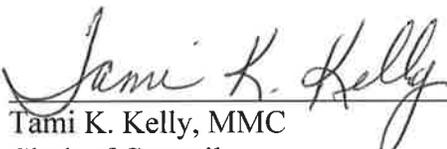
2. Ordinance C-39-20 (Approve the Settlement Agreement for Capital Telecom Holdings II, LLC vs. Grove City, Ohio) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on August 17, 2020.

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

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

1. Mayor Stage reported that 8/7 is Purple Heart Day; Mr. Turner, Dir. of Finance, received the Award of Distinction from the Auditor of State; they are continuing to prepare the Working Grant Program; and the latest City Scene is out.
2. After comments from Council and Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourn at 9:08 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Christine Houk
Chair