

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

August 20, 2001

Regular Meeting

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

Chris Fulton Vaughn Radi Steve Bennett Budd Eversman Maria Klemack

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

Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes

2. President Bennett recognized the Mayor for several presentations. First, the Mayor administered the Oath of Office to Paul Carmichael and Steven DiSario, new police officers; next, she recognized Whitney Fullen, the winner of the Soap Box Derby, Stock Division, Championship; finally, she made a presentation to the American Cancer Society from the first Relay for Life, held in the City this year. There were 47 teams and a check for \$78,700.00, that the event raised, was presented. We received the designation of Largest First Site Relay. Members of the Relay for Life Committee then presented Ms. Maria Klemack with a Plaque for being their Honorary Chair.
3. President Bennett read the agenda items and they were approved by unanimous consent.

The Chair recognized Mr. Radi, chairman of the Lands & Zoning Committee, for discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said committee.

1. Ordinance C-39-01 (Vacate and Rededicate a Sanitary Sewer Easement lying South of S.R. 665 and east of Seeds Road and across the parcel for Fed Ex) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Stage, City Admin., stated that they have received the easement needed and appreciated Council's indulgence.

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

Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes

2. Resolution CR-51-01 (Approve the Exterior Building Colors and Materials for Hoggy's Restaurant) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Andy Simpson, architect for Hoggy's, presented a drawing of the four main materials for the building and reviewed each. He explained that the main body would be off yellow and showed a tile of the actual color. The roof is metal and the paint on the railing & shutters is a dark green. The final color is a stain for the doors and windows.

Mr. Radi pointed out that the graphics for the building were also to be approved and there are none submitted. Mr. Simpson said that was correct. He has separated them out and will submit graphics for approval at a later date.

Mr. Eversman commented that he was pleased with the initial color rendering of the building and the architecture for the building, but the yellow has changed quite a lot. He said they spent some time with Ruby Tuesday's to avoid that type of yellow color and if the color was closer to what was on the drawing, he would be happy to support this resolution. He asked if there was any reason why the color is so dramatically different. Mr. Simpson said the color in the rendering is an artists' representation and in his mind it is too dull. It is very tan and would not provide any "punch". He is from the south and the colors are usually striking. He said that when you are looking at a small sample, it does tend to make the color look darker than when you actually get it on the building. He said he hopes they will be happy with it when it is done. President Bennett commented that the palate shown has different highlights. Mr. Simpson said that was correct. The paint has a three step process - a base color of yellow, it's gone over with a slightly darker version, and then back over with a lighter version, so that it won't look bland. Mr. Fulton asked about the shutters on the top. Mr. Simpson explained that the top has faux windows that will be the brick material. President Bennett stated that in the last meeting, they discussed the forest green/black color and making it have a more green hue. Mr. Simpson said he did change this a little, as requested by some Council Members, but the intent is still for it to be dark.

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

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	No
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Fulton	No
Mr. Radi	No

Mr. Radi suggested to Mr. Simpson that they try to get together and come to a resolution so he has the ability to move forward.

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

1. Resolution CR-54-01 (Intent to Support the YMCA with Annual Finance Contributions) was given its reading and public hearing. Mr. Fulton explained that the procedure allows for three proponents and three opponents, with a maximum time of five (5) minutes. He noted that since all those signing up to speak on this issue were proponents, he would take the first three.

Mrs. Alice Sweeley, Park Board member, was present to speak on behalf of the Park Board. She stated that the Board approves of a one-time appropriation for the YMCA. She provided several reasons for their decision, but also commented that the Board did not believe the money should be taken from existing Park funding.

Rev. Jim Moran, First Presbyterian Church, voiced support for the commitment to the YMCA. He said the Y has, historically, been a great proponent of holistic approach to life. Addressing not only the spiritual side of our being, but also the physical side. He feels we have ample documentation that shows the importance of a holistic approach to our lives. He believes this is money well spent – every penny.

Ms. Tina Badurina, member of YMCA Steering Committee, voiced support for a contribution commitment. She explained how she grew up here and moved away for a couple of years. While living in Charlotte, she and her children participated in programs at the YMCA. She said the YMCA epitomizes the strength of character, community, health and family that, in turn, reflects the essence of why we all love Grove City.

At this point, Mr. Fulton commented that there were only two additional speakers signed-up on the list. President Bennett moved to waive the Rules of Council and allow the final two speakers; seconded by Mr. Radi.

Mr. Eversman	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes

Mr. Rick Brunton, member of the YMCA Steering Committee and local realtor, stated that in his line of work, he believes having a YMCA would be a big plus and puts us on par with some of the other larger communities. In response to using tax dollars for a private endeavor, Mr. Brunton cited that 75% of payroll tax comes from people that do not live here. So, he doesn't believe there is a good argument in saying that Grove City people are seeing their tax dollars spent on the YMCA. This will be used by the Southwest community and will bring more people into the community who may utilize other services. They YMCA will be responsible for maintaining the center, which is where the majority of the cost is.

Dr. Doug Wallace, voiced approval of the resolution. He said the physical well being and exercise are well documented. Many of his patients say they have nowhere to exercise in the winter. His response has been – “You will soon, because the YMCA is coming”. He thanked Council for their concern and is hopeful that the Y will be here soon.

President Bennett asked Mr. Bickley, CEO of the Central Ohio YMCA, about the fee structure. Mr. Bickely said they have half a dozen categories of membership. Family membership is \$609.00. If a family comes to the door and doesn't have the financial ability to join, they do have financial assistance, grants and scholarship funds available. He said their doors are open to all and try to make sure everyone can participate. He also noted that you don't have to be a full member to participate in an offered class. You can purchase a one-time program fee (\$25.00 – individual or \$45.00 – family) and then pay the program fee. President Bennett commented that he had a request from some seniors about a pass for use of the water

facilities only. He said he has a strong concern with the affordability and availability for the senior market and wants to see that they are treated as fairly as possible. He then asked about the use of other facilities with your membership. Mr. Bickley said if you have a membership, you can use it at any facility in the country. He explained that less than 1% of the membership actually does this. Mr. Radi asked, if approved, what the financial standings will be. Mr. Bickley stated that the current standings are: \$9.6 million out of the \$11.3 million capital campaign. Hilliard is in first (\$1.3), Gahanna (\$1.2) is in second, and Grove City (\$1.18) is in third. If this is approved, it would put Grove City over the top. They are projecting an early spring (February 1) groundbreaking date and anticipate going to bid in November. He said they have made it clear that the first community to reach the \$1.8 million goal first, will be the first community to break ground. This would essentially put Grove City in that place. Mr. Radi asked how the Liberty Township facility was funded and the cost. Mr. Bickley stated that, without the land and general fees, was approximately \$5.52 million. It was funded through a levy, passed in 1999. Land was purchased from additional monies from the City and approximately \$800,000.00 from the YMCA for an outdoor pool and equipping the building. Mr. Radi said the facility proposed for Grove City is similar to Liberty Township. Mr. Bickley said yes. They looked at scaling back the pool to six lanes, but after looking at numbers today believe they can keep eight lanes for all three proposed facilities. Mr. Radi commented that the City has already been in the recreation business. The Parks & Rec. office is in business to offer similar programs as the YMCA. They have about 25,000 participants per year in our current programs. In addition, the Big Splash has attracted more than 48,000 participants this year alone. He believes there is no doubt that the City has a dire need for this type of facility. He feels the \$667,000.00 is a bargain, compared to the \$5.5 million that other communities have spent on similar facilities. Mr. Eversman commented that no one here would argue that the YMCA is not needed or wanted in the community. The benefits are obvious, however, the issue is the funding. Is it appropriate and should it be handled by the City to come up with this large amount of money. As Finance Chairman, he tries to watch funds closely and it is something that concerns him. He said he considers this similar to a tax abatement to bring in another business. Even though it is structured a little differently, it is his justification for supporting it. He commented that he has not had the opportunity to contribute to the Y yet and committed \$1,000.00. President Bennett matched this commitment with his own and Mr. Eversman moved to reduce the figures in the resolution to reflect a total of \$665,000.00; seconded by President Bennett.

Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes

President Bennett moved to amend Section 2 to add to the end “. . . shall be matched by grants or other contributions”; seconded by Mr. Fulton.

Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes

Mr. Fulton said he had a constituent ask what would happen if the City didn't reach the \$1.8 million mark. Would the Y be built eventually anyway? Mr. Bickley stated that from the beginning, it has been understood that a YMCA facility would not be built until the \$1.8 million has been raised.

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

Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes

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

1. Ordinance C-50-01 (Amend Chapter 155 titled Civil Service Commission) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Dan Guttman, attorney w/Baker and Hostetter, explained that these changes will let the current Civil Service Commission statutes work in harmony with the amendments to Chapters 159 and 161, which were approved at the last meeting.

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

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes

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

1. Ordinance C-53-01 (Appropriate \$7,248.00 from the DARE Fund for Current Program Expenses) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Eversman explained that this is money received for the express use of the DARE Program.

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

Mr. Eversman	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes

2. Ordinance C-54-01 (Appropriate \$960,000.00 from the Broadway Project Fund for the Current Expense of Road Reconstruction) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Eversman explained that this is money being loaned by the Ohio Public Works Commission for this project.

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

Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes

3. Ordinance C-55-01 (Appropriate \$500.00 from the General Fund for Park Maintenance) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be 9/4/01.
4. Resolution CR-55-01 (Authorize the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1116 – Ohio Council 8, AFL-CIO) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Dan Guttman, attorney for City, explained that they have concluded the tentative agreement process and are very happy with the results. The two primary changes are: increase in salary over three years, and a \$250.00 cap in prescription drug insurance. Mr. Eversman asked how many employees this affects. Mr. Guttman said about 21. Mr. Eversman asked what the average amount of increase is. Mr. Guttman said 4.15% in the first year; 3.5% the second year; and 3.5% in the third year.

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

Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes

5. Resolution CR-56-01 (Authorize the City Administrator to Accept the Donation of the Grove City High School Football History Yearbook) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Bill Ferguson and Mr. Bob Hitchins, presented Council and the City with a copy of the compiled Football Yearbook from 1929 – 2000 at Grove City High School. They have been working on this for about a year and it covers everything. He said they will be selling them for \$20.00 and the Kiwanis will receive \$5.00 per book sold. He said they will also be available at Sue Anne's Hallmark, Roxainne's Florist, and Rackums. He showed the Mayor a rough copy and said the final version would be sent to City Hall upon completion.

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

Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes

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

There being no new business, President Bennett recognized members of Administration and Council for closing comments.

1. The Mayor provided a partial Mayor's Report and requested it be accepted. Mr. Eversman moved to accept this report; seconded by Mr. Fulton.

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mr. Eversman	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Fulton	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes

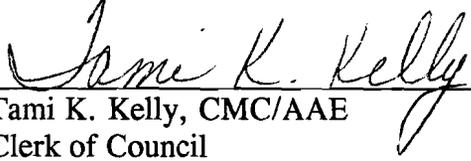
In closing, the Mayor reported on activities that have taken place in the community. She congratulated the two new police officers, Whitney Fullen, the representatives for Relay for Life, and Bob & Bill for the Football Yearbook. She then provided Council with copies of the Chamber Newsletter and a copy of her secretary's letter to Mr. Fulton. She responded to Mr. Fulton's comments from the last meeting regarding the invitation for the Ruby Tuesday's business opening by stating that she was pleased with the coverage given it. The City was well represented with Council President Bennett, Council Clerk Tami Kelly, Chamber Director Lynn Smith, Chamber members Stan Smith and Laura Johnson, Dev. Dir. Mary Bearden and herself. She said they only received a phone invitation and if there was any miscommunication, it was an unfortunate incident of the restaurant. She questioned why the Clerk of Council did not provide notification to Council when she received her invitation. As far as the Big Bear Balloon Festival, that invitation was for YMCA charter members and since none of the Council Members are charter members, they were not included. President Bennett stated that he did not receive an invitation as a Council Member, nor did Mrs. Kelly. They were both there at the personal invitation of an employee. He apologized for the Mayor's accusations to Mrs. Kelly. Mr. Fulton reiterated some of his comments from the last meeting, stating that he didn't know what the true facts were, but this was not an isolated incident. Most contacts for these events are initiated from the Mayor's office. He also reiterated that Ms. Bearden has offered to assist him in putting together a better list and communication avenue.

2. Mr. Stage commented that the City now owns the Lumber Yard. Mr. Clark stated that the closing for the Omega site is this Thursday.
3. Council congratulated the officers and Miss Fullen. They also thanked Mr. Hitchins and Mr. Ferguson for the Football Yearbook. They also commented on their pleasure to see the

YMCA supported. It was important for the public to be aware of what was being considered and Mr. Eversman stated that any opposition would have weighed on his vote.

4. After additional comments from Administration and Council, a motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 9:27 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, CMC/AAE
Clerk of Council



Steven M. Bennett
President