

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO  
COUNCIL MINUTES

December 19, 2005

Regular Meeting

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

*Rich Lester    Bob Hatley    Bill Saxton    Maria Klemack    Vaughn Radi*

1. Mr. Lester moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 12/5 and 12/12 meetings and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Radi.

Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Hatley	Yes
Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes

2. President Saxton recognized Mayor Grossman who introduced Brenda Horitz, Chair of the Grove City Home Tour Committee. She presented a check for \$1,300.00 to Pastor Steve Riggs of the Southwest Ministerial Association for the Emergency Fund on behalf of the Home Tour.
3. The Chair read the agenda items and they were approved by unanimous consent.

**The Chair recognized Mr. Hatley, Chair of Finance, for discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said Committee.**

1. Ordinance C-123-05 (Establish the Federal Emergency Management Agency Fund and Appropriate \$37,645.00 for the Current Expense of Disaster Expense Reimbursement) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Hatley moved it be approved; seconded by President Saxton.

Mr. Hatley noted that this is money the City received from FEMA for reimbursement.

Mr. Hatley	Yes
Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes

2. Ordinance C-125-05 (Appropriate \$11,991.70 from the Convention Bureau Fund for Current Expenses) was given its second reading and public hearing and Mr. Hatley moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Klemack.

Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Hatley	Yes

3. Ordinance C-126-05 (Appropriate \$900,000.00 from the Parkview Project Fund for the Current Expense of Project Reimbursement) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Behlen, Dir. of Finance, explained that the City has two partners in this Project. It is anticipated that the Casto Group will submit a request for reimbursement before the years end and this will make funds available to pay for this request, if it is submitted.

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

Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Hatley	Yes
Mr. Saxton	Yes

4. Ordinance C-127-05 (Make Amendments to Various Sections of Chapter 161 of the Codified Ordinances of Grove City, Ohio titled Employment Provisions of City Employees) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Richard "Ike" Stage, commented that Public Service is a hard job and thanked the outgoing Council Members for their service. He then stated that this Ordinance would add four steps to the payroll grid. He referenced the Press Release that stated 92% of salaries are set by the pay grid or contracts. He reminded Council that this is their opportunity to set pay. Even though salaries are set by the grid and contracts, this is how Council sets it. With some of the pay ranges being as high as 34% and not seeing the rest of the pay grid, and knowing that some of those are in the 4 - 4.5% range, he feels it needs more deliberation.

*Mr. Hatley* explained that Council has discussed this and Administration has advised them that some of the positions were underpaid and not in line with other municipalities. This will bring us in line with that.

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

Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Hatley	Yes
Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes

5. Ordinance C-131-05 (Make Appropriations or Current Expenses and Other Expenditures for which the City of Grove City must provide for the twelve months ending December 31, 2006) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Hatley noted that Council has a revised Attachment has been submitted that reflects a \$40,000.00 reduction in Account 410 for Community Relations; a reduction of \$40,000.00 in Account 332 for Garage; and an addition of \$4,500.00 in Account 410 in the Court Computer Fund. This Revised attachment, dated 12/12/05, is the one attached to the Ordinance and before Council tonight. Mr. Hatley moved to accept this revised attachment, with these changes; seconded by President Saxton.

Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Hatley	Yes
Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes

Dr. Bostic, City Administrator, commented that being relatively new to the process, he could see a significant difference in the process from last year to this year. He felt it went very well and applauded the Department Heads, the Mayor and Council for their due diligence.

Mr. Richard Stage, handed Council a written copy of his comments. He complimented Council on their review of the Budget. He said many of his questions from earlier correspondence were addressed, but he still has four projects that he would like Council to remove and leave for the new council to address. The first was the \$600,000.00 for City Hall. He said with \$1.7 million being already available, he feels it is overkill to appropriate more money for this project. *President Saxton* explained that the \$1.7 was for the expansion of City Hall, which the Administration has said will not be done now. He said legislation will have to come back to Council in April. He asked Mr. Behlen, Dir. of Finance, to clarify the \$1.7 million in notes. Mr. Behlen stated that the \$1.7 million is under contract. That contract is only good for 12 months and something will need to be done with it by April, 2006. He explained that the Scope of Work for the building now is for maintenance and the \$600,000.00 is to take care of those maintenance items. Mr. Stage asked if the \$1.7 couldn't be used for maintenance. Mr. Behlen stated it could, but it was meant for a larger project. Using that money would also mean paying interest, rather than using other funds. Mr. Stage commented on the next project he felt should be removed from this Budget, that being the Skate Park. He said it has been four years and the City has spent \$72,000.00 in studies and engineering. He said he appreciates the intent to put this project to bed, but it has been four years. It should be left to the new council for final funding and public hearing. The third issue was the Service Dept. expansion. He said he requested a total cost for the project, but has not received this figure yet. He said Council has approved the plan for the expansion, but it is still unclear what it is going to cost. He said the \$500,000.00 should be adjusted to the actual cost of the project pending. *Mr. Darryl Hughes*, Dir. of Service, stated that he did provide that information and the estimate is \$385,000.00. The final item on Mr. Stage's list was the Service Complex Sanitary Sewer. He said to think that the City has to spend \$150,000.00 for one commode is unconscionable. He said he understands that residents along Ventura may want to tap the sewer, but if they do, the cost could be \$10,000 - \$15,000 per home. He said after speaking with Mr. Keller, EMH&T, today he understands that the cost is down to \$70,000+, but still feels it is unconscionable for one commode. He said if and when the residents along Ventura annex, that is the time when this line should be put in place.

Mr. Hatley stated that many of the costs are unknown for projects. In his four years on Council, he believes that a good relationship has been built with the Administration and just because funds have been appropriated for a particular project doesn't mean that they will be spent. We are going to do what is best for the city, in the most economical and timely fashion. He said he has had the assurance of the Administration that this is how it works. He said it may have been done different when Mr. Stage was Mayor, but in his four years, Council has tried to let the Administration do the job that they can without micromanage them, and have the trust and confidence in them that if we have the money available, we don't necessarily have to spend it. It we want to scrap a project or move on to something else, that that is what they do. He said he appreciates Mr. Stage's comments, as they are very insightful. He said Council talked about monitoring Police overtime and the numerous studies. He commented on the City's Cash Position, which is projected to be \$7.2 million. Four years ago it was projected to be \$6.5 million and over \$16 million in cash. In his opinion, that is way too much money to have sitting idly by. He said if anyone has ever gone to GoogleEarth.com, you can see pictures of Grove City from about four years ago. You can see the difference between then and now with all the new housing, retail, infrastructure

improvements, etc. He said they have put a lot of money into the City and believes they have done a very good job in managing the assets of the City, making sure they are not bankrupting the City, and having \$7.2 million is not bad, but ample reserve. He feels that Revenue Estimates are too low, and understands that this will be adjusted in the coming year. However, just as we are prudent with our expenditures, we need to be prudent in budgeting our revenue figures.

The Mayor said this was truly a team effort and is proud to put this budget forward. She feels that they are all doing a service to the community, as they plan for the future and anticipate those needs. She said she can't thank Council and staff enough for their efforts. Mr. Hatley said a lot of decisions are difficult to make and Council tries to make the best decision, based on the information they have at the time.

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

Mr. Hatley	Yes
Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes

**The Chair recognized, Mr. Radi, Chairman of Service, for discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said committee.**

1. Ordinance C-128-05 (Authorize the City Administrator to enter into an Agreement with EMH&T for Consulting Engineering Services) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Dr. Bostic stated that while the City is happy with EMH&T and wasn't trying to move away from their firm for services, they took this opportunity to advertise for services and take proposals. He said they received 11 proposals and the top two were interviewed. The Administration felt EMH&T was the best firm and requests approval of this contract.

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

Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Hatley	Yes

2. Ordinance C-129-05 (Authorize the Amendment of the Contract for Refuse Collection and declare an emergency) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. C.C. Ungurean, Local Waste Services, said he appreciates the contract with the community. He said they are requesting an increase in the monthly rate due to increased State taxes, tipping fees and gas prices. He said fuel costs alone have increased \$0.71 to \$1.09 per home. Mr. Radi asked Mr. Hughes, Dir. of Service, to comment on recommendation shown in a letter dated 11//21/05. Mr. Hughes said they met and reviewed the request with Mr. Ungurean. The original increase request was negotiated down to \$0.99/month per home. Mr. Hatley asked if they use gasoline or diesel fuel. Mr. Ungurean said they use diesel and buy in bulk. Mr. Hatley said his original concern was due to the timing of the request, which was around the Katrina disaster when fuel prices were very high. He now understands that this is not the case. Mr. Clark, Dir. of Law, stated that the contract allows for a request for a increase only once per year and at a certain time. The Code allows for an increase for only tipping fees and/or fuel costs. The present

contract just references tipping fees. However, he believes Council has the authority to provide for the increase requested. Mr. Hughes also noted that the Contract allow for a request to decrease the fees in November. So, if they see a trend in dropping fuel prices, the City can request a decrease in the fee.

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

Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Lester	No
Mr. Hatley	Yes
Mr. Saxton	Yes

Mr. Radi moved it be approved as an emergency measure; seconded by Ms. Klemack.

Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Hatley	Yes
Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes

**The Chair recognized, Mr. Lester, Chairman of Lands, for discussion and voting of legislative agenda items under said committee.**

1. Ordinance C-132-05 (Accept the Annexation of 1.25 acres located at 3637 Casa Blvd.) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on 1/17/06.
2. Resolution CR-88-05 (Amend the Development Plan for anchor Retail Center located at 3160 Broadway as approved by Resolution CR-72-03) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Steve Brown, Anchor Retail Center, was present. He stated that Planning Commission reviewed the information concerning the roof top mechanical units and approved them.

Mayor Grossman stated that on new buildings, screening for mechanical units is able to be completed. In this case, the building was refurbished and the Quonset roof won't bear the weight of screening. Based on this information from the Engineer and Architect, Planning Commission did support not requiring screening for the rooftop mechanical units. Mr. Brown also stated that they provided a letter to the Building Department stating they would comply with their stipulations. Mr. Mike Boso, Chief Building & Zoning Official, commented that this would be for maintenance of the mechanical units, as far as keeping them painted, free of any grease, etc. build-up, and in orderly condition. *President Saxton* asked Mr. Boso what his opinion of installing screening on this roof was. Mr. Boso stated that the existing roof does not have the supports necessary to support the additional load of screening, wind and snow loads that go along with the screening.

Mr. Lester moved to amend Section 1 to include the following: “. . ., and to permit the roof top mechanical units to remain without a parapet wall, contingent upon the stipulation that the applicant will comply with the codes of Grove City and that the building is subject to inspection at any time. Any discrepancy of maintenance procedures on the air handlers will require immediate attention. If not corrected, the occupancy permit will be revoked. A copy of a letter from the applicant, dated 12/9/05, is attached hereto and made a part hereof.”; seconded by Mr. Hatley.

Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Hatley	Yes
Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes

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

Mr. Hatley	Yes
Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes

**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 Grossman submitted the Mayor's Monthly Report and Mr. Lester moved to accept same; seconded by Mr. Radi.

Mr. Saxton	Yes
Ms. Klemack	Yes
Mr. Radi	Yes
Mr. Lester	Yes
Mr. Hatley	Yes

2. At this time, Mr. Dave Burris, Jackson Township Trustee, presented the outgoing Council Members with a plaque in appreciation for their service to the community and the great working relationship between the Township and the City. He said not many Townships get along with cities and that has never been the case here. He said public service is a tough job and on behalf of Jackson Township he expressed their appreciation.

Next, Council Members Klemack & Lester, Clerk of Council Kelly, Dr. Bostic and Mayor Grossman presented the outgoing Council Members (Mr. Hatley, Mr. Radi and Mr. Saxton) with a Resolution, composite picture, and City folio's for their dedication and service to the community during their tenure on Council. Many words of appreciation were expressed by Ms. Klemack, Mr. Lester, Ms. Kelly, the Mayor and Staff members.

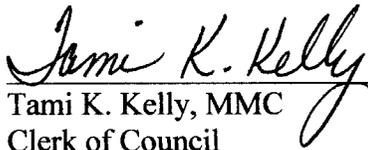
Mr. Radi expressed sincere thanks to the Mayor, Dr. Bostic, his fellow Council Members, and the Dept. Heads, which make the City work. He said he leaves the City knowing it is in good hands. He gave special thanks to Chuck Boso, Bob Behlen, Tami Kelly and Tom Clark. He also recognized former Council Members and welcomed the incoming members. He wished them the same enjoyment that he has had serving on Council. It has been a great pleasure and honor serving and he walks away knowing that the people who will be here are working for the best interest of Grove City.

Mr. Hatley thanked his wife. He said he has enjoyed his term on Council and public serve. He said he doesn't like being political and has tried not to be. He thanked the Mayor, Administration, Ms. Kelly, the members of Council and particular thanks to Vaughn and Bill. It has been a real pleasure working with Vaughn. He said he knew of Bill, but really didn't know him. He said the time he has spent on city affairs & the school levy was admirable. He wished the new Council the best of luck.

President Saxton stated that he has also enjoyed his four years on Council. He said he doesn't make very good speeches, but has been in business in the city for many years and worked with many committees and people during that time. He said he doesn't think he has ever worked with a greater bunch of professional people that the City employees are. He said there is no one that doesn't have Grove City as #1. He said he is sure the new members will be the same way. He challenged each of the new members to keep in mind that arguing about the little things that don't mean a lot, will lose what is important to the citizens. The citizens of Grove City should come first and no personal agenda's should fall ahead of that. He also thanked his wife.

3. President Saxton announced that the January 3, 2006 meeting of Council has been cancelled. There will be a Special Meeting on January 9, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. for the new Council to Organize and the next regular meeting of Council would be January 17, 2006 at 8:00 p.m., in observance of Martin Luther King Day.
4. After additional comments from Council and other Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

  
Tami K. Kelly, MMC  
Clerk of Council

  
~~William E. Saxton~~  
President