

# City of Groveport

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## Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 20, 2026

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

## Committee of the Whole

*Mayor Lance Westcamp*

*Council Members - Shawn Cleary, Jean Ann Hilbert, Scott Lockett, Abdullah  
Ansar-Barsa, Karen Fraser, Jamie Hise*

**II. Moment of Silence**

*The Mayor asked everyone to join him in a moment of silence.*

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

*Madison Township Fire Chief Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**IV. Roll Call**

**Present:** 6 - Cleary, Hilbert, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser, and Hise

**V. Approval of Minutes**

*The March 16, 2026 City Council Minutes stand approved as submitted.*

[#078-2026](#)

March 16, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [2026.03.16 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

**VI. Business of Guests****A. Madison Township Representative**

Madison Township Fire Chief Robinson presented the department's monthly report. He recognized the city's community affairs team for the opportunity to participate in the first annual Safety City event, which allowed fire department personnel to engage with youth in the community and provide safety education. Chief Robinson also highlighted the department's continued partnership with Groveport PD in the Feed the Kids Columbus initiative, noting that this marked the third time the department had helped distribute meals - over 3,000 on this occasion - prior to a major school break.

Council Member Hilbert raised a concern regarding a utility pole at the corner of Rager and Groveport Road that had not been repaired. It was clarified that the pole falls under South Central Power rather than AEP, and Chief Robinson agreed to follow up with the appropriate contact the following morning.

[#079-2026](#)

MTFD Monthly Report

**Attachments:** [MTFD Monthly Report.pdf](#)

**VII. New Business**

**A. Proposed Renaming of KidSpace**

Resident Linda Grandstaff clarified that the proposal is not to rename the KidSpace program itself, but rather to rename the space on the second floor of the Rarey's Port building in which both children's and adult programming takes place. She noted that adult participants are currently directed to look up classes under "KidSpace," which is confusing and off-putting. She suggested "Groveport Activity Center" as one possible name. Resident Carolyn Taylor echoed the concern, noting that she and others who participate in adult programming at the space are reluctant to say they attend classes at "KidSpace." She expressed a preference for a name that reflects both adult and community-wide use, suggesting "Groveport Community Center."

Administrator King opened the broader discussion by noting that this is ultimately a council decision and that staff does not hold a strong preference. He indicated that staff consultation had produced two favored options: "Groveport Community Connection Center" and "Groveport Community Enrichment Center," with the informal shorthand "the Groveport 3C" noted as an appeal of the former.

Council and staff engaged in a wide-ranging discussion exploring various naming options and principles. Mrs. Fraser suggested a shorter, more flexible name - her personal preference being "The Loft on Main" or "The Loft at Rarey's Port" - paired with a tagline such as "classes, creativity, and community for all ages," arguing that a concise name would accommodate future changes in programming. Mr. Hise offered "Groveport Civic Center," preferring simplicity, though others felt "civic center" connoted a larger or more formal facility.

A significant thread of discussion centered on the broader context: the building itself, called Rarey's Port, does not currently have its name displayed on the exterior, nor does the companion building, Wert's Grove. Mrs. Hilbert and others argued that placing the building names on the respective structures should be an immediate first step, as residents predominantly refer to the buildings by their ground-floor tenants (e.g., "above Delaney's" or "the flower boutique"). Resident Bill Lewis reinforced this point, noting that many residents are likely unaware that the City owns the buildings at all, and that exterior signage would be the most effective way to establish the building identities before any secondary naming of the upstairs space takes effect.

It was agreed that Council would take input gathered at this meeting under advisement and bring forward a motion at the regular Council meeting the following week. No formal action was taken at this

meeting.

1. **Linda Grandstaff**
2. **Carolyn Taylor**
3. **Bill Lewis**

**B. Recreation Center Generator Discussion**

Administrator King introduced the item, noting that the discussion originated from recent windstorms that caused extended power outages in the city. The Senior Center and Recreation Center have been designated as a Red Cross shelter facility, having been activated once since that designation, following a fire at an apartment complex north of State Route 33.

Public Services Director Brian Strayer provided background on a feasibility study conducted in early 2024, for which the city paid an engineering consultant. The study recommended a 400-kilowatt diesel generator, sized to power the entire facility rather than a partitioned portion, as the cost differential between full and partial coverage was minimal and a full-facility generator of that size is more readily available. The 2024 estimated cost was \$705,000, inclusive of the generator, automatic transfer switch, internal electrical modifications, concrete pad, fencing, design, permitting, and a \$110,000 contingency. Director Strayer noted that due to changes in diesel emissions standards, the current estimated cost would be approximately \$850,000, with a natural gas option running closer to \$900,000.

Council discussion reflected a general consensus that the expenditure is difficult to justify given current budget priorities and the infrequency of need. Council Member Lockett stated plainly that spending upward of \$800,000 to address a problem that arises perhaps once every five years does not represent sound fiscal policy, and that the city has more pressing capital needs, including a golf maintenance facility, an expanded public service garage, and ongoing recreation center maintenance. Administrator King agreed, noting that the time to have installed a generator would have been when the facility was originally constructed and the cost could have been rolled into the debt issuance, which has since been paid off.

Mayor Westcamp inquired whether the Red Cross, as a beneficiary of the shelter designation, might be a funding partner. Administrator King

confirmed that the Red Cross was approached in the past and does not have funds available for this purpose.

Council Member Heiss expressed support for keeping the item on a long-term planning horizon and exploring partnerships with Madison Township, given that the shelter would serve the broader township population, not only Groveport residents. Several members supported continuing to monitor available grants, including potential AEP funding opportunities, as an avenue to reduce the city's share of the cost.

The consensus of Council was to not include the generator in the FY 2027 budget, but to direct staff to continue monitoring grant opportunities and report back as options emerge.

## **VIII. Unfinished Business**

## **IX. Ordinances and Resolutions**

### **A. 3rd Readings**

### **B. 2nd Readings**

## **X. Financial Report**

Finance Director Carr presented highlights from the year-to-date financial report through March 2026. Income tax collections were reported as approximately 8% lower than the prior year, a difference of roughly \$550,000, driven primarily by the net profit category. Total revenues were also lower compared to the prior year, attributable to the reduced income tax receipts and the timing of real estate collections from the Franklin County Auditor. Expenditures were lower as well, though Mr. Carr noted that tax incentive payments to businesses with incentive agreements, which were made in March of the prior year, will instead be reflected in April 2026. On a positive note, the City earned \$201,000 in interest income for March, approximately \$52,000 higher than the same period in the prior year. No questions were raised by Council.

[#080-2026](#)

Financial Report

Attachments: [Financial Report.pdf](#)

## **XI. Other Business**

Administrator King and Personnel Director Short introduced a new HR Generalist, Shannon Waters, who has been with the City for approximately one month. Mrs. Waters briefly addressed Council,

expressing enthusiasm for the role and appreciation for the welcoming environment she had experienced.

## **XII. Reports**

### **A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp**

Mayor Westcamp reported that the police chief search is progressing. An assessment was held the previous Saturday, with scores expected the following Tuesday. He indicated that the top two finalists would then be invited for a final interview, in which Mr. Cleary would participate alongside the Mayor. The Mayor expressed confidence in the quality of the finalist pool.

### **B. Administrator - BJ King**

Administrator King reminded those present of the upcoming Arbor Day event on Friday, noting that weather conditions appeared favorable.

### **C. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon**

### **D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr**

Finance Director Carr noted that the 2025 annual audit has commenced, with auditors on-site in the basement for the week. He invited Council members to stop by or schedule a meeting if they wished to be briefed on the process.

### **E. Acting Chief of Police - Kurt Blevins**

[#081-2026](#) PD Council Report

**Attachments:** [PD Council Report.pdf](#)

### **F. Economic Development Director - Michael Loges**

[#082-2026](#) EDEV Council Report

**Attachments:** [EDEV Council Report.pdf](#)

### **G. Public Services Director - Brian Strayer**

Public Services Director Strayer provided an update on the City's compliance efforts under the U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvement, which became effective December 30, 2024, and

requires all public water systems to identify all service line pipe materials - specifically whether they are lead, galvanized, or non-lead - by November 1, 2027. Of the 1,188 properties on the Groveport water system, 227 were automatically cleared due to post-1986 construction dates (including the Orchard and Newport neighborhoods). Of the remaining properties, 558 responses have been received. As of the current reporting period, 413 properties remain unverified.

Mr. Strayer explained that the city has made extensive outreach efforts over the past two years: notices were included with water bills in Q1 and Q2 of 2024, utility staff hand-delivered letters to all non-responding properties in Q3, and a fourth mailing was sent in Q4. Despite these efforts, only 28 new responses were received in 2024 and 20 in 2025. The City is now required to submit a replacement plan to the EPA, and if the 413 unverified properties cannot be identified through voluntary compliance, the city would need to hire a contractor to physically excavate and inspect each service line connection at an estimated cost of approximately \$66,000 plus staff labor. Mr. Strayer also noted that two properties have already been confirmed as having galvanized lines requiring replacement by 2037.

Mr. Strayer requested Council's endorsement to send two additional targeted letters to non-complying properties - one in Q2 and one in Q3 - with more direct language, a shorter format, and a stated deadline of October 31. He proposed that the first letter include bold red language warning of potential water service interruption, and that the second be marked as a final notice. Law Director Shannon confirmed that, under the federal supremacy clause, the City would not be prohibited from interrupting service to compel compliance with the federally mandated inventory.

Council discussion acknowledged that the City would inevitably face public push back, with residents likely to direct frustration at the City rather than the EPA. Council supported being forthright in communications that this is a U.S. EPA mandate and not a local initiative, and that City staff are available to assist residents - including by visiting homes in person to photograph service line materials, a process that takes only a few minutes. Council also endorsed pursuing additional outreach channels, including a submission to the Southeast Messenger and use of the City's social media platforms, and supported the use of certified mail to add gravity to the final notice letter.

Mr. Carr added that unresolved compliance costs ultimately represent an operating expense that could contribute to rate pressure on the utility system, and that framing this in resident communications as a matter of both public health and cost avoidance would be appropriate.

Council gave its consensus endorsement for staff to proceed with the two-letter outreach campaign and to pursue all available communications channels to maximize compliance before resorting to physical inspection at City expense.

[#083-2026](#) PS Council Report

Attachments: [PS Council Report.pdf](#)

**H. Chief Building Official - Mike Poirier**

[#084-2026](#) B&Z Council Report

Attachments: [B&Z Council Report.pdf](#)

**I. Director of Golf - Danny Sorgini**

[#085-2026](#) GOLF Council Report

Attachments: [GOLF Council Report.pdf](#)

**J. Recreation Director - Seth Bower**

[#086-2026](#) REC Council Report

Attachments: [REC Council Report.pdf](#)

**K. Community Affairs Director - Jessica Wyke**

**L. City Engineer - Steve Farst**

[#087-2026](#) ENG Council Report

Attachments: [ENG Council Report.pdf](#)

**M. Director of Transportation / Senior Services - Bob Dowler**

[#088-2026](#) DOT Council Report

Attachments: [DOT Council Report.pdf](#)

**N. Personnel Director / Human Resources - Annie Short**

[#089-2026](#) HR Council Report

**Attachments:** [HR Council Report.pdf](#)

**O. Director of Information Technology - Chris Snyder**

[#090-2026](#) IT Council Report

**Attachments:** [IT Council Report.pdf](#)

**P. Communications Manager - Brent Ebright**

[#091-2026](#) COM Council Report

**Attachments:** [COM Council Report.pdf](#)

**Q. Clerk of Council - Mindy Kay**

**R. Council Members - Jean Ann Hilbert, Shawn Cleary, Scott Lockett, Abdullah Ansar-Barsa, Karen Fraser, Jamie Hise**

Mrs. Fraser recognized the Community Affairs Department for organizing the Princess Party event held the previous weekend, praising the programming and community engagement.

Mr. Ansar-Barsa thanked community members who attended and participated in the KidSpace renaming discussion.

Mayor Westcamp called Council's attention to a proposed advertisement in the Southeast Messenger congratulating graduating seniors, noting options at \$50, \$90, and \$120 price points for one, two, or three pages respectively, and that the City's updated logo would need to be confirmed with the publication. Council indicated it would follow up to finalize the decision.

Mr. Cleary also reported on the achievements of the Groveport Madison cheerleading program, which recently competed in Las Vegas. The team earned four competition bids through AmeriCheer qualifying events, competed in the non-bid, non-tumble division, achieved first place champion status, received rings, and recorded a "hit zero" score - meaning no penalties were incurred. The team's overall championship standing across four competitions will be determined in June. He indicated his intent to invite the team to Council for a proclamation.

Mayor Westcamp also raised the annual valedictorian recognition, noting that Groveport Madison typically honors 26 to 30 students who qualify with grade point averages above 4.0. The format of the recognition - whether a breakfast, school presentation, or other means - was noted as pending confirmation with the school. He additionally expressed a desire to recognize a departing school principal before the end of the school year.

### **XIII. Adjournment**

Council Member Hilbert made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hise, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. All in favor stated AYE, None Opposed. Motion passed.

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Shawn M. Cleary, President Pro Tem

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Mindy Kay, Clerk of Council

PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM. A RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.