

City of Groveport

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Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 18, 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*

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Cleary called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Staff Present: BJ King - Administrator, Kevin Shannon - Law Director, Jason Carr - Finance Director, Michael Loges - Development Director, Steve Farst - City Engineer, Brent Ebright - Communications Manager, Kurt Blevins - Acting Chief of Police, Mindy Kay - Clerk of Council

Guests Present: The Guest Book is on file with the Clerk of Council.

II. Moment of Silence

Committee Chair Cleary asked everyone to join him in a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Groveport Madison High School Cheerleading Coach Krena Hubner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

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

V. Approval of Minutes

The April 20, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes stand approved as submitted.

[#105-2026](#)

April 20, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [2026.04.20 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

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

Madison Township Fire Department Chief Victor Boyd congratulated the city on the selection of incoming Police Chief McDonough, noting that the chief's background was impressive and that he looked forward to working with him. Chief Boyd stated his intention to meet with the new chief upon his arrival. In response to a question from Mr. Cleary, Chief Boyd confirmed that three personnel have been assigned to graduation coverage, with additional patrols also planned for the event.

[#106-2026](#)

MTFD Monthly Report

Attachments: [MTFD Monthly Report.pdf](#)**B. Groveport Madison Cheer Team Proclamation**

Mayor Lance Westcamp presented a proclamation to the Groveport Madison High School Competition Cheerleading Team, recognizing their outstanding achievements. The proclamation honored team members Alivia Tanner, Olivia Williams, Myron Lewis, Kendrah Rush, and Aniyah Sowell, along with Head Coach Krena Kouns-Hubner and Volunteer Coach Jheaya Conwell.

The team's recognized accomplishments included: 1st place in the non-tumble, non-build division at the One Cheer Nationals in Las Vegas; Buckeye Nationals division champions; March Madness division champions; and Winter Competition champions. The team was also noted to be preparing for upcoming competitions in Las Vegas, Virginia Beach, Sandusky, Ohio, and Orlando, Florida.

Coach Hubner addressed the committee, expressing gratitude for the city's support and emphasizing the dedication of both the athletes and their families. She noted that the majority of team members carry a GPA of 3.9 or higher and praised the parents for their significant sacrifices to support the program.

Following the presentation, Mayor Westcamp raised the question of whether city grant funding might be available to assist the team with competition expenses. Administrator BJ King noted that the City's community grant program offers awards of up to \$2,500, but that eligibility requires the applicant to be a nonprofit organization. Coach Hubner expressed strong interest in pursuing this avenue, and Administrator King committed to connecting with her to provide the necessary information and paperwork.

C. Franklin County Auditor 2026 Property Value Update

Joe Gilligan, Director of Policy and Special Initiatives for the Franklin County Auditor's Office, presented an overview of the 2026 triennial property value update on behalf of Auditor Stinziano.

Mr. Gilligan explained that Ohio law requires all county auditors to conduct a full reappraisal of properties every six years, with a triennial update at the three-year midpoint. The 2026 update differs from a full reappraisal in that individual properties are not visually inspected; instead, the process relies on an analysis of arm's-length sales

transactions occurring between 2023 and 2025 to determine whether market values have changed since the last reappraisal.

On the timeline, Mr. Gilligan noted that tentative values were submitted to the Ohio Department of Taxation in April 2026 and that approval is pending. Once approved, letters containing tentative property values will be mailed to all Franklin County property owners, with the "Know Your Home Value" website expected to reflect tentative values around June 9th. From July through September, property owners who wish to challenge their tentative values may schedule in-person or virtual review sessions with the Auditor's appraisal team. Final values for those who participate in a review will be mailed in December 2026. Property owners who wish to pursue a further challenge may do so through the Board of Revision process, which occurs January through March.

Mr. Gilligan indicated that while the 2023 reappraisal produced historically large value increases - averaging approximately 40 percent countywide - the 2026 update is expected to yield more moderate increases, estimated in the range of 8 to 10 percent on average.

Council members engaged in discussion regarding the process for contesting values. Beth Fairman Kinney, Director of Community Outreach for the Auditor's Office, clarified that a third-party appraisal is not required to participate in a property value review; photographic evidence and personal documentation can be sufficient to support a case for adjustment.

Council members also reviewed the Groveport-specific handout provided by the Auditor's Office, which included a map of delineated appraisal neighborhoods with corresponding median values from the 2023 reappraisal and the median values drawn from the preceding three-year sales period. Mr. Gilligan noted these appraisal neighborhoods are organizational tools used by appraisers, grouped by similar housing characteristics such as age, style, grade, and condition.

Mr. Gilligan encouraged residents and officials to contact the Auditor's Office at auditor.stinziano@franklincountyohio.gov or by phone at 614-525-HOME (4663) with any questions.

[#120-2026](#)

2026 Triennial Guide

Attachments: [2026 Triennial Guide.pdf](#)

[#121-2026](#)

Triennial Presentation

Attachments: [Triennial Presentation.pptx](#)

VII. New Business

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. 3rd Readings

[Ord. 2026-017](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING GROVEPORT CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 123.03, 145, AND 1321.27 TO SET CREDIT CARD CONVENIENCE FEES FOR PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, THE RECREATION CENTER, AND THE BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT.

Sponsors: Hilbert

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-017 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

[Ord. 2026-017 Exhibit B.pdf](#)

[Ord. 2026-017 Exhibit C.pdf](#)

Finance Director Carr clarified that this ordinance does not introduce new fees or alter existing fee amounts. Rather, it corrects a longstanding organizational error in the codified ordinances whereby the credit card convenience fee provisions for all three departments - Community Affairs, the Recreation Center, and Building and Zoning - had been placed solely under the Building and Zoning section. This ordinance breaks these provisions out and places each in its proper section of the code. It was characterized as a housekeeping clarification only.

A motion was made by Council Member Hilbert, seconded by Council Member Lockett, to recommend approval to the City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Shawn Cleary, Jean Ann Hilbert, Scott Lockett, Abdullah Ansar-Barsa, Karen Fraser, and Jamie Hise

B. 2nd Readings

[Ord. 2026-019](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING GROVEPORT CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1321.10 TO RESCIND THE DOUBLE PERMIT FEE PROVISION FOR WORK COMMENCED WITHOUT NECESSARY PERMITS AND TO MODIFY THE REINSPECTION FEE

Sponsors: Lockett

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-019 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Administrator King explained that current code requires a double permit fee to be charged when work is commenced without first obtaining the required permit. He argued strongly for removing this provision, stating that the city's primary objective should be achieving compliance rather than generating additional revenue. He noted that in many cases, residents may not have been aware a permit was required, and that charging double provides no meaningful deterrent while creating inequity. He further noted that the existing stop-work order mechanism provides adequate enforcement tools.

Council Member Hise raised a question about whether sufficient warning language existed within the code. Administrator King confirmed that stop-work orders can be issued by the building department, and that the focus remains on compliance rather than penalty. The committee was in general agreement that the change was appropriate.

A motion was made by Council Member Lockett, seconded by Ansar-Barsa, to recommend approval to the City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Shawn Cleary, Jean Ann Hilbert, Scott Lockett, Abdullah Ansar-Barsa, Karen Fraser, and Jamie Hise

[Ord. 2026-020](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART ONE - ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, TITLE FIVE- ADMINISTRATIVE, CHAPTER 137 -BOARD OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES, SECTION 137.02 - RULES AND REGULATIONS

Sponsors: Cleary

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-020 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Council Member Cleary summarized the work of the Cemetery Committee, noting that the ordinance reflects several updates to the cemetery's rules and regulations aimed at bringing them current with modern practices. A key change involves foot markers for cremation interments: rather than placing them at the foot of the plot - space traditionally reserved for military markers - the updated rules allow them to be placed closer to the head of the site within specified size constraints. He also noted that associated fees for this accommodation will not be charged at this time and will be reevaluated during the 2027 budget cycle. Mr. Cleary additionally highlighted that the city's cemetery received high praise from historian Nancy Ottman, who noted that it is well-maintained relative to other cemeteries she has visited nationwide. Administrator King noted that

the cemetery brochure does not require council approval and will be updated administratively to reflect any changes adopted via this ordinance.

A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to recommend approval to the City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Shawn Cleary, Jean Ann Hilbert, Scott Lockett, Abdullah Ansar-Barsa, Karen Fraser, and Jamie Hise

[#123-2026](#)

Groveport Cemetery Brochure 2026

Attachments: [Groveport Cemetery Brochure 2026.pdf](#)

[Ord. 2026-021](#)

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2002-010, PASSED MARCH 11, 2002, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Fraser

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-021 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Administrator King explained that existing code requires the city to collect fire protection and life safety inspection fees on behalf of the Madison Township Fire Department and pass them through to the department. Madison Township Fire has since requested to collect those fees directly. The city retains no portion of the collected fees, and this change was described as a good-neighborly accommodation. It was noted that applicants coming in for development or building permits will need to be directed separately to Madison Township for fire-related fees. A letter of support from Madison Township Fire Chief Robinson was included in the materials.

A motion was made by Council Member Fraser, seconded by Council Member Hise, to recommend approval to the City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Shawn Cleary, Jean Ann Hilbert, Scott Lockett, Abdullah Ansar-Barsa, Karen Fraser, and Jamie Hise

[#122-2026](#)

Groveport FPB Fees Memo from Chief Robinson

Attachments: [Groveport FPB Fees Memo from Chief Robinson.pdf](#)

X. Financial Report

Director of Finance Jason Carr presented the financial report for the year-to-date period ending April 30, 2026.

Income tax receipts were reported to be 3 percent higher compared to the same period in the prior year. Mr. Carr noted that one major net profit taxpayer showed a significant year-over-year decline of

approximately \$3 million; however, this was substantially offset by contributions from other businesses, resulting in a net difference of approximately \$1 million. Interest income was \$80,000 higher than the prior year. On the expenditure side, debt payments were higher, though tax incentive payments were lower than the prior year due to qualification changes for certain businesses.

Mr. Carr provided a focused breakdown of Recreation Center and Gold Course receipts. Total receipts specifically to the Recreation Center were up \$61,000, with membership fee revenue up \$25,000 following the consolidation and rate increases adopted earlier in the year. However, total visits through April 30 were down approximately 6.75 percent compared to the same period in 2025 (33,527 versus 35,955), reflecting a reduction in walk-in traffic rather than membership attrition. On the expense side, excluding capital items, expenditures decreased approximately 6 percent compared to the prior year; part-time payroll was up approximately 3 percent with a corresponding approximately 60-hour increase in hours worked.

Mr. Lockett raised substantive concerns about the depth of recreation center reporting, requesting that future monthly reports include data on new memberships sold, total active memberships, and memberships lost or lapsed. He emphasized that tracking these trends is essential to understanding the health of the recreation center's business model and the return on investment from the city's advertising efforts with its communications contractor. Mrs. Fraser also questioned how the city is currently measuring the effectiveness of its social media advertising campaign and whether any mechanism exists to connect ad clicks to new membership sign-ups.

Mr. Carr and Mr. King acknowledged these limitations, explaining that while the current software platform (Vermont Systems / ReTrack) does capture relevant data, the reporting has not been compiled in the format requested. They further explained that linking advertising clicks directly to new memberships would require adding a mandatory survey question to the online membership application asking how the applicant heard about the facility. Mr. Carr and Mr. King agreed to follow up with Recreation Director Seth Bower to determine feasibility and move forward with enhanced reporting.

Mrs. Hilbert also raised the question of pickleball court usage contracts, noting that the report referenced a pending signed usage contract. Mr. King confirmed that the Pickleball Club does have designated times on the courts, that open windows are posted on the bulletin board and the club's website, and that the city is in the process of formalizing the usage contract.

[#107-2026](#)

Financial Report

Attachments: [Financial Report.pdf](#)**XI. Other Business****XII. Reports****A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp**

Mayor Westcamp commended Mr. Cleary for his ongoing work on the Cemetery Committee. He reminded council and the public of the Memorial Day ceremony scheduled for the coming Monday and expressed hope for good weather. Mayor Westcamp also offered recognition to Communications Manager Brent Ebright for his work publicizing the incoming Police Chief McDonough's background, and noted that both positive and critical public feedback had been received. He concluded by offering compliments to the school board graduates who attended the recent alumni banquet.

B. Administrator - BJ King

Administrator King provided three updates. First, he reported that the municipal swimming pool is ready to open and is in good condition, with only a minor non-operational leak identified. Given the closure of the Garver YMCA and restrictions implemented by Canal Winchester, an above-average pool attendance is anticipated this summer. He confirmed that sufficient lifeguards are in place.

Second, he noted that demolition has begun on the remodel of the administration wing at the municipal building.

Third, he provided an update on the Wirt Road project, stating that lane closure notifications have been sent to residents and published in local media. The lane closure on Main Street is scheduled to begin May 26th at 7:00 AM and is expected to last up to 28 days, though an earlier completion is hoped for. The contractor has been made aware that Main Street must be open curb-to-curb by July 3rd.

City Engineer Steve Farst provided additional context on the lane closure, explaining that the original bid documents specified a three-week closure but the contractor requested up to 28 days given the scope of work involved, including sewer improvements and potential dewatering on the south side of the road. He noted that the closure was publicly communicated through multiple meetings with residents and businesses held the previous fall.

C. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon**D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr****E. Acting Chief of Police - Kurt Blevins**

Acting Chief Kurt Blevins expressed his support for incoming Police Chief McDonough and confirmed that the chief has 100 percent support from himself and the department's command staff. He stated the department is looking forward to the transition and is hopeful it will mark a positive new direction for the Groveport Police Department.

[#108-2026](#) PD Council Report

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

F. Economic Development Director - Michael Loges

Economic Development Director Michael Loges reported that the American Community Survey, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, projects that Groveport's population has declined slightly since the 2020 census count of 6,009, to an estimated 5,900. He noted that several other Central Ohio communities - including Westerville, Dublin, Bexley, and Upper Arlington - have experienced similar projected declines, while Columbus itself saw the largest gains. Mr. Loges stated that this data underscores the importance of supporting new housing development to attract investment and maintain community momentum. He also reported that he and Communications Manager Ebright have been reaching out to local businesses to solicit sponsorships for the July 4th festivities.

Mr. Loges confirmed that Groveport's population remains well above the 5,000-person threshold required to maintain city status.

[#109-2026](#) EDEV Council Report

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

G. Public Services Director - Brian Strayer

[#110-2026](#) PS Council Report

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

H. Chief Building Official - Mike Poirier

[#111-2026](#) B&Z Council Report

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

I. Director of Golf - Danny Sorgini

[#112-2026](#) GOLF Council Report

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

J. Recreation Director - Seth Bower

[#113-2026](#) REC Council Report

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

K. Community Affairs Director - Jessica Wyke

[#114-2026](#) CA Council Report

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

L. City Engineer - Steve Farst

City Engineer Steve Farst referred council to his written report and offered to answer questions. In response to inquiry from Mr. Cleary, Mr. Farst addressed the status of Bixby Road West from S.R. 317. He indicated that Bixby Road is consistently among the highest-priority items on the city's road improvement list, with preliminary estimates completed for most segments. He noted that the eastern segments are anticipated to be more costly due to subsurface conditions and that significant intersection improvements, including additional turn lanes at S.R. 317, are also warranted given persistent queuing issues. Mr. Farst also highlighted that Madison Lane from Firehouse Lane northward is in notably poor condition and will require a full pavement rebuild, adding that the project will need to be phased due to access requirements for the fire station, government center, and adjacent facilities.

[#115-2026](#) ENG Council Report

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

M. Director of Transportation / Senior Services - Bob Dowler

[#116-2026](#) DOT Council Report

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

N. Personnel Director / Human Resources - Annie Short

[#117-2026](#) HR Council Report

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

O. Director of Information Technology - Chris Snyder

[#118-2026](#) IT Council Report

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

P. Communications Manager - Brent Ebright

Communications Manager Brent Ebright highlighted upcoming events for the Memorial Day weekend: the swimming pool opens Saturday, and on Monday, the city will host the Memorial Day Red, White, and Blue 5K at the Recreation Center as well as the annual Memorial Day procession and ceremony.

[#119-2026](#) 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**

Mr. Hise shared that he had the opportunity to attend the MilVets Armed Forces luncheon, noting it was a meaningful and motivating experience to witness students receive scholarships in that environment.

Mrs. Fraser thanked the teachers, staff, and administrators of the Groveport Madison School District as the school year comes to a close on Thursday of that week. She noted it had been a strong and fast year for the district.

Mr. Barsa expressed his support for Mayor Westcamp's decision in selecting the new police chief and indicated that he and other council members stand behind the selection.

Mrs. Hilbert raised a public safety concern regarding the use of electric bikes and other motorized personal conveyances on city sidewalks. She described witnessing multiple incidents, including a near-collision involving a child on a bicycle. Council members and Acting Chief Blevins discussed whether existing code adequately addresses electric bikes and similar devices, including electric scooters and one-wheeled motorized devices. Mrs. Hilbert offered to sponsor an ordinance to address the issue. Acting Chief Blevins confirmed that current ordinances may need to be reviewed and that enforcement action can be taken when violations are observed.

Mr. Cleary noted that the committee had reviewed the Rules of Council prior to the meeting, that revisions are substantially in order pending a final review with the Law Director Shannon upon his return, and that a formal motion to adopt the revised rules will follow. He also acknowledged the golf course gift card program, expressing satisfaction with its reception, and reminded residents to be weather-aware given severe storm activity affecting Northern Ohio.

XIII. Adjournment

Council Member Hilbert made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fraser, to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. All in favor stated AYE, None Opposed. Motion passed.

Shawn Cleary, President Pro Tem

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.