

City of Groveport

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Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 15, 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, Brian Strayer - Public Service Director, Steve Farst - City Engineer - Seth Bower - Recreation Director, Mark McDonough - 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

Chief McDonough led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

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

V. Approval of Minutes

The May 18, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes stand approved as submitted.

[#131-2026](#)

May 18, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [2026.05.18 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

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

Madison Township Administrator Susan Brobst presented an update on the Township's energy aggregation programs, which are also available to City of Groveport residents.

Mrs. Brobst reported that both the electric and gas aggregation agreements expired at the end of May. The Township Board voted to enter into a new electric aggregation agreement, effective June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027, with Archer Energy at a locked-in rate of

\$0.09998 per kilowatt-hour. She noted that this rate includes the PJM capacity component - a charge designed to incentivize power producers to maintain sufficient generating capacity to prevent rolling blackouts or brownouts - and advised residents comparing rates to verify whether competing offers include that component. For reference, the June AEP Ohio price-to-compare rate is \$0.1012 per kilowatt-hour.

Mrs. Brobst clarified that participation is automatic for eligible residents not already enrolled in a separate program, but that residents may opt out via a mailer that will be distributed in batches over the coming weeks based on meter-reading cycles. Residents may also choose to opt in by contacting the Township office, which will refer them to Archer Energy to complete enrollment.

Regarding gas aggregation, Ms. Brobst advised that the Board did not approve the rates offered in May, as they were not favorable. The Board will revisit the matter at its June meeting, and Ms. Brobst indicated she would either provide a written update or appear at the July meeting to report the outcome.

VII. New Business

A. Front Street Parking Discussion

Resident Greg Miller addressed the Council regarding parking on the permit-only section of Front Street, specifically the east side of the block between Main Street and Elm Street. Mr. Miller's primary concern was that, without marked parking stalls, vehicles park inefficiently, leaving large gaps between cars that prevent other residents and their guests from finding available spaces. He noted that he owns a 25-foot truck and has difficulty fitting it near the corner without potentially violating the City's 30-foot no-parking restriction from stop signs, which he was unfamiliar with when he initially raised the concern. He acknowledged he has since resolved the immediate issue by coordinating directly with his neighbor. He suggested marking parking stalls or marking curbs, noting that the City had painted blue stripes on the brick on Blacklick Street.

Public Service Director Brian Strayer and Administrator BJ King offered technical perspective on the proposal to stripe parking spaces, both expressing reservations. Mr. Strayer noted the difficulty of maintaining paint on the glazed historic brick road surface, and the practical challenge posed by the wide variation in vehicle sizes - from motorcycles at approximately 8 feet to extended-cab pickup trucks at 19-21 feet - against a recommended stall width of 22-25 feet. He expressed concern that striping would result in a net loss of available parking, as smaller vehicles would occupy full stalls and larger vehicles would encroach on

adjacent ones. City Engineer Steve Farst noted that neighboring Canal Winchester follows a similar practice of marking spaces only in commercial areas, not residential streets.

Mayor Westcamp raised the additional concern that Front Street is a historic brick road and that any striping could draw objection from the Heritage Society. Mr. Cleary and Mrs. Hilbert questioned more broadly why permit parking was established on that block at all. Mr. Lockett offered the explanation that it originated to protect resident parking during events at the adjacent Town Hall, when vehicles would otherwise fill the block.

Discussion then shifted to the related and longstanding matter of painting yellow curbs at intersections citywide. Council Member Hilbert and others noted that the City has been asked for years to paint intersection curbs to delineate the no-parking zone near stop signs, which would also aid enforcement. Mr. Strayer confirmed that the City's ordinance (Section 351.03) mirrors the Ohio Revised Code in establishing distance restrictions but does not require curb markings, and that per Ohio law, citations for parking too close to an intersection can only be issued if the curb is marked. Chief of Police Mark McDonough confirmed this, noting that enforcement is not possible without curb markings. Law Director Shannon confirmed that if our code is silent on a matter we abide by the Ohio Revised Code, however, we could enact on our own home rule powers to enforce otherwise.

After considerable discussion, Council reached a consensus on two paths forward. With respect to Mr. Miller's immediate concern, Mr. Cleary recommended leaving the current arrangement as-is - no stall striping, no changes to the permit system - and allowing the forthcoming completion of the Main Street parking lot to be evaluated for its impact on event-related parking pressure before any further changes are considered. With respect to citywide curb painting, Council directed staff to research the scope, cost, applicable code requirements, and operational considerations, and to bring the item back as a formal agenda item at the August Committee of the Whole meeting, with the potential for it to be designated a capital project.

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. 3rd Readings

[Ord. 2026-023](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO

PURCHASE A VAC-CON SEWER JETTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE OHIO STATE TERM SCHEDULE COOPERATIVE PURCHASE PLAN, THEREBY WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING PURSUANT TO GROVEPORT CITY CHARTER SECTION 9.02(B)

Sponsors: Hilbert

Administrator King confirmed the purchase was included in the approved 2026 budget. Public Service Director Brian Strayer noted the unit came in slightly under the budgeted amount of \$125,000, with the final cost at \$99,884.35, and that it replaces a 1986 model. The purchase is made under the Ohio State Term Contract, meaning competitive bidding has already been conducted at the state level. Mr. Cleary noted the importance of ensuring proper operator training, and Mr. Strayer confirmed that the vendor will provide on-site training. Mr. Hise asked whether the previously discussed sewer camera would still be purchased; Mr. Strayer indicated the camera purchase is being deferred to the 2027 budget cycle after quotes came in significantly over the prior-year estimate.

A motion was made by Council Member Hilbert, 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

B. 2nd Readings

X. Financial Report

Finance Director Carr presented highlights from the financial report. Year-to-date income tax collections are down 12% compared to the same period in 2025, representing a decrease of approximately \$1.05 million, driven primarily by a decline in the net profit category. However, the City has collected 53% of its budgeted income tax revenue through the period, which is ahead of the prorated monthly pace of 42%. Mr. Carr noted that if collections continue on the current trajectory, the City would collect approximately \$27 million against a budget projection of \$21.258 million, and that the City has historically adopted conservative budget projections precisely to account for variability. Interest earnings are up approximately \$61,000 compared to the prior year. Mr. Carr noted that higher total receipts and expenditures compared to last year are largely attributable to an increased debt offering for bond anticipation notes and the refunding of prior debt, as well as capital project expenditures flowing through the capital projects fund.

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Financial Report

Attachments: [Financial Report.pdf](#)

XI. Other Business

XII. Reports

A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp

Mayor Westcamp reported on his attendance at a presentation regarding the Airandu development project, to which he had been invited by Council Member Ansar-Barsa. The event was held at Muirfield Village. Mayor Westcamp noted that the development has the potential to employ up to 4,500 people and is tracking ahead of its original 10-year build-out schedule, now estimated at approximately 8 years. He indicated that contact had been made with Development Director Loges to explore arranging either a site tour or a presentation to the Council.

B. Administrator - BJ King

Administrator King reminded Council that the Columbus Air Show was underway, with jet activity already audible. He also noted that City offices would be closed on Friday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth, and that progress on the Main Street sewer line project was proceeding well, with favorable soil and water conditions in the current work area.

C. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon

Law Director Shannon reviewed proposed changes to the Rules of Council that had been discussed at a prior rules meeting:

Page 3 - Acting Mayor / President Pro Tem: Director Shannon confirmed that the Council's prior discussion regarding voting by the President Pro Tem when acting as Mayor was correct - the President Pro Tem is still required to vote, and a 3-3 tie can only be remedied by a motion for reconsideration either in the same meeting by a member of the prevailing party, or at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

A new item 4 (displayed in green font in the draft) was proposed, stating: "In the event that a council member sponsoring legislation is absent, the President Pro Tem shall act in the place of the member in making motions with respect to said legislation." Council concurred this reflected current practice and should be codified.

Page 6 - Section A (Standing Committee Citizen Participation):

Mr.Shannon recommended leaving this section as written, explaining that

it appropriately allows citizens to participate in an advisory capacity on standing committee matters of public interest, while making clear that only committee members may vote, though citizen sentiment for or against may be entered into the record.

Page 11 - Punctuation Correction: A missing comma identified by Mr. Hise was acknowledged; the corrected language will read "peace, health, safety, or welfare of the city."

Mr. Shannon indicated a resolution memorializing these changes is forthcoming and will be placed on a future agenda for Council action.

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Rules of Council Proposed Changes 2026

Attachments: [Rules of Council Proposed Changes 2026.pdf](#)

D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr

Mr. Carr provided a follow-up on a previously discussed item regarding the City of Columbus transitioning to monthly utility billing. After meeting with Columbus representatives, Mr. Carr confirmed that the change will not affect the City of Groveport's utility billing operations. Groveport will continue on its existing three-month billing cycle, submitting water usage data to Columbus as it has historically done. The monthly billing change will primarily impact residents who are billed directly by the City of Columbus.

E. Chief of Police - Mark McDonough

Chief of Police Mark McDonough, attending his first Committee of the Whole meeting, reported on his initial weeks with the Groveport Police Department. He noted that he has met individually with command staff and officers, and had recently issued a department-wide communication outlining his expectations and a forward-looking message of shared purpose. He expressed appreciation for the positive reception from department staff, city leadership, and residents. Chief McDonough also extended thanks to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Madison Township Police Department, and Madison Township Fire Department for their assistance with a recent domestic violence and barricaded subject incident, which concluded with the arrest of the individual involved.

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PD Council Report

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

F. Economic Development Director - Michael Loges**G. Public Services Director - Brian Strayer**

Mr. Strayer reported that mosquito spraying operations are ongoing, with a spray conducted the previous Wednesday and another scheduled for Thursday evening, weather permitting. He also noted that a targeted spraying operation was planned for the golf course perimeter the following morning, using a smaller piece of equipment to address wooded areas. Larvicide had also been applied to portions of the golf course the prior week. He then reported receipt of a new replacement backhoe, funded at \$135,000 in the approved budget, replacing a 14-year-old unit. Vendor training was conducted upon delivery.

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PS Council Report

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

H. Chief Building Official - Mike Poirier[#137-2026](#)

B&Z Council Report

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

I. Director of Golf - Danny Sorgini

Mr. Sorgini was not present. In response to a question from Mr. Hise regarding the damaged railing on the golf course bridge, City Engineer Farst and Administrator King reported that a bridge engineer had assessed the structure and found it safe for cart traffic. Staff had completed repairs including capping the exposed metal ends, and the matter was being addressed on an ongoing basis.

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GOLF Council Report

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

J. Recreation Director - Seth Bower

Mr. Bower reported a strong conclusion to May, with Rec Day, a Color Run in collaboration with Groveport Middle School students, and a 5K on Memorial Day. Pool attendance has been strong on hot days since the season opened. Summer camp is in its third week and proceeding without significant issues. Director Bower also noted that the Choptank

advertising report is included in his written Council report. Mr. Hise commended the collaborative events with the school district.

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REC Council Report

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

K. Community Affairs Director - Jessica Wyke

[#140-2026](#)

CA Council Report

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

L. City Engineer - Steve Farst

Mr. Farst reported that a preconstruction meeting was held with contractor Strouzer the prior Thursday, with a follow-up Teams meeting held the same day as the meeting to include Madison Township Administrator Brobst. He noted that Madison Lane is undergoing full-depth pavement replacement for approximately two-thirds of the segment between the firehouse and the south end. Coordination with the fire department has been ongoing, and Strouzer plans to perform pavement removal during a Sunday overnight operation, tentatively identified as July 19, with a different crew mobilizing the following Monday to lay a drivable base course. Curbing work will follow as a secondary activity, with flaggers in place. Fire department access will be maintained via the Firehouse Lane side throughout construction.

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ENG Council Report

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

M. Director of Transportation / Senior Services - Bob Dowler

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DOT Council Report

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

N. Personnel Director / Human Resources - Annie Short

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HR Council Report

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

O. Director of Information Technology - Chris Snyder

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IT Council Report

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

P. Communications Manager - Brent Ebright

Q. Clerk of Council - Mindy Kay

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

Council Member Ansar-Barsa thanked Mayor Westcamp for attending the Airandu development presentation and welcomed Chief McDonough to his first meeting

XIII. Adjournment

Council Member Hilbert made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fraser, to adjourn at 6:40 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.