

City of Groveport

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Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

City Council

Mayor Lance Westcamp

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

I. Call to Order

Mayor Lance Westcamp called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Staff Present: BJ King - Administrator, Kevin Shannon - Law Director, Jason Carr - Director of Finance, Casey Adams - 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

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

Present: 4 - Jean Ann Hilbert, Shawn Cleary, Scott Lockett, and Abdullah Ansar-Barsa

V. Approval of Minutes

The December 15, 2025 City Council Minutes stand approved as submitted.

[#249-2025](#) December 15, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [2025.12.15 City Council Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

VI. New Business**A. Election of Council President Pro-Tem and Vice Chair**

Mayor Westcamp opened the floor for nominations for the position of President Pro-Tem. Mr. Lockett nominated Mr. Cleary.

A motion was made by Council Member Lockett, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to close the nominations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Hilbert, Cleary, Lockett and Ansar-Barsa

A motion was made by Council Member Lockett, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to appoint Council Member Cleary as President Pro-Tem. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Hilbert, Cleary, Lockett and Ansar-Barsa

Mayor Westcamp opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Mr. Lockett nominated Mrs. Hilbert.

A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Lockett, to close the nominations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Hilbert, Cleary, Lockett and Ansar-Barsa

A motion was made by Council Member Lockett, seconded by Council Member Cleary, to appoint Council Member Hilbert as Vice-Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Hilbert, Cleary, Lockett and Ansar-Barsa

VII. Business of Guests

A. Josh Short

Lieutenant Short greeted Council and stated "While I am not a resident of the City, I have worked for the City for over 27 years. I'd like to start by congratulating Mr. Lockett on his reelection and Mr. Barsa on your election. Sir, I've known you since you were about your son's age, and I'm very proud to see what you have accomplished and proud to see what you will accomplish while you're here. Thank you. So, two things I wanna talk about tonight.

The first thing is communication. Open, honest, inclusive communication with all parties that are involved. If I can take you back to a time back in 2008, 2009 when we had a little bit of strife, a little bit of drama going on in the Police Department due to a lack of leadership. Quite a leadership vacuum. Back then, I had the privilege of being able to stop from time to time over at Councilman Rary's house and bend his ear a little bit and get some sometimes good advice or some advice that you weren't quite sure how well it was gonna go. But, you know, I was there at one

particular time expressing some concerns with him and he stops me and he pulls out a quarter. And he says, Josh, your story has two sides. It has your side, it has his side, and then it has an edge, which is another side. And on a quarter, you see all of these lines and all of these lines are everybody else's stories that is involved with what you have going on. And we need to be very mindful of their story as well because it has a lot to do to get an overall picture of what is going on. So when it comes to communication here, I'm not always certain that we're getting all sides of the stories from all of the stakeholders that are involved with the issues that we have. We need to be mindful of that there is middle ground and we need to be talking to everybody involved, not just people that we believe are going to say what we wanna hear.

The second issue I wanna talk about is perspective. And what I mean about perspective is my personal experience here as a City employee with the Police Department and the officers' perspective that we do not have a lot of support from the City. And when I say most of the officers, I truly mean most of the officers and not a 50 50 split. K? And why might I say that we feel that there is not a lot of support? Might it be that we get told if we don't like it here, we can move along and go somewhere else? Might it be that we have a departmental email goes out about leadership and future leadership at the agency, but it doesn't go to every officer. Meanwhile, we have emails going out to certain officers that are entitled as trusted employees, trusted officers. Might it be that Mr. King sends out a nice positive email at the at the end of last year about the holidays and the New Years, but a response comes back from an elected official about intentional negativity. Might it be that we recently find out that a decision maker from in this building goes over to public works or is talking to other employees about a neighboring Police Chief and asking other employees if that person might be a good addition to be our Police Chief here. Meanwhile, nobody's talking to us about that. Or perhaps the most damning thing is our former Human Resources Director, who goes on to the most prevalent social media platform, unfortunately, in the City of Groveport on Facebook and calls some of our officers idiots among other insults, and goes specifically after another officer. It makes us wonder if those conversations she's having to come to those conclusions are done in a vacuum or is she having conversations with other people in and around this building?

Every day that our officers come to work here, we go on calls that put us interacting with people that don't necessarily like us, that don't want us there, that might make things up and lie about us, or might wanna hurt us. And it's very mentally, physically, spiritually exhausting thinking in the back of our minds that we might get into some type of problem on this call, and we are not certain that we have backing from this City. So, 2026

is going to be a big year of change, a big year of growth. You guys have a lot of decisions to make. K? If we can at least start to improve on the communication, be more inclusive, remember that there are other people involved with all of these things that are going on. If we can start with the communication, perhaps we can start to change that perception just a little bit. Because I don't wanna spend the rest of my time here under these conditions, and I don't want it for my officers - our officers. I thank you guys for your time. I appreciate all the work you put in for my hometown. I will continue to pray for good leadership here, and I will go out every day and try to improve the quality of life for the people here in Groveport. Thank you."

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. 3rd Readings

B. 2nd Readings

[Ord. 2025-054](#)

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF FULL TIME PLANNING & ZONING MANAGER, ACCEPTING THE POSITION DESCRIPTION AND PAY GRADE THEREFORE

Sponsors: Hilbert

Attachments: [Ord. 2025-054 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

This Ordinance was read by title

C. 1st Readings

[Ord. 2026-001](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO PURCHASE TWO (2) TORO REELMASTER TRACTORS AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT FOR THE GOLF COURSE UNDER THE SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASE PLAN, THEREBY WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING PURSUANT TO GROVEPORT CITY CHARTER SECTION 9.02(B)

Sponsors: Hilbert

This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole

[Ord. 2026-002](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CLUB CAR FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEVENTY EIGHT (78) GPS UNITS FOR THE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE CART FLEET, THEREBY WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING PURSUANT TO GROVEPORT CITY CHARTER SECTION 9.02(B)

Sponsors: Cleary

This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole

IX. Reports**A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp**

Mayor Westcamp thanked Mr. Barsa for joining Council and congratulated Mr. Lockett on his re-election.

B. Administrator - BJ King**C. Chief of Police - Casey Adams****D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr**

Finance Director Carr reported that fiscal year 2025 had been closed, and W-2s would be distributed soon. He mentioned that the purchasing process for 2026 had begun and noted it had been a good financial year for the city, with details to be included in his upcoming financial report.

Mr. Carr also announced that the Finance Department had been awarded a \$20,000 grant through the Ohio Emergency Agency to improve cybersecurity and IT infrastructure. While less than requested, he indicated the funds would help enhance their IT and cybersecurity efforts.

E. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon**F. Development Director - Michael Loges**

Development Director Loges was not present, but Mr. Cleary requested that a representative from CASTO attend a future Committee of the Whole meeting to provide a status update on promised developments. He specifically requested Eric Leibowitz, who had previously presented plans to the Council. Mr. King agreed to arrange this.

G. Council Members - Jean Ann Hilbert, Shawn Cleary, Scott Lockett, Abdullah Ansar-Barsa

Ms. Hilbert had nothing to report.

Mr. Cleary commented on the delivery of blue recycling carts, expressing his satisfaction with the recycling program and noting how important recycling is. He was pleased that the program had finally been implemented.

Mr. Lockett welcomed Mr. Barsa and stated he looks forward to working with everyone in 2026, acknowledging there would be much activity during the year.

Mr. Barsa thanked everyone and expressed his enthusiasm about working with Council.

H. Clerk of Council - Mindy Kay**X. Standing Committees**

Mr. King reported that the Trees and Decorations Committee had held its first meeting of 2026 earlier that evening. Karen Fraser was elected as Chairperson and Bruce Smith as Co-Chair. The Committee discussed Arbor Day, scheduled for April 24th, with more information forthcoming. Mr. King also mentioned that a Council appointment to the committee would eventually be needed.

XI. Other Business

Law Director Kevin Shannon requested Council to consider making a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G) to consider the appointment of a public official. To include all members of Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to go into Executive Session at 6:46pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Hilbert, Cleary, Lockett and Ansar-Barsa

A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to come out of Executive Session at 9:32pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Hilbert, Cleary, Lockett and Ansar-Barsa

XII. Adjournment

Council Member Cleary made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hilbert to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. All in favor stated AYE, None Opposed. Motion passed.

Lance Westcamp, Mayor

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.