

# City of Groveport

655 Blacklick St.  
Groveport, OH 43125  
614.830.2052  
[www.groveport.org](http://www.groveport.org)



## Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2024

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 Dildine 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, Casey Adams - Chief of Police, Mindy Kay - Clerk of Council

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

Public Service Director - Brian Strayer , Stephen Moore - Chief Building Official, Tom Walker - Director of Golf, Seth Bowers - Recreation Center Director, Jessica Wyke - Community Affairs Director, Steve Farst - City Engineer, Bob Dowler - Director of Transportation, - Personnel Director, Trevor Swackhamer - Director of Technology, Ruthanne Sargus Ross - Clerk of Council

**II. Moment of Silence**

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

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

*Chief Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**IV. Roll Call**

**Absent:** 1 - Rupp

**Present:** 5 - Dildine,Hutson,Lockett,Hilbert, and Cleary

**V. Approval of Minutes**

*The October 21, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes stand approved as submitted.*

[#221-2024](#)

October 21, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [2024.10.21 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

**VI. Business of Guests**

**A. Madison Township Representative**

Madison Township Fire Chief Adams thanked Groveport PD for allowing them to enlist the help of Lieutenant Short in their promotional process and hiring of their new Lieutenants and Battalion Chiefs. He said Lieutenant Short works with the Madison Township Fire Department quite a bit when it comes to training and he was a great help in the hiring process.

**B. Mike Morbitzer**

Mike Morbitzer, Director of Innovation and Accountability at the Groveport Madison local school district, greeted Council and introduced his wife Carol Morbitzer, Director of Instruction and Achievement. He said they started at Groveport Madison a year and a half ago and together they are the office of Teaching & Learning, as well as thirty-year residents of Groveport. He informed Council that they had recently received their best report card in Groveport Madison's history twenty one years. There have been seven versions of them and if you scale this report card against all other seven versions, this is the best we've ever performed. He proceeded to present a PowerPoint presentation entitled Groveport Madison LSD EPIC Innovation Campus Plans. Council and staff held discussion over the presentation and Mr. Morbitzer answered any questions they had.

**VII. New Business****VIII. Unfinished Business****IX. Ordinances and Resolutions****A. 3rd Readings**[Ord. 2024-049](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF GROVEPORT - PART THREE - TRAFFIC CODE, TITLE FIVE - VEHICLES, CHAPTER 333 OVI; WILLFUL MISCONDUCT; SPEED, SECTION 333.11 ELECTRONIC WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE USE PROHIBITED WHILE DRIVING

**Sponsors:** Dildine

**Attachments:** [Ord. 2024-049 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Law Director Shannon explained the proposed the changes to the fine structure that were made in this Ordinance. Mr. Cleary inquired if we have

to subpoena the wireless records every time there is a traffic incident. Mr. Shannon stated that we only have to do that if there's going to be a contested trial. What typically happens is the person could either pay up to a \$150 fine or go to a remedial class. He said most people opt for the remedial class. Mrs. Hilbert asked if a person could still be ticketed if they are using their phone while stopped at a stop sign. Mr. Shannon said they could, as it is still distracted driving. He added that a person does not have to cause an accident to be ticketed for distracted driving.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

### [Ord. 2024-050](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART NINE - STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TITLE ONE - STREET AND SIDEWALK AREA, CHAPTER 911 TREES AND SHRUBS, SECTION 911.04 TREE MAINTENANCE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROVEPORT

**Sponsors:** Hilbert

**Attachments:** [Ord. 2024-050 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Chief Building Official Poirier said this Ordinance came about after conversations with Property Maintenance Enforcement Officer Shisler and Public Service Director Strayer, and elaborated on the proposed changes in each section.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

## **B. 2nd Readings**

### [Ord. 2024-052](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART THREE - TRAFFIC CODE, TITLE FIVE - VEHICLES, CHAPTER 333 - OVI; WILLFUL MISCONDUCT; SPEED OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROVEPORT

**Sponsors:** Lockett

**Attachments:** [Ord. 2024-052 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Mr. Shannon informed Council that the county had requested us to modify

the speed limit on this stretch of Hayes road, and that several jurisdictions are doing the same thing on their stretches of Hayes road. City Engineer Farst added this is a product of a speed study the county had done. Council confirmed with Mr. Farst that the new speed limit will be for the entire stretch of Hayes road. It is currently unposted as 55mph. Mayor Westcamp made the point that Hayes road is marked 35mph at Pontius and nowhere else, so to his understanding the entire road was 35mph. Mr. Dildine added that all of Lithopolis road, from Groveport road to the county line, has no speed limit signage. Administrator King and Mr. Farst agreed to reach out to Franklin County to see about their plan on posting signs there.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

## X. Financial Report

Finance Director Carr gave highlights from the Financial Report.

[#222-2024](#) Financial Report

Attachments: [Financial Report.pdf](#)

## XI. Other Business

## XII. Reports

### A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp

### B. Administrator - BJ King

Mr. Cleary asked how late the City will be picking up leaves. Mr. King said he would double check with staff, but to his knowledge we will be picking up leaves until some time in December. He said if we need to extend it we can. Mr. Cleary then inquired if Columbia Gas had been contacted about fixing the white fence around their equipment. Mr. King said they've been contacted several times and that they had taken down the door and put up caution tape. He assured Mr. Cleary that we will keep following up with them. Mrs. Hilbert suggested that a tall rod iron fence would look much nicer.

### C. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon

**D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr****E. Chief of Police - Casey Adams**

Chief Adams updated Council about the new Police Department sign a project local Boyscout had initiated. He said The Public Services Department has successfully installed the new sign and that they are looking for some solar lights to make it more visible. He added that the sign looks just like the Police Department's flag. He then reflected on when Lieutenant Short was a Sergeant and testified on the catalytic converter cases and said that House Bill has now gone to the Senate for hearings. He also addressed Mrs. Hilbert's concerns for solicitors around town who are becoming more aggressive and trying to get into people's doors. He said he reached out to the company and was told they do a lot of independent contracting and would try to find out who the solicitors were. He strongly encouraged residents to take precautions and to call the Police Department so they can take action immediately. The code states that solicitation hours end at 7:00p.m. Chief Adams went on to report the new Franklin County jail has finally opened, so we will be doing prisoner intake on the west side of Columbus instead of downtown.

[#223-2024](#) PD Council Report

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

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

[#224-2024](#) EDEV Council Report

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

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

[#225-2024](#) PS Council Report

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

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

[#226-2024](#) B&Z Council Report

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

**I. Director of Golf - Tom Walker**

[#227-2024](#) GOLF Council Report

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

**J. Recreation Director - Seth Bower**

[#228-2024](#) REC Council Report

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

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

[#229-2024](#) CA Council Report

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

**L. City Engineer - Steve Farst**

[#230-2024](#) ENG Council Report

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

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

[#231-2024](#) DOT Council Report

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

**N. Personnel Director / Human Resources - Joyce Myers****O. Director of Information Technology - Chris Snyder**

[#232-2024](#) IT Council Report

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

**P. Clerk of Council - Mindy Kay****Q. Council Members - Jean Ann Hilbert, Ed Dildine, Shawn Cleary, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett and Jack Rupp**

Mrs. Hutson reported on a program she'd come across called a citizen's academy, where residents can come and learn what we do. Mr. King said the City would definitely be interested in doing such a program. Mrs. Hilbert expressed how it would be a great idea for a career day activity for schools as well. Mrs. Hutson went on to describe more details of the academy.

*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 discuss economic development, to include all members of Council, the Mayor, himself, the Administrator, Finance Director, Economic Development Director, City Engineer, Chief Building Official, Jason Freedman President CEO of Addison Properties, Eddie Hunt Vice President of Acquisitions and Development for Addison Properties. Given the nature of the presentation and the need for visual aides, we're asking to conduct executive session in Council Chambers. Anyone not named was excused.*

**A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to go into Executive Session at 6:28 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

**A motion was made by Council Member Hilbert, seconded by Council Member Hutson, to come out of Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

### **XIII. Adjournment**

Council Member Cleary made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. All in favor stated AYE, None Opposed. Motion passed.

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Edward Dildine, 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.