

City of Groveport

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Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 23, 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, Kurt Blevins - Acting Chief of Police, Michael Loges - Development Director, 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

Acting Chief of Police Blevins led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Roll Call

Absent: 1 - Jean Ann Hilbert

Present: 5 - Shawn Cleary, Scott Lockett, Abdullah Ansar-Barsa, Karen Fraser, and Jamie Hise

A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Hise, to excuse Council Member Hilbert from tonight's meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Cleary, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

V. Approval of Minutes

The March 9, 2026 City Council Minutes stand approved as submitted.

[#062-2026](#) March 9, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [2026.03.09 City Council Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

VI. Business of Guests**VII. Ordinances and Resolutions****A. 3rd Readings**

[Ord. 2026-013](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ACCURATE MECHANICAL, INC FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF HEATING AND COOLING EQUIPMENT AT THE RECREATION CENTER UNDER THE OHIO STATE TERM SCHEDULE COOPERATIVE PURCHASE PLAN, THEREBY WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING PURSUANT TO GROVEPORT CITY CHARTER SECTION 9.02(B)

Sponsors: Lockett

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

Yes: 5 - Cleary, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

B. 2nd Readings[Ord. 2026-010](#)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A VARIANCE AS TO THE PERMITTED USES IN THE ESTABLISHED ZONING DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 537 MAIN STREET, PARCEL NO. 185-000037 & 185-000159, CURRENTLY ZONED COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL (CC), JOSH BISHOP, APPLICANT

Sponsors: Ansar-Barsa

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-010 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

This Ordinance was read by title

[Ord. 2026-014](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PART NINE - STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROVEPORT AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Ansar-Barsa

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-014 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

[Ord. 2026-014 Exhibit B.pdf](#)

Administrator King requested that Mr. Barsa consider making a motion to suspend the rules as to the three readings and the effective date so that Council could consider this for emergency action. The ordinance would take effect immediately to ensure there was no gap between when Columbus rates went into effect and when Groveport's rates went into effect.

A motion was made by Council Member Ansar-Barsa, seconded by Council Member Cleary, to suspend the rules as to the three readings and the effective date. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Cleary, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

A motion was made by Council Member Ansar-Barsa, seconded by Council Member Fraser, to adopt. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Cleary, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

[Ord. 2026-015](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GROVEPORT MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.

Sponsors: Fraser

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-015 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

This Ordinance was read by title

C. **1st Readings**

VIII. **Reports**

A. **Mayor - Lance Westcamp**

Mayor Westcamp reported that final interviews were conducted for the open position of Police Chief, narrowing the candidates down to four finalists. The assessment company would conduct evaluations on April 18th, with results expected by May. The Mayor expressed satisfaction with the hiring process using the external company, noting they had excellent candidates among the seven interviewed. He committed to keeping Council informed throughout the process.

B. **Administrator - BJ King**

Administrator King provided updates on several items:

Wirt Road Project: The contractor continued installing sanitary sewer despite water and groundwater issues requiring additional sheet piling to secure trenches. The first manhole floor was set with rings being installed, working northeast from that location. King maintained regular contact with neighbors regarding concerns including trash removal and access issues, praising the direct communication system established.

Municipal Building Remodeling: King announced plans to send an overview of the remodeling project to council members the following day,

with construction beginning within weeks. He offered to schedule tours with Public Services Director Bryan Strayer and acknowledged the project would be disruptive during "the year of mess" to improve conditions for 2027.

Event Banner Frames: Public Service would build permanent frames for event banners throughout the city to replace the current system of posts driven into the ground that eventually sag. The new pipe frames would remain in place from the first event through the last event of the season.

State of the Schools: Mr. King reminded Council that the program would be held Wednesday at 7:00pm.

C. Acting Chief of Police - Kurt Blevins

Acting Chief Blevins reported on the Town Hall safety talent program involving police participation alongside officer Herrera. The program was well-attended with approximately 30 children participating daily through Friday, noting it was part of an Eagle Scout project.

D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr

Finance Director Carr presented a comprehensive financial overview.

February Financial Highlights: The general fund was \$6.7 million higher than the previous year, though March would see approximately \$2 million in school sharing and tax incentive payments. Investment maturity totaled \$4.2 million in February, reinvested along with an additional \$2 million at 3.4 to 3.75 percent interest rates. Income tax collections were down 8 percent compared to the previous year, primarily due to refunds.

Income Tax Analysis: Mr. Carr provided detailed analysis showing growth from \$15.7 million in 2020 to \$28.8 million in 2025, with one company contributing \$12.2 million during that period through net profits, representing 39.4 percent of total collections. He emphasized the risk that net profits are subject to refunds, noting this company had not submitted finalized tax returns for 2024-2025, representing \$9.3 million in payments potentially subject to refund.

Debt Service Impact: For 2026, approximately 35.83 percent of income tax money was allocated to debt service, increased from 13.9 percent in 2025 due to the Wirt Road project and other debt issuance.

Fund Balance Clarification: Responding to social media discussions about the city's \$45 million in cash reserves, Mr. Carr explained that

funds were restricted across 35 different funds and could not be spent for any single purpose. He noted that Groveport's 2 percent income tax rate with full reciprocity credit meant most revenue came from warehouses rather than residents.

Administrator King emphasized that debt service reduction was the top priority before taking on additional debt, expressing discomfort with going much higher than the current 35 percent allocation.

[#063-2026](#)

Finance Report

Attachments: [Finance Report.pdf](#)

E. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon

F. Development Director - Michael Loges

Director Loges asked Mr. Carr to clarify the three-year window for net profit tax refund requests, which Mr. Carr confirmed was consistent with recent board of review cases. Mr. Loges announced the school-based health center opening Wednesday at 4:30 PM at 4475 South Hamilton Road.

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

Mrs. Fraser praised the police department with positive feedback with traffic control and their presence at the school's crosswalks.

Mr. Cleary raised several community concerns including reviewing the brush collection policy after observing improperly prepared brush piles in neighborhoods. He suggested considering food pantry collections similar to past "fill the cruiser" events, noting increased need due to rising costs. Cleary also proposed considering ammunition collection events similar to other communities, as well as drug collection and environmental programs.

Mr. Cleary announced the formation of a Rules of Council Committee scheduled to meet April 27th at 6:00 PM.

A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Hise, to appoint Mr. Cleary, Mr. Hise, Mrs. Fraser and Mr. Ansar-Barsa to the Rules of Council Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Cleary, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

Mayor Westcamp asked Acting Chief Blevins to coordinate with his command staff regarding a food pantry collection event targeting the end of April, noting the program's success and community need.

H. Clerk of Council - Mindy Kay

I. Standing Committees

IX. Other Business

X. Adjournment

Council Member Cleary made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hise to adjourn at 7: 00 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.