

City of Groveport

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Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 16, 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, Chief Building Official - Mike Poirer, Eric Reed, 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

Mayor Westcamp called for a moment of silence, specifically requesting thoughts for the servicemen lost at Rickenbacker Air National Guard, asking attendees to keep those families in their thoughts during this difficult time.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Warren Motts led the Pledge of Allegiance, asking for attendees' remembrance of the members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing who recently died in a plane crash over Iraq, and all of the men and women who serve around the world who allow us to have the great privileges we have.

IV. Roll Call

Absent: 2 - Hilbert, and Lockett

Present: 4 - Cleary, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser, and Hise

V. Approval of Minutes

The February 16, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes stand approved as submitted.

[#046-2026](#)

February 16, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [2026.02.16 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

VI. Business of Guests

A. Madison Township Representative

Chief Adams from Madison Township Fire addressed the council to

express gratitude for training opportunities provided by the city of Groveport. He specifically thanked the city for allowing use of the Kids Space building and other structures on Wirt Road during construction, providing over 50 hours of valuable training for department members. Chief Adams noted these commercial building training opportunities are rare and immensely valuable.

Chief Adams also provided context about recent emergency response activity, explaining that during the recent windstorm, Franklin County experienced over 1,077 calls for service with seven working fires simultaneously. Madison Township alone handled just under 66 calls that day. He emphasized this is weather awareness week and reminded residents about burning restrictions between 6 AM and 6 PM during Ohio's windiest and driest month, citing the recent Canal Winchester fire as an example of how dangerous conditions can spread fires rapidly.

B. Warren Motts - Motts Military Museum

Warren Motts provided an extensive annual report on museum activities and developments. He announced that the Board of Directors has promoted Lori Motts-Byrd to the Director position to ensure strong leadership succession, while he remains as founding director. The museum maintains 50 active volunteers who contribute significantly to operations, with one volunteer driving 160 miles daily to help.

Motts highlighted major achievements including acquiring Senator John Glenn's car, which is being restored to running condition. The museum welcomed visitors from 31 states and 31 countries in the past year, with Belgium's Department of Tourism specifically recommending the museum to visitors. The museum provided free admission to local Groveport students and hosted numerous tour groups, sometimes accommodating up to 90 visitors at once.

Significant infrastructure improvements included a new \$77,700 roof and replacement heating and cooling equipment donated at cost by board member Lee Miller. New exhibits feature life-sized Abraham Lincoln mannequin, POW displays for Rob Doran and Tom Moe, and USS Barb submarine materials.

The museum participated in multiple parades and off-site events, maintaining visibility throughout central Ohio. Motts announced plans for the 50th reunion of the American Freedom Train, expecting 90 attendees from across the country. The museum also has exhibits at the State House and the new I-70 rest stop, providing significant promotional opportunities.

Annual volunteer hours totaled 6,170, representing substantial cost savings. The museum continues expanding its reach through partnerships and rotating exhibits while maintaining its mission to preserve military history and honor veterans.

VII. New Business

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. 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

Administrator King expressed the need to enter into contract with Accurate Mechanical Inc for replacement of heating and cooling equipment at the recreation center under Ohio State's term schedule cooperative purchase plan. He noted this equipment is 21 years old and needs replacement. The ordinance utilizes a state term contract to waive competitive bidding requirements.

Mr. Cleary inquired about warranty coverage, with Mr. Hise confirming the equipment is from reputable manufacturer Lochinvar. Parks & Facilities Superintendent Eric Reed was available for technical questions.

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

Yes: 4 - Shawn Cleary,Abdullah Ansar-Barsa,Karen Fraser, and Jamie Hise

B. 2nd Readings

[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](#)

Development Director Michael Loges explained the driving force behind this ordinance was Columbus updating their sanitary sewer capacity fees, requiring Groveport to revise fee structures to maintain proper revenue allocation between the cities.

The ordinance updates both water and sanitary sewer tap fees after comparing rates with other Franklin County contract communities. Mr. Loges noted some of Groveport's larger tap fees were significantly higher than neighboring communities - up to 500% higher for some sizes - potentially discouraging economic development, particularly for water-intensive industries like manufacturing, food production, or data centers.

The revised fee structure brings Groveport competitive with surrounding communities while modernizing code language based on best practices from Dublin, Gahanna, and Grove City. The changes provide better protections for the city and clarity for applicants.

Building Official Mike Poirier noted that historically, most taps are smaller sizes, with few exceeding 2 inches, though SK Foods recently upgraded from 2 to 4 inches. These are one-time capacity fees separate from ongoing usage charges.

Council discussed the potential impact on business development, with Mr. Loges explaining that as a former site selector, he would have excluded communities with significantly higher fees. The ordinance addresses this competitive disadvantage while ensuring appropriate revenue for infrastructure.

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

Yes: 4 - Shawn Cleary, Abdullah Ansar-Barsa, Karen Fraser, and Jamie 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](#)

Administrator King explained that this three-year renewal from July 2026 to July 2029 continues the existing arrangement where the school district pays 70% of costs for two officers.

Mrs. Fraser asked about officer deployment, with Mr. King explaining one officer is stationed at the high school and another rotates between middle and elementary schools. Madison Township provides one additional officer at the high school. Council discussed whether two officers are sufficient. Mr. King noted that the officers can call for backup when needed.

Law Director Shannon explained that during summer months when school is not in session, these officers return to regular patrol duties.

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

Yes: 4 - Shawn Cleary, Abdullah Ansar-Barsa, Karen Fraser, and Jamie Hise

X. Financial Report

Finance Director Carr informed Council that the financial report will be available the following Monday.

XI. Other Business

Mr. Cleary announced that generator discussion for the recreation center will be added to the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda, prompted by recent power outages and natural disaster concerns. Mayor Westcamp confirmed that discussion will also be held that day for the proposed renaming of KidSpace.

XII. Reports

A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp

Mayor Westcamp thanked Captain Blevins for serving as interim chief of police and provided an update on the chief selection process. Working with Dave Collinsworth from the management advisory group we've hired to find our next Chief of Police. They have narrowed candidates to seven applicants, with interviews beginning this week. The Mayor expects to complete the selection process and have a new Chief in place by May.

B. Administrator - BJ King

Administrator King reported that the annual report has been distributed, now handled by Brent Ebright instead of through Town Hall. He provided updates on the recent electric outage, noting staff collected downed light

posts and handled the situation well.

Regarding Wirt Road, King addressed the trash pickup issue from the previous Monday, working with Local Waste Services to ensure Monday morning service going forward. He also reported an unexpected issue during sanitary line installation where crews hit an unknown 24-inch sewer pipe, causing water to gush out and undermine the trench bank. The pipe will be repaired as standard practice when unknown infrastructure is discovered.

King discussed the recreation center generator proposal, noting preliminary costs from Director Strayer and budget impact discussions with Finance Director Carr. He recommended not rushing the generator project this year based on financial considerations.

C. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon

Law Director Shannon wished everyone a Happy St.Patrick's Day.

D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr

Finance Director Carr provided context for the generator decision, noting that while the city has funds available, income tax collections are down 10% through March, primarily due to net profit refunds. He explained the city's debt has increased by approximately \$8 million over three years for Wirt Road, not including loans for Port Road and State Route 317 projects.

Mr. Carr noted upcoming projects including architectural design for golf maintenance and public works buildings, estimated at \$4-6 million, which will add more debt service. He requested Council guidance on financial priorities and timing for major expenditures, emphasizing the need for strategic financial planning given increasing debt obligations.

E. Acting Chief of Police - Kurt Blevins

Acting Chief Blevins reported on increased patrols around the Main Street School Zone, noting good compliance and continued enforcement through the end of the school year following safety concerns from parents.

[#047-2026](#)

PD Council Report

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

F. Economic Development Director - Michael Loges

Economic Development Director Loges referenced his submitted report and noted it is annual report season for businesses with property tax abatements. He is working with remaining stragglers past the month-end deadline and preparing three incentive payments for businesses with cash incentives, with Reliable Healthcare Solutions to be added next year.

[#048-2026](#) EDEV Council Report

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

G. Public Services Director - Brian Strayer

[#049-2026](#) PS Council Report

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

H. Chief Building Official - Mike Poirier

Mayor Westcamp raised the subject of "the camper," confirming it was observed near the Marathon/Certified station. Staff is investigating whether anyone is inhabiting the vehicle and taking appropriate enforcement action.

[#050-2026](#) B&Z Council Report

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

I. Director of Golf - Danny Sorgini

[#051-2026](#) GOLF Council Report

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

J. Recreation Director - Seth Bower

[#052-2026](#) REC Council Report

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

K. Community Affairs Director - Jessica Wyke

[#053-2026](#) CA Council Report

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

L. City Engineer - Steve Farst

[#054-2026](#) ENG Council Report

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

M. Director of Transportation / Senior Services - Bob Dowler

[#055-2026](#) DOT Council Report

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

N. Personnel Director / Human Resources - Annie Short

[#056-2026](#) HR Council Report

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

O. Director of Information Technology - Chris Snyder

[#057-2026](#) IT Council Report

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

P. Communications Manager - Brent Ebright

[#058-2026](#) 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. Cleary recognized recently elected Madison Township Trustee Chris Andrews in the crowd. Mr. Andrews reported Madison Township Police Department's hire of two new officers, one who speaks Spanish.

Mrs. Fraser thanked Acting Chief Blevins and the Police Department for addressing Main Street crosswalk safety concerns. She emphasized the positive impact of increased police presence during morning and afternoon commutes, providing peace of mind to parents and improved

safety for students.

Mr. Cleary noted he will begin wearing earbuds for hearing assistance, clarifying they are amplification devices, not entertainment. He reflected on the recent weather event and power restoration, praising the 24-hour response time for four pole replacements on Ebright Road. He also expressed concern about the departure of high school principal Jeff Altman, noting his significant contributions to the community and the challenge of replacing such an active community member. He acknowledged the principal's decision to accept a position closer to home at Licking Heights.

XIII. Adjournment

Council Member Fraser made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hise, to adjourn at 6:32p.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.