

# City of Groveport

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## Meeting Minutes

**Monday, December 9, 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, Steve Farst - City Engineer, Brian Strayer - Public Services Director, 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**

*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**

**Present:** 6 - Dildine, Hutson, Lockett, Rupp, Hilbert, and Cleary

**V. Approval of Minutes**

*The November 18, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes stand approved as submitted.*

[#234-2024](#)

November 18, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [2024.11.18 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

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

Madison Township Fire Chief Robinson gave thanks to the Golf Department for lending three golf carts for the annual Santa Parade, and to the City of Groveport for their invitation to join in the Heritage Holiday festivities. He said the station was called to a barn fire at the time, however station 181 was able to step in. He then gave a reminder to check and replace old fire detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and passed literature out to Council and staff about Christmas tree, candle, and cooking safety.

[#235-2024](#) MTFD Monthly Report

Attachments: [MTFD Monthly Report.pdf](#)

## **B. Firefighters 4 Kids Toy Drive**

Mr. Cleary expressed how happy he was with the number of toy drive donations this year and thanked all who were involved. He commended the Fire Department and John Jones for all they do with the Firefighters 4 Kids program. Mr. Jones spoke about the program and how he's been involved since 1987. He said the number of families they serve has soared from about 1,000 to 5,700 in that time, and thanked Council and staff for getting involved. Mr. Dildine commented that it all comes from the heart and shared a story of when the Fire Department visited and gave toys to children in the hospital. Fire Chief Robinson expressed his gratitude for the City's involvement in gathering donations.

## **C. Kathy Weiser - Education Is The Way**

Retired Groveport Madison educator Kathy Weiser spoke about Education Is The Way, a scholarship foundation she was invited by the school to direct. She explained that Education Is The Way is a local nonprofit formed in 1990 by a group of businessmen in Groveport who discovered that a lot of our middle of the road students were not getting financial help for college. The scholarship is available to graduating students who have a 2.0 gpa. She said the amount available changes each year, as it is managed by the Columbus Foundation. We then try to balance out the funds disbursed to each applicant. A great perk is that the students can reapply for up to four years. She stated the reason for coming to Council was to spread awareness and to ask for the opportunity to apply for any grant money the City might have available. She added that scholarships are also available to students who attend technical schools and post secondary training programs. This year we have three educators in our district who were actually four year Education Is The Way scholarship recipients. She invited Council and staff to follow the foundation on social media and help spread public awareness to encourage more applicants. Mrs. Hutson stated that her daughter was a scholarship recipient and thanked Mrs. Weiser for the opportunity. Mr. King said the City does have a community grants program and would reach out to update Mrs. Weiser.

## **VII. New Business**

Mr. Cleary expressed his concern over the state of some of the bricks at Veterans Park. He said that some are pretty worn away, and that a

resident had called for a replacement and was told it would be at her cost. He said he does not agree that a replacement should be at the resident's cost. He added that you can also pinpoint which specific year of bricks are deteriorating. Council all agreed that sub par quality bricks must have been used by the company those years. Mr. Cleary said he would follow up with the resident and asked Council for direction. Mrs. Hilbert agreed with Mr. Cleary that the resident should not have to pay for a replacement brick. Mr. Dildine suggested we make a list of all bricks that should be redone and do them all at once. Council agreed and Mayor Westcamp said it will be done at the City's expense. Mr. King said he doesn't want to overstep and the City become in charge of all of the bricks. Mrs. Hilbert said we would just replace the deteriorating bricks from the years with bad batches. Mayor Westcamp said it has to just be bad bricks those years because the bricks at the Log Cabin that date back to the 1990s are in great condition. Mr. Strayer stated that he believes we've changed vendors over the last five years at least.

## VIII. Unfinished Business

## IX. Ordinances and Resolutions

### A. 3rd Readings

### B. 2nd Readings

#### [Ord. 2024-053](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SOLICIT BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE PORT ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PHASE 2 PROJECT

**Sponsors:** Cleary

Mr. King explained that we were awarded OPWC money for the Port road reconstruction project. This is the next step in the process that will allow us to go out and seek bids, and ultimately award a contract for construction.

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

**Yes:** 6 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jack Rupp, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

#### [Ord. 2024-054](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SOLICIT BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST

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RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE STATE ROUTE 317  
AT FIREHOUSE LANE PHASE 2 STREET IMPROVEMENT

**Sponsors:** Hutson

Mr. King said we do not yet know if money will be awarded for this, but he recommends approval so that we are lined up and ready to go if we do receive money for it. Mr. Dildine inquired when we would know if we are awarded or not. Mr. King said the OPWC is reviewing the list of projects right now. City Engineer Farst said it may take a couple months.

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

**Yes:** 6 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jack Rupp, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

[Ord. 2024-055](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SOLICIT  
BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST  
RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE DIRECTORS  
BLVD. STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

**Sponsors:** Dildine

Mr. King said this project is covered in our budget and recommends approval so we can get this going as soon as possible.

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

**Yes:** 6 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jack Rupp, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

[Ord. 2024-056](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SOLICIT  
BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST  
RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE 2025 STREET MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

**Sponsors:** Hilbert

Mr. King stated that this is for the annual street program and that it is ready to go. Mr. Cleary asked if Bixby road west of 317 is on the list. Mr. Farst said they will be looking at it. We have a short list and we have to do an evaluation of projected costs to see how the budget can be allocated.

**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:** 6 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jack Rupp, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

## **X. Financial Report**

Finance Director Carr gave highlights from the Financial Report.

[#236-2024](#) Financial Report

Attachments: [Financial Report.pdf](#)

## **XI. Other Business**

## **XII. Reports**

### **A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp**

Mayor Westcamp spoke highly of the Heritage Holiday event and commended the Madison Township Fire Department, Community Affairs Department, and the Parks Department for another job well done in coordinating everything. He expressed how happy he was to see the community choir perform as well.

### **B. Administrator - BJ King**

Administrator King spoke about having yet another successful Heritage Holiday and how he is looking forward to the City's holiday luncheon.

### **C. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon**

### **D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr**

### **E. Chief of Police - Casey Adams**

Chief Adams reported that the Police Department has completed its 2024 performance training and that the City should be receiving a reimbursement check for some of that training. He added that Patrolman James Reed passed his FAA license for drone operation. A lot of the suburb departments are getting drones and are interested in holding a training in Groveport and they would like to offer at least one, if not two of the positions to our students for free. He then said he attended the advisory committee at the Eastland Adult Police Academy and stated that they are not getting enough cadets. He said this directly affects where we can recruit from and hopes that the program turns around. Mr. Cleary asked if we have purchased a drone yet. Mr. King said it is in the

budget for 2025. He added that the decision was made to go ahead with the training so that we are ready to go when we obtain the drone. Mr. Cleary then asked if the drone could be used in other projects within the City, not just the Police Department. Chief Adams said it could be used for inspections and zoning projects, however, we are restricted because of the nearby airport.

[#237-2024](#) PD Council Report

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

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

[#238-2024](#) EDEV Council Report

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

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

Public Services Director Strayer gave highlights from his monthly report and passed out information from SWACO regarding grant opportunities for recycling carts. Council and staff briefly discussed SWACO's consortium program.

[#239-2024](#) PS Council Report

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

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

[#240-2024](#) B&Z Council Report

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

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

[#241-2024](#) GOLF Council Report

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

**J. Recreation Director - Seth Bower**

[#242-2024](#) REC Council Report

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

**K. Community Affairs Director - Jessica Wyke****L. City Engineer - Steve Farst**

City Engineer Farst gave highlights from his monthly report.

[#243-2024](#) ENG Council Report

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

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

[#244-2024](#) DOT Council Report

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

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

[#245-2024](#) 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 commented on how great the weather was for Heritage Holiday and how much she enjoyed the event.

Mr. Cleary stated that he received notice from the City of Columbus that his water bill will be going up 7% and his sewer bill will be going up 5%. He also recognized Eric the Trash Man for going out on one of the coldest days last week to collect trash from the side of Bixby road. He went on to report the sad news that Saint Mary's church has closed its doors.

Mr. Rupp asked if there is anything the City can do to recognize Eric for all he does to keep our City clean. Council and staff agreed to run ideas by Mr. King.

*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 matters. To include all members of Council, the Mayor, the Administrator, Finance Director, City Engineer, Economic Development Director, and Mr. Hodge.*

**A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to go into Executive Session at 6:33 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jack Rupp, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

**A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Cleary, to come out of Executive Session at 7:23 with no action taken. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Edward Dildine, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jack Rupp, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

**XIII. Adjournment**

Council Member Cleary made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to adjourn at 7:23 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.