

City of Groveport

655 Blacklick St.
Groveport, OH 43125
614.830.2052
www.groveport.org



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 11, 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, Mike Poirier - Chief Building Official, 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 Blevins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Shawn Cleary, Jean Ann Hilbert, Scott Lockett, Abdullah Ansar-Barsa, Karen Fraser, and Jamie Hise

V. Approval of Minutes

The April 27, 2026 City Council Minutes stand approved as submitted.

[#102-2026](#) April 27, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [2026.04.27 City Council Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

VI. Business of Guests**A. Leah Conway**

Ms. Conway, a lifelong Groveport resident, addressed Council regarding the city's deployment of Flock Safety automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras. She expressed concern that the cameras, which she noted numbered approximately 20 (later clarified by Acting Chief Blevins to be 10 or 11), erode the privacy of law-abiding citizens by continuously photographing and cataloging the movements of residents without a warrant or probable cause. She acknowledged that individuals have a reduced expectation of privacy in public spaces, but argued that systematic, automated documentation of vehicle routines is fundamentally different from ordinary public observation.

Ms. Conway raised several specific concerns: that data is retained for 30 days, enabling the reconstruction of personal routines; that at least 14 law enforcement officers nationwide have used the system to stalk individuals, with some of those abusive queries having been flagged by Flock's own system as "legitimate"; that at least 13 documented cases of algorithm errors have resulted in innocent people being wrongfully arrested; that collected data has in some instances been shared with state and federal agencies beyond the originating department without city authorization; and that security researchers have publicly identified vulnerabilities in the Flock platform. She also noted that a class action lawsuit in San Jose, California is alleging Fourth Amendment violations, and that 57 cities and counting—including Kent, Ohio—have canceled or rejected Flock contracts. Ms. Conway concluded by asking Council to consider ending use of the cameras or, at minimum, declining to renew the contract upon expiration.

B. Joseph Conway

Mr. Conway seconded his daughter's remarks and emphasized his view that the cameras represent an erosion of citizens' constitutional rights, invoking the Fourth Amendment and a quotation from Benjamin Franklin on the balance between liberty and safety. He noted that policing has functioned without such technology for generations and expressed concern about the broader societal trend toward pervasive surveillance. He stated that his primary request, as a 35-year Groveport resident, was that the city at minimum not renew the Flock contract when it expires.

Council and staff responded with comments on the demonstrated value of the system. Mr. Cleary stated that a single instance of recovering a missing child through Flock was sufficient justification in his view. Acting Chief Blevins elaborated on practical law enforcement uses, including identifying stolen vehicles, locating individuals with felony warrants, tracking theft suspects, and locating missing elderly persons with dementia. He noted the cameras serve primarily as a reactive investigative tool rather than active surveillance, and confirmed the department does not use the system for issuing traffic citations. He also clarified that the city has approximately 10 or 11 cameras, not 20 as stated by Ms. Conway, and noted that some cameras in the area were installed and paid for by a private HOA.

Law Director Kevin Shannon offered an example from Mayor's Court in which Flock data was used to establish that a vehicle identified by a complainant as having run her off the road was, in fact, in Dayton at the time of the incident in Groveport, thereby exonerating the vehicle's driver.

Mrs. Fraser thanked the Conways for the information and indicated she would research the matter further, noting her concern centered less on the city's current use of the technology and more on the corporate data practices of Flock Safety as a large private company.

C. **Greg Miller**

Mr. Miller, a recent resident of the Front Street permit parking area, raised three questions: why his block is the only block on Front Street subject to permit parking requirements; why parking spaces have not been delineated on the street to maximize capacity; and whether a previously discussed ordinance to paint curb markings near corners and fire hydrants had advanced.

Council and staff explained that the permit parking program originated at the request of residents who had difficulty finding parking near Town Hall. Director of Law Shannon noted that Front Street's historic brick lane and sandstone granite curbs have long been subject to a strong preservation ethos, making any physical markings on the roadway undesirable to the historical preservation community and previous councils. Administrator BJ King noted that the ongoing municipal construction project will add approximately 110 parking spaces behind the current construction area, and that the corners of Front and Main Streets will be widened to accommodate proper turning radii for buses and large vehicles.

Mr. Cleary suggested the matter of permit parking administration and delineation be referred to committee for further discussion. Council directed Mr. Miller to the next committee meeting on the following Monday, May 18, at 5:30 PM, noting it is open to the public.

A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to refer discussion on this topic to the Committee of the Whole. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Hilbert, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

VII. **Ordinances and Resolutions**

A. **3rd Readings**

B. **2nd Readings**

[Ord. 2026-017](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING GROVEPORT CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 123.03, 145, AND 1321.27 TO SET CREDIT CARD CONVENIENCE FEES FOR PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, THE RECREATION CENTER, AND THE BUILDING AND

ZONING DEPARTMENT.

Sponsors: Hilbert

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-017 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

[Ord. 2026-017 Exhibit B.pdf](#)

[Ord. 2026-017 Exhibit C.pdf](#)

This Ordinance was read by title

C. 1st Readings

[Ord. 2026-018](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH MARK MCDONOUGH TO SERVE AS CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE CITY OF GROVEPORT, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Ansar-Barsa

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-018 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to amend the agenda to move Ordinance 2026-018 to Other Business.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Hilbert, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

[Ord. 2026-019](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING GROVEPORT CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1321.10 TO RESCIND THE DOUBLE PERMIT FEE PROVISION FOR WORK COMMENCED WITHOUT NECESSARY PERMITS AND TO MODIFY THE REINSPECTION FEE

Sponsors: Lockett

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-019 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole

[Ord. 2026-020](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART ONE - ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, TITLE FIVE- ADMINISTRATIVE, CHAPTER 137 -BOARD OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES, SECTION 137.02 - RULES AND REGULATIONS

Sponsors: Cleary

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-020 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole

[Ord. 2026-021](#)

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2002-010, PASSED MARCH 11, 2002, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Fraser

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-021 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole

VIII. Reports

A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp

Mayor Westcamp commended the Community Affairs Department in their work in organizing the Memorial Day event. He also thanked Council Member Hilbert for filling in during his absence the previous week.

B. Administrator - BJ King

Administrator King reported on several active projects:

Street Program Bid Award: A bid opening was held the prior week for this year's street program. The base bid scope includes Madison Lane from Firehouse Lane to South Island Street, Buckeye Alley from College to Walnut Street, spot full-depth repairs on Greenpoint Drive South, Raver Alley resurfacing of the lower parking lot to Groveport Park, and path repairs at Groveport Park, with two alternates for Hilly Alley and Shoemaker Alley. The engineer's estimate for the base bid was \$945,000. Three bids were received; the low bid came in at \$795,841. Alternate 1 (engineer's estimate \$40,000) came in at \$77,305.90, and Alternate 2 (engineer's estimate \$82,000) came in at \$75,829. The contract is to be awarded to Strouzer, under budget.

Municipal Building Remodel: Work is substantially complete in the engineering area, with painting underway. Work in the administrative area is scheduled to begin the following week.

Outdoor Pool: The pool is being filled, with one pump activated. Administrator King expressed hope that no leaks would emerge this season.

Wirt Road Construction: Administrator King reported that the contractor is experiencing challenges with poor soils and high groundwater. The contractor has shifted focus to Manhole 5 near Main Street where soils are more favorable, and is working back from that point. Dewatering wells may be required, which could result in additional

costs. Council members raised concerns about the condition of West Bixby Road, west of State Route 317, which was not included in this year's street program. Administrator King acknowledged the concern and indicated it would need to be considered for a future program year.

C. Acting Chief of Police - Kurt Blevins

Acting Chief Blevins reported on a recent police-sponsored food drive, which collected \$145 in monetary donations as well as a quantity of food items, despite cold weather. He noted the department was pleased with the community response and indicated a future drive might be planned for a warmer time of year.

D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr

Finance Director Carr reported that the finance department conducts ongoing tracking of health insurance claims paid versus premiums under the city's Medical Mutual plan. Following an audit requested by the city for the prior contract period (January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025), the city is set to receive a refund of approximately \$40,000. Mr. Carr noted the importance of proactively requesting such audits, as the insurer would not necessarily initiate the process independently.

E. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon

F. Development Director - Michael Loges

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

Mrs. Fraser thanked Seth and Kenny at the Recreation Center for hosting the middle school color run, noting it was well-coordinated across three schools despite difficult weather conditions. She also reported that the water fountain at Blacklick Park was not functioning and that the grass at the post office had grown excessively high. It was confirmed that a letter had been sent to the post office that day requesting the property be mowed, consistent with an issue that recurs annually, as the city lacks jurisdiction to act directly on federal property.

Mr. Lockett thanked the police department for their work in recovering stolen property from a theft the prior week and for their efforts in returning the items to the rightful owners.

Mrs. Hilbert noted that the upcoming Saturday would be her 63rd year alumni banquet, having graduated in 1963.

Mr. Cleary thanked the city and the golf course for providing golf carts for the alumni banquet to assist elderly attendees who have difficulty walking from the parking area.

H. Clerk of Council - Mindy Kay

I. Standing Committees

Trees and Decorations Committee (Council Member Fraser): The committee met that evening. Discussion included planning for Apple Butter Day, to be addressed at the next meeting in two months. Public Services Director Brian Strayer is working on an approved street tree list and is seeking additional expert consultation before presenting a final recommendation. The committee also noted that thank-you notes had been received from students at Glendenning Elementary following the Arbor Day tree planting event.

Cemetery Committee (Council Member Cleary): The committee met the prior Wednesday to discuss a policy regarding foot markers for cremation interments. The current practice of placing markers at the foot of burial spaces has resulted in damage to the markers due to their size and thinness. The committee resolved to require foot markers to be placed at the head of the space going forward, reserving the foot position for military markers. For the current year, foot markers will be placed at no charge, with a possible \$50 fee to be considered for 2027. The committee is also updating the cemetery's comprehensive rules and regulations document; publication is being held pending incorporation of this new policy after full council review. The updated rules and regulations will be referred to Committee of the Whole via Ord. 2026-020.

IX. 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 discuss employment of a public employee or official, to include all members of Council, the Mayor, himself, the Administrator, and Finance Director.

A motion was made by Council Member Ansar-Barsa, seconded by Council Member Lockett, to go into Executive Session at 7:22pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Hilbert, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

A motion was made by Council Member Hise, seconded by Council Member Fraser, to come out of Executive Session at 8:05pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Hilbert, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

[Ord. 2026-018](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH MARK MCDONOUGH TO SERVE AS CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE CITY OF GROVEPORT, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Ansar-Barsa

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-018 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

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

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Hilbert, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

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

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Hilbert, Lockett, Ansar-Barsa, Fraser and Hise

X. Adjournment

Council Member Cleary made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hilbert to adjourn at 8: 08 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.