

City of Groveport

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Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 17, 2025

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 Co-Chair Hutson 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, Seth Bower - Recreation Director, Joyce Myers - Personnel 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

Absent: 1 - Dildine

Present: 5 - Hutson, Lockett, Rupp, Hilbert, and Cleary

V. Approval of Minutes

The December 19, 2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes stand approved as submitted.

[#015-2025](#)

December 19, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [2024.12.19 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

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

Fire Chief Adams reported that the Madison Township Fire department has unfortunately been busy this season with a lot of fires in the area. He then commended the City's road maintenance staff for always making sure the roads are in safe driving condition. He said the Fire Department notices that and greatly appreciates it.

[#016-2025](#)

MTFD Monthly Report

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

VII. New Business

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. 3rd Readings

B. 2nd Readings

[Ord. 2025-002](#)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR THE RECREATION CENTER THEREBY AMENDING THE FEE SCHEDULE SET FORTH IN ORDINANCE NO. 2019-018

Sponsors: Hilbert

Attachments: [Ord. 2025-002 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Administrator King reported that it's been a while since we've done anything with our recreation fees, and that in 2024 we did the utility rates and golf rates. He said we own the Rec Center outright and it is paid off, however, the costs to maintain the building, the chemicals, and the staff continue to go up. The rate of revenue is not keeping pace. He explained that the goal is to reduce the supplement that we give to the Rec Center from the general fund, and that we are currently looking at a \$2.4 million transfer to the Rec Center for operations and said that's just not sustainable. He added that he knows raising rates is not a comfortable thing to do, but we're also looking at simplifying how things are done and make it easier for people to sign up and become members.

Recreation Director Bower walked Council through his proposal, which includes comparisons of other gyms and rec centers in the area. He said some of them break down their fees by resident and non-resident like we do. He further explained the plan to simplify the process, stating that for 30 day memberships, the individual has to re sign up and show their ID and proof of residency each time the membership reaches its 30 day expiration, which is a pretty cumbersome process. It also opens us up to a lot of mistakes. He proposed a monthly membership fee, while also keeping the annual membership option. With the monthly membership, there would be a monthly recurring automatic draft option with a once a year ID and residency verification. He then explained the plan to streamline the different membership categories, dropping it down from

nine to six. He then presented the proposed rates to Council, as well as a proposed 5% annual increase of rates.

Mrs. Hilbert inquired as to how much money is projected to be brought in with the increase and Mr. Cleary asked when the last rate increase was. Mr. Bower stated that the annual pass rates have been the same since 2012, with a few modifications since then. Based off of 2023 numbers, the projected revenue will increase by roughly \$800,000. Mr. Carr was asked to elaborate on transfer amounts to the Rec Center from the general fund. Mr. King added that we're never going to break even but it will help us reduce the subsidy. Mrs. Hilbert expressed how it isn't ideal to hit everybody with fees but this is a choice amenity that we offer our citizens. Water, storm water and other utilities are necessities, and people can choose to sign up for memberships or not. She then made it clear that it is important to make sure the residents who pay income taxes get a decent break. Mr. King reported that 68% of our memberships are non-residents. Mrs. Hilbert asked if Mr. Bower thinks the increase will affect the non-resident memberships, to which he said no. He said certainly there are other options but we offer so much more than other local gyms, such as the swimming pool, programs, and basketball courts. People choose to come here because of the services that we provide. Mrs. Hilbert mentioned the Senior Center and how vital it is to the socialization of our seniors. Mr. Bower added that many seniors stay for several hours to socialize and walk the track. Council and staff went on to weigh the benefits of the rate increase.

Mr. Rupp expressed his concerns for some of the more drastic rate increases in the proposal, stating some of them are in the 20% range and some in the 50-60% range. He said he completely understands what we need to do, but it just seems that some of it jumps up quite a bit. He inquired if someone on the monthly auto draft plan could pause payment/membership for a month or two if they are away or on vacation. Mr. Bower replied that they do currently offer pauses with a doctor's note, but could look into Mr. Rupp's idea as well. Mr. Rupp then raised the point that members will be paying for the Rec Center membership as well as the Aquatic Center. Mrs. Hilbert suggested a non-resident with a Rec Center membership could be eligible for the Aquatic Center at a resident rate. Mr. Rupp said he is unsure how to combine the two into one membership because of the differences in operation of both, but would like to find a way to make it more affordable for people to do both. Mr. Carr spoke in regards to Mrs. Hilbert's suggestion and stated that it would be a significant revenue loss. Mr. Bower clarified that the non-resident membership percentage to the Aquatic Center is higher than at the Rec Center, and that the most revenue the Aquatic center sees is from non-resident day passes. Mayor Westcamp confirmed with

Mr. Bower that he doesn't foresee an affect in membership numbers due to the rate changes. Mr. Bower noted more amenities the Aquatic center offers that the area's competitors do not have, such as the lazy river, water slides, and splash pad. He added that people feel very safe coming to our facilities because of our high safety standards. He said it would be \$45-\$50 to go to Zoombezi Bay, granted that we are a scaled back version of Zoombezi Bay. He said people could still have a fun and affordable experience, stating that people come from all over Ohio and even from out of state. Mayor Westcamp stated another perk to our facility is that people can bring their own snacks and drinks.

Mr. Lockett made sure the increase does not affect the reimbursement rate of the Silver Sneakers and Renew Active programs. Mr. Bower said it's a free membership, as their health insurance qualifies them. He said he would provide the follow up with Mr. Lockett on the percentage of residents vs non-residents for those programs. Council and staff agreed to continue the discussion at next Monday's City Council meeting.

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 - Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jack Rupp, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

[#027-2025](#)

Ord. 2025-002 Memo

Attachments: [Ord. 2025-002 Memo.pdf](#)

[Ord. 2025-003](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART ONE - ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, CHAPTER 143, EMPLOYEES GENERALLY OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROVEPORT, OHIO

Sponsors: Cleary

Attachments: [Ord. 2025-003 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Mrs. Hilbert confirmed with Mr. King that this change addresses all of the departments. Council and staff agreed to recommend approval today and go into executive session at next Monday's City Council meeting to discuss in further detail.

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

Yes: 5 - Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, Jack Rupp, Jean Ann Hilbert, and Shawn Cleary

X. Financial Report

Finance Director Carr gave highlights from the Financial Report.

[#017-2025](#) Financial Report

Attachments: [Financial Report.pdf](#)

XI. Other Business

XII. Reports

A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp

Mayor Westcamp reminded everyone of the basketball game on Friday night. There will be a trophy presentation at halftime.

B. Administrator - BJ King

Administrator King stated that the 2024 Annual Report is in production and will be available shortly and that he appreciates everyone's work on putting it together. He announced that Warren Motts will be in attendance at next week's Committee of the Whole meeting with his annual update of the happenings at Motts Military Museum. Mr. King added that next Wednesday through Friday he will be attending the OCMA Conference.

C. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon

D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr

Finance Director Carr informed Council that there will be a budget amendment at next Monday's Council meeting.

E. Chief of Police - Casey Adams

Mr. Lockett inquired if some of the logged calls to service & incident reports could contain multiple categories crossed off for the same incident. Chief Adams explained that it depends on how they label it at Dispatch. Mr. Lockett then asked if the twenty five service calls to the schools is about average. Chief Adams stated that it is about average and that some of the calls could be alarm drops or medical alert issues. The numbers are typically higher in the summer. Mr. Cleary mentioned that the Police Department is currently at full staff and asked if Chief Adams foresees the need to increase the number of staff in the near future. He and Chief Adams briefly discussed staffing and upcoming retirements. Mr. Cleary stated he'd rather project over than get caught behind because it is so hard to find recruits. Mr. Rupp looked at it from a

development standpoint and said we should calculate on what's projected instead of waiting until we are short staffed as the city grows. Chief Adams said that the department is taking into account the number of calls per shift to calculate where we need our staffing the most. Mrs. Hilbert requested that the reports start to include items we are ticketing for, such as turning right on red where it is posted not to. Chief Adams spoke about the intersection of Bixy and Ebright and the upcoming traffic pattern change with the four way stop. He said there will be a camera trailer set up near the intersection to keep tabs as well as officers posted there during the morning rush and other busy times.

[#018-2025](#) PD Council Report

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

F. Economic Development Director - Michael Loges

G. Public Services Director - Brian Strayer

Mr. Rupp commented that Mr. Strayer always does a great job of adding the costs of snow removal into his report and asked Mr. King if it's possible to see where this fits into our budget for snow removal. He further asked if we are on course or if Mr. King foresees us having to adjust the budget. Mr. King replied that they would look at all the overtime numbers and cost of salt and get that report out to Council this week. He said fortunately, it's been a pretty mild winter in regards to response for snow events, and that he would look back on last year to see how we're trending.

[#019-2025](#) PS Council Report

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

H. Chief Building Official - Mike Poirier

[#020-2025](#) B&Z Council Report

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

I. Director of Golf - Tom Walker

J. Recreation Director - Seth Bower

[#021-2025](#) REC Council Report

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

K. Community Affairs Director - Jessica Wyke

[#022-2025](#) CA Council Report

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

L. City Engineer - Steve Farst

[#023-2025](#) ENG Council Report

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

M. Director of Transportation / Senior Services - Bob Dowler

[#024-2025](#) DOT Council Report

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

N. Personnel Director / Human Resources - Joyce Myers

[#025-2025](#) HR Council Report

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

O. Director of Information Technology - Chris Snyder

[#026-2025](#) 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

Mr. Rupp reported that he attended the school board meeting last Tuesday and gave highlights, including the newly approved Treasurer contract and board training.

XIII. Adjournment

Council Member Hilbert made a motion, seconded by Council Member Lockett, to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. All in favor stated AYE, None Opposed. Motion passed.

Becky Hutson, Vice Chair

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.