

City of Groveport

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Groveport, OH 43125
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Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 13, 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 6:35 p.m.

Staff Present: BJ King - Administrator, Kevin Shannon - Law Director, Jason Carr - Director of Finance, Mark McDonough - Chief of Police, Mike Poirier - Chief Building Official, Michael Loges - Development Director, Annie Short - Personnel 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

Chief McDonough 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 June 22, 2026 City Council Minutes stand approved as submitted.

[#158-2026](#) June 22, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [2026.06.22 City Council Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

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

[Ord. 2026-022](#)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A VARIANCE AS TO THE PERMITTED USES IN THE ESTABLISHED ZONING DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4601 HOMER OHIO LANE, PARCEL NO. 185-001429, CURRENTLY ZONED COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL (CC), ARDENT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, APPLICANT

Sponsors: Hise

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-022 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Law Director Kevin Shannon proposed an amendment to Section 1 of the ordinance. Specifically, the final language of Section 1 beginning with "provided that" was to be redacted and replaced with language incorporating the conditions set forth by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The amended condition states that any site change involving improvement and/or alteration of buildings, parking areas, drives, or utilities shall require, prior to such changes, the development of a site improvement plan to be reviewed and approved by the City Engineer, in addition to receiving zoning compliance approval from the Building and Zoning Department.

A motion was made by Council Member Hise, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to amend this ordinance to include the condition set forth by the Planning and Zoning Commission. 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 adopt. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

B. 2nd Readings

[Ord. 2026-027](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MULTIPLE SECTIONS OF THE PERSONNEL PRACTICES AND POLICIES HANDBOOK OF THE CITY OF GROVEPORT

Sponsors: Hilbert

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-027 Exhibit A.pdf](#)
[Ord. 2026-027 Exhibit B.pdf](#)

This Ordinance was read by title

C. 1st Readings

[Ord. 2026-028](#)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE RECODIFICATION, EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF GROVEPORT, OHIO AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Sponsors: Ansar-Barsa

This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole

[Ord. 2026-029](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2005-053 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GROVEPORT'S PICK UP OF THE STATUTORILY REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF GROVEPORT PURSUANT TO IRC SECTION 414(h)(2).

Sponsors: Lockett

This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole

[Ord. 2026-030](#)

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. 2026-030 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole

[Ord. 2026-031](#)

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF FULL TIME ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR, ACCEPTING THE POSITION DESCRIPTION AND PAY GRADE THEREFORE

Sponsors: Hilbert

Attachments: [Ord. 2026-031 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole

VIII. Reports

A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp

Mayor Westcamp commended all departments and personnel involved in the Fourth of July celebrations, including Public Works, the Police Department, Community Affairs staff, and the event committee. He noted that despite ongoing construction on Wirt Road, the events proceeded very well. The Mayor reported that the Wirt Road construction project is approximately 40% complete, with continued disruptions expected. He also noted that the downstairs remodel at City Hall is anticipated to be completed within three to four weeks. Additionally, the Mayor announced that, in anticipation of an upcoming staff retirement, an advertisement for a replacement position had been posted that morning, with Finance Director Carr to be involved in the interview process. Council was assured that updates would continue as the hiring process progresses.

B. Administrator - BJ King

Administrator BJ King echoed appreciation for the success of the Fourth of July events. He noted that planning for the Halloween Block Party is underway, with a modified layout moving the event slightly north on Front Street to accommodate road closures, and that the footprint would not extend as far south as in previous years. Regarding Wirt Road construction, King confirmed that access to the school would be fully restored prior to August 11th, and potentially as early as July 27th given current progress with proof rolling. In response to a question from Mrs. Hilbert regarding traffic enforcement on Main Street during the construction period, King invited Chief McDonough to respond.

C. Chief of Police - Mark McDonough

Chief McDonough reported that the Fourth of July holiday weekend concluded with zero significant incidents, crediting officers who worked in challenging heat conditions on bikes, on foot, in golf carts, and at traffic posts. On the topic of traffic enforcement, the Chief confirmed that officers have been directed to maintain a heightened presence in the construction zone on Main Street and are addressing wrong-way travel in the area. He encouraged any resident with a specific traffic concern to contact the Police Department directly, and affirmed that officers would be deployed for directed traffic enforcement upon request, including from private driveways with homeowner permission. The Chief stated that increased enforcement near schools would continue when the school year resumes.

D. Director of Finance - Jason Carr

Finance Director Jason Carr provided context for two of the first-reading ordinances, noting he would be unavailable the following week and invited Council to submit questions by email. Regarding Ord. 2026-029, he explained that an OPERS audit recommended the city clarify and codify its existing practice of picking up three percent of the employees' required retirement contribution, making this primarily an administrative amendment. Regarding Ord. 2026-031, Mr. Carr described the new Assistant Finance Director position as an elevation of the existing Senior Accountant role, moving from a Grade 6 to a Grade 7 classification with approximately eight additional responsibilities added to the position description. He emphasized that the Finance Department would remain at three full-time equivalent employees. He also noted the intention to begin advertising and interviewing for the position before Personnel Director Annie Short departs on maternity leave.

[#159-2026](#)

Finance Director Report

Attachments: [Finance Director Report.pdf](#)**E. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon**

Law Director Shannon offered remarks regarding his experience as emcee at the Fourth of July parade, crediting Community Affairs staff members Kristiauna and Jessica for their assistance during the event.

F. Development Director - Michael Loges

Development Director Michael Loges reported that Casto had sold its interest in the Groveport Plaza to an outside company. He expressed concern about the implications of this sale, particularly given the simultaneous news that Kroger had acquired Giant Eagle, and questioned the future status of the Kroger location at Groveport Plaza given the competing new Kroger development in Canal Winchester. Loges noted that a "For Lease" sign had already appeared at the plaza and observed that the new ownership appeared to be moving quickly. Council Member Cleary raised the absence of a grand opening for the new AutoZone at the plaza; it was confirmed that no grand opening had taken place, as the tenant had declined to hold one.

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

Mrs. Fraser echoed appreciation for all city staff and departments who worked through the Fourth of July holiday.

Mr. Lockett recognized Seth Whitehill and his Turnpoint crew for their behind-the-scenes contributions to setting up the Fourth of July events and announced his intention to schedule a visit to volunteer with the organization, inviting other Council members to join.

Mr. Cleary remarked favorably on the display of an American flag suspended from a fire truck over an intersection during the parade. Director of Law Shannon explained that the flag display came about after Fire Chief Robinson offered any assistance needed to community affairs staff, who requested the fire truck flag display, and the department delivered. Mayor Westcamp noted that a thank-you letter had been sent to Madison Township Fire, including Chief Robinson, and also highlighted the Rickenbacker fire engine's participation in the parade as a crowd favorite.

H. Clerk of Council - Mindy Kay**I. Standing Committees**

Mrs. Fraser reported on a recent Trees and Decorations Committee meeting. Key items discussed included Apple Butter Day preparations, with 25 trees already ordered for giveaway and giveaway items being procured by community affairs staff. The committee identified a need for additional volunteers at the city's giveaway booth and proposed reaching out to the high school for students seeking volunteer hours. The committee also discussed the condition of memorial bricks at Veterans Memorial Park and the Log Cabin, including their deterioration and replacement costs. Discussion centered on establishing standardization in brick type and engraving font going forward, maintaining consistent record-keeping to contact brick purchasers as needed, and managing expectations regarding long-term replacement. Funding for brick replacement has been budgeted for the current year. Finally, Mrs. Fraser reported that Public Service Director Brian Strayer presented a completed approved tree list, intended to guide future plantings with intentional species selection that avoids excessive fruit and nut production and minimizes sidewalk damage from root systems. The list also includes prohibited species, notably the Bradford pear and Callery pear, with a plan to remove certain prohibited trees and replace others as they naturally reach end of life.

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 the lease of public property for public purposes, and economic development assistance to an applicant, to include all members of Council, the Mayor, himself, the Administrator, and Finance Director.

A motion was made by Council Member Hise, seconded by Council Member Cleary, to go into Executive Session at 7:09 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by Council Member Ansar-Barsa, to come out of Executive Session at 8:18 pm. 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: 18 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.