

City of Groveport

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Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 23, 2016

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

City Council

Mayor Lance Westcamp

***Council Members - Ed Rarey, Jean Ann Hilbert, Ed Dildine, Shawn Cleary, Becky
Hutson & Scott Lockett***

I. Call to Order

by Mayor Westcamp at 6:30 p.m.

Staff Present: Marsha Hall - Administrator, Kevin Shannon - Law Director, Jeff Green - Director of Finance, Ralph Portier - Chief of Police

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 Portier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Shawn M. Cleary, Edward Dildine, Jean Ann Hilbert, Becky Hutson, Scott Lockett, and Ed Rarey

V. Approval of Minutes - May 9 2016

Approved as submitted.

[#118-2016](#)

City Council Meeting Minutes 5-9-16

Attachments: [City Council Meeting Minutes 5-9-16.pdf](#)

VI. Business of Guests

None.

VII. Ordinances and Resolutions**A. 3rd Readings**

[ORD. 16-022](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART NINE - STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, CHAPTER 925 - SEWER RATES, EXTENSIONS AND FEES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROVEPORT

Sponsors: Hilbert

Attachments: [ORD. 16-022 Sewer Regulations Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No. 16-022. A motion was made by Council Member Dildine, seconded by Council Member Cleary, to adopt. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Dildine, Hilbert, Hutson, Lockett and Rarey

[ORD. 16-023](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART NINE - STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, CHAPTER 933 - WATER RATES, EXTENSIONS AND FEES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROVEPORT

Sponsors: Lockett

Attachments: [ORD. 16-023 Water Regulations Rates Etc Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Council Member Hilbert raised the matter of the City changing the billing cycle for the utility bills. Administrator Marsha Hall stated the City looked into doing monthly billing but there are too many other responsibilities within that office; it would entail hiring additional staff. City staff are looking into other things to give people a little more leeway as far as when they pay. Mrs. Hilbert thinks even a bi-monthly billing cycle would help those who have trouble paying a three month bill. She asked how many late payments the City has now. Finance Director Jeff Green stated there were twenty two water shut offs today. Mrs. Hilbert stated the City could be getting themselves into a hole they won't be able to get out of. If a resident can't afford to pay the bill and the City shuts off their water service, they end up having the original bill and a shut off fee to pay. Ms. Hall commented once a resident gets the bill there is an option to pay it monthly. The City plans to get a brochure out to City residents providing more information about their options for paying water bills. It's a chronic situation, the shut off list has the same names on it from billing cycle to billing cycle. The City is trying to do as much as possible for those residents having difficulty paying their bill. If they have a true hardship, Groveport will work with them. The City does ask that a resident not come in at the last minute claiming to have a hardship saying they can't pay their bill. Groveport water rates are very average compared to the surrounding communities. The process of getting water bills ready and mailed out takes a day. Once out, residents coming in to pay their bill is non-stop. With only one person in that office, who is also responsible for accounts payable, payroll and other finance matters, it would be a constant cycle of processing and receiving payments. There is no excess in the Water Fund to hire additional staff nor the office space to accommodate them. The

brochure will give residents information on managing their accounts and payment options.

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No. 16-023. A motion was made by Council Member Lockett, seconded by Council Member Hutson, to adopt. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Dildine, Hilbert, Hutson, Lockett and Rarey

[#102-2016](#)

Memo on Changes to Water & Sewer Regs

Attachments: [Memo on Changes to Water & Sewer Regs.pdf](#)

[ORD. 16-024](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART NINE - STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TITLE FIVE - OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES, CHAPTER 941 PARKS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROVEPORT

Sponsors: Hutson

Attachments: [ORD. 16-024 Park Rules 941.02 & 941.03 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Law Director Kevin Shannon informed Council staff had made some changes to the Park Rules in light of some things that have come up from the time of its first reading and going through the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Shannon read the amendments to the attachment he wanted Council to consider for passage tonight. The City has an event coming up for the veterans and 9/11, the 20k Ruck Run Remember. It is Mr. Shannon's understanding The Fallen 15 Organization will be seeking to have alcohol provided in a City park where they are seeking to hold the event. Mr. Shannon amended 941.02 to the parks attachment to include the fact that "The use of alcoholic beverages in any City parks is hereby prohibited unless otherwise approved by Council and provided compliance with all other state and local laws." Assuming an organization can get a liquor permit and the Division of Liquor Control has no issues with a temporary event and City Council is okay with it, by motion Council could permit a one time only instance to have liquor/alcohol in a City park. This would not be a blanket Council approval, it would be on a case by case basis depending on the event.

*Under 941.03 Park Rules. 12. "Any aircraft (including model-type), airships, hot-air balloons, ultra-lights, hand gliders and **drones** may not ascend or descend in a park except in emergency or with the prior written consent of Administrator. **In the case of drones, this provision shall not apply to any drone activity or operation conducted by a federal, state or local governmental entity or political***

subdivision." That should cover the City in the event there is something going on. The City cannot tell the federal government not to use drones in Groveport parks. Mr. Shannon thinks the stated language is sufficient to address the issue as it relates to the drones.

As to the original reason for this Ordinance, under 941.03 Park Rules. 14. "Parking in City parks is permitted only in parking lots and designated parking spaces. Overflow parking outside of established lots and/or parking spaces is permissible only upon written authorization by the Director of Recreation, or designee."

Mr. Shannon is requesting Council to first consider the amendments as indicated in the attachment, "Exhibit A", under Ordinance 16-024 to include 941.02, as stated, and 941.03, as stated.

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No. 16-024. A motion was made by Council Member Hilbert, seconded by Council Member Hutson, to amend. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Dildine, Hilbert, Hutson, Lockett and Rarey

A motion was made by Council Member Hutson, seconded by Council Member Dildine, to adopt as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Dildine, Hilbert, Hutson, Lockett and Rarey

[ORD. 16-025](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF GROVEPORT - *PART THREE - TRAFFIC CODE, TITLE SEVEN, CHAPTER 351, SECTION 351.15, OPERATION AND PARKING IN PARKS*

Sponsors: Dildine

Attachments: [ORD. 16-025 351.15 Operation & Parking in Parks Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Law Director Shannon advised Council this is a clarification basically, which indicates that if there are questions about parking in City parks, refer to the section in 941 of the Groveport Codified Ordinances. As opposed to having two separate sections which has caused the City issues in the past with each having their own prohibitions and allowances. This states if there is an issue as it relates to this parking go to the section Council just amended.

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No. 16-025. A motion was made by Council Member Dildine, seconded by Council Member Hilbert, to adopt. The motion carried by the

following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Dildine, Hilbert, Hutson, Lockett and Rarey

B. 2nd Readings

[ORD. 16-027](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART SEVEN - BUSINESS REGULATION CODE, CHAPTER 727 - PEDDLERS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROVEPORT

Sponsors: Hutson

Attachments: [ORD. 16-027 -Amend Chapter 727 Peddlers Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No. 16-027.

C. 1st Readings

[ORD. 16-028](#)

AN ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THE CITY OF GROVEPORT, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY (LPA), IN THE MATTER OF THE STATED DESCRIBED PROJECT AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Cleary

Administrator Marsha Hall explained this Ordinance is enacting legislation for the City to participate in the ODOT/MORPC Program that will be improving some pedestrian walkways at intersections. Even though the work is not to begin until 2017 or early 2018, ODOT, in order to sell the project, needs to know who is going to participate. This Ordinance states Groveport is going to participate in that program. The State is bearing all the costs of the improvements. Administration has to have the approved legislation back to ODOT by May 31, 2016.

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No. 16-028. A motion was made by Council Member Hilbert, seconded by Council Member Cleary, to suspend the rules as to the three readings and the effective date. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Dildine, Hilbert, Hutson, Lockett and Rarey

A motion was made by Council Member Hilbert, seconded by Council Member Dildine, to adopt as emergency legislation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Dildine, Hilbert, Hutson, Lockett and Rarey

[ORD. 16-029](#)

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND DEDICATING AS A PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT, THE SANITARY SEWER LINE CONSTRUCTED ON THE GROVEPORT-MADISON HIGH SCHOOL SITE LOCATED AT 4475 SOUTH HAMILTON ROAD

Sponsors: Dildine

**Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No. 16-029.
This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole.**

[ORD. 16-030](#)

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE ADMINISTRATOR'S ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF GROVE CITY FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROAD SALT AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING PURSUANT TO GROVEPORT CITY CHARTER SECTION 9.02(B) AND O.R.C. § 9.48(D) AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Hilbert

Law Director Shannon requested Council to consider making a motion to suspend the rules as to the three readings and the effective date. This is the situation Administrator Hall addressed Council about at last week's meeting. The contract needed to be signed last week in order to save the City \$9,000 in salt purchases. Mr. Shannon researched 9.48(d) of the Ohio Revised Code which states: if there are several political subdivisions involved in a cooperative purchasing agreement, which we all are with ODOT, as it relates to the purchase of salt, and if by chance we are able to purchase from one of those agencies that got involved with the state bid, and a city can obtain the commodity at a lesser price by buying it from the subdivision that was attached to the state bid, then a city is permitted to do so without competitive bidding. This situation is right on point with this provision. This Ordinance is Council ratifying the Administrator's previous action of entering into a contract that will be more than \$50,000.

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No.16-030. A motion was made by Council Member Hilbert, seconded by Council Member Hutson, to suspend the rules as to the three readings and the effective date. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Dildine, Hilbert, Hutson, Lockett and Rarey

A motion was made by Council Member Cleary, seconded by

**Council Member Hilbert, to adopt as emergency legislation.
The motion carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Dildine, Hilbert, Hutson, Lockett and Rarey

VIII. Reports

A. Mayor - Lance Westcamp

Mayor Lance Westcamp reported he had the honor of presenting proclamations to the 2016 Groveport-Madison valedictorians last Wednesday at the Southeast Franklin County Chambers luncheon. Council Members Hutson and Hilbert were also in attendance. Mayor Westcamp stated Mrs. Hilbert did an excellent job starting the meeting and talking about valedictorians. On Thursday, the Mayor presented a proclamation at the Senior Center declaring the month of May as "Older Americans Month". There are thirteen Senior Center members who are 90 years of age or above. Council Member Lockett also attended as Council's representative to the Senior Center.

Mayor Westcamp was unable to attend the Armed Forces Day event. Council Member Cleary attended the event in the Mayor's place along with Administrator Hall. He commented Warren Motts recognized Groveport with all those in attendance.

The Mayor reported there will be a request made to Warren Motts to have Udo Maroscher continue to sing the military songs at future Veterans Day ceremonies. If Mr. Maroscher is not available, someone else will need to be recruited to sing the military songs that have become a big part of the City's Veterans Day event.

B. Administrator - Marsha Hall

The defined area of the presence of any alcohol / beer is defined by the liquor permit. The language in Chapter 941 Parks (941.02 ALCOHOL PROHIBITED.)" and provided compliance with all other state and local laws" covers the defined area(s).

A motion was made by Council Member Hilbert, seconded by Council Member Lockett, to approve beer in the parks for the 9/11 event in accordance with the recently amended parks statute. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cleary, Dildine, Hilbert, Hutson, Lockett and Rarey

[#119-2016](#)

Adm Report to Council - May 23

Attachments: [Adm Report to Council - May 23.pdf](#)

C. Chief of Police - Ralph Portier

Chief of Police Ralph Portier reported on the 33 Saturation Patrol that focused on the heroin epidemic that had taken place on May 19th through May 22nd. The Chief went out Friday and Saturday nights. There were over 60 stops. The department had approximately 35 hours in overtime that will be billed back through the Drug Task Force and reimbursed to the City. A gun was taken off the streets, a lot of drugs and drug paraphernalia were confiscated, officers had a couple of OVI stops and a lot of warrant arrests were made during the 35 hour operation. The department has received a couple of phone calls complimenting their visibility on US 33 and that was just in Groveport. The saturation included the Ohio State Highway Patrol working on US 33 and Gender Road, Columbus Police Department, Franklin County Sheriff, Madison Township Police Department, Obetz Police Department and Fairfield County Sheriff working from Lancaster all the way to the far side of I270. The operation says a lot about the department's activities. The Chief enjoyed watching the officers at their best, doing their best.

Mayor Lance Westcamp complimented Chief Portier on the leadership he has brought to the Groveport Police Department. The Chief being out there at night with his officers not only means a lot to those officers, it means a lot to the Mayor and Council Members.

D. Director of Finance - Jeff Green

Nothing further to report.

[#120-2016](#)

Finance Report April 2016

Attachments: [Finance Report April 2016.pdf](#)

E. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon

Nothing further to report.

F. Council Members - Ed Rarey, Jean Ann Hilbert, Ed Dildine, Shawn Cleary, Becky Hutson and Scott Lockett

Council Member Hilbert reported on the luncheon for the valedictorians. Faith Nimely spoke at the Alumni Banquet along with two other young people, one from the band and one from the Student Council. Mrs. Hilbert thanked Council Members Shawn Cleary and Becky Hutson, as well as Doug Scott and Roger Adams, for transporting people in golf carts. Mrs. Hilbert raised the matter of cars

not stopping for young people in the crosswalk in front of the school. She commented the new, highly visible crosswalk signs were great but maybe officers could patrol that end of the roadway as well as the other end. With school out for the summer, there will be more youngsters crossing the streets during various times of the day. Council Members think there should be more police presence on Main Street. There is some concern with all the dump trucks and semi-trailers coming through Main Street from the west.

Mayor Westcamp mentioned he will be the guest speaker at the Groveport-Madison High School Honor Society ceremony on Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

Council Member Cleary complimented the four churches planting flowers out in the rain on Saturday at SR 317 and Groveport Road. He congratulated the Girls' Softball Team for being runner ups in the District. Kasey Petty finished second at the NCAA Division II championships. Rita Furniss and Paul Barnes were the recipients of the 2016 Rarey Community Service Award at the Groveport-Madison Alumni Banquet. The 2016 Groveport-Madison High School Hall of Fame recipient was Robert Lindemuth, Class of 1954.

Special Olympics Ohio was out on Saturday, May 21st soliciting for charitable donations. Mr. Cleary commented the group needs to wear orange safety vests when standing in the intersections approaching vehicles.

Mr. Cleary wished a belated happy birthday to Council Member Dildine.

The Cemetery Committee is still in the process of following the flow of money in the Perpetual Fund and making a visit to the Hendron Cemetery. The Committee will make sure there are flags at the cemetery on Hendron Road for Memorial Day. Public Works Superintendent Dennis Moore is working on installing a flag pole at the site.

G. Clerk of Council - Ruthanne Sargus Ross

Nothing to report.

H. Standing Committees

The report on the Cemetery Committee is under Council Members.

IX. Other Business

None.

X. Adjournment

Council Member Hilbert made a motion, seconded by Council Member Cleary to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. All in favor stated AYE, None Opposed. Motion passed.

Lance Westcamp, Mayor

Ruthanne Sargus Ross, 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.