

City of Groveport

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 11, 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 6:31 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 - June 29, 2016

Approved as submitted.

[#160-2016](#)

City Council Meeting Minutes 6-29-16

Attachments: [City Council Meeting Minutes 6-29-16.pdf](#)

VI. Business of Guests**a. Introduction of New Reserve Officer Kristin Welter**

Chief of Police Ralph Portier introduced Kristin Welter, from the Obetz area, as one of the department's newest reserve / auxiliary peace officers. Kristin was one of Chief Portier's academy students at the Eastland Career Center. In every class the Chief finds someone he thinks is suitable for his department. He doesn't bring a lot of people on board as reserve / auxiliary officers but Kristin kept pushing and pushing. Last October she put an application in to the Groveport Police Department and is now in her field training. Down the road Kristin will be eligible for a potential full-time position.

b. Sharon Whitten

Sharon Whitten, 5298 Solomon Avenue, addressed Council about the sign at Harriet Street and Bixby Road that had been knocked down. Ms. Whitten contacted Groveport and Madison Township street departments to find out whose jurisdiction the sign was located. It was in Groveport and Ms. Whitten wanted to thank public Works Superintendent Dennis Moore for getting the sign back up in place. She also thanked the Chief of Police for the great job they do in keeping Groveport safe.

VII. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. 3rd Readings

[ORD. 16-031](#)

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

Sponsors: Lockett

Attachments: [ORD. 16-031 Amend 143 Employees Generally Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No. 16-031. A motion was made by Council Member Dildine, seconded by Council Member Lockett, to adopt. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

B. 2nd Readings

[ORD. 16-034](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP AS TO APPROXIMATELY 1.5 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OF THE FOLLOWING TRACT OF LAND, LOCATED AT 2690 LONDON GROVEPORT ROAD, PARCEL NUMBER 185-001558 OWNED BY LARRY WRAY FROM RURAL (UNZONED) TO COMMUNITY SERVICE (CS), APPLICANT JOHN VIDMAR

Sponsors: Hilbert

Attachments: [2690 London Groveport Rd -Rezoning - application Exhibit A.pdf](#)

[2690 London Groveport -Rezoning - plans. Exhibit B.pdf](#)

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No. 16-034.

[#148-2016](#)

ORD. 16-034 Staff Report 2016-03 Rezoning

Attachments: [ORD. 16-034 Staff Report 2016-03 Rezoning.pdf](#)

C. 1st Readings

[ORD. 16-036](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FOR ATTRIBUTABLE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ANY AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE SAID GRANT FUNDING, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Cleary

Law Director Shannon requested Council to consider making a motion to suspend the rules as to the three readings and the effective date. Staff is requesting suspension of the rules so the Administrator can make application.

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Ordinance No.16-036. A motion was made by Council Member Hilbert, seconded by Council Member Dildine, 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

[RES. 16-001](#)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2017 AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

Sponsors: Rarey

Attachments: [RES. 16-001 2017 Tax Budget attachment.pdf](#)

Law Director Shannon requested Council to consider making a motion to suspend the rules as to the three readings and the effective date.

Clerk of Council Ross read by title Resolution No. 16-001. A motion was made by Council Member Hilbert, seconded by Council Member Lockett, 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 Cleary, 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 thanked Community Affairs Director Patty Storts and the 4th of July Committee for making the 4th of July in the City of Groveport another successful year. The weather held off and it was another great day. The Mayor was told at the event how the people of this City appreciate the 4th of July event that Council supports with the budget every year. He personally thanked Council for their support. Numbers were down some during the parade but when it got towards evening it was crowded. A follow up 4th of July Committee meeting will be scheduled soon.

Mayor Westcamp praised Chief Portier and his group of police officers. The Mayor is proud of what the Groveport Police Department does for this City. The Groveport Facebook page shows all the appreciation and support this community gives the Groveport Police Department. The Mayor expressed appreciation to Chief Portier for his leadership and bringing on a new officer to the department. Chief Portier assured the Mayor and Council that the officers really appreciate the support of the Mayor, Council, Administration and the community. Since the Chief has been with Groveport, he has only received two viable complaints against officers, both of which he has looked into. This tells the Chief what his officers are doing on the street without him being in the car with them. There are a few concerns here or there but overall the complaints are non-existent, particularly when it comes to the topics of today. The Groveport Police Department does not have that hatred in their department. For the most part, Groveport has people who grew up here and care about this community. Chief Portier is proud of his department and thanked Council for the opportunity by bringing him to Groveport.

Mayor Westcamp referenced a letter from residents on College Street. The Mayor was approached on his way to church one Sunday morning by a resident who was concerned about the lack of speed enforcement on College Street. Mayor Westcamp stopped on his way home from church to talk to the gentleman and got right on it. The next morning, when the Mayor left for work, there was an officer on College Street shooting radar. There had been an officer with a portable radar machine, but evidently the residents still have concerns. He suggested to the Chief maybe a sign that checks a vehicle's speed could be put up on the street. The Mayor wants the residents to know he did not forget about them. He followed up on the matter as did Chief Portier. The Mayor has listened to the residents' concerns and knows it is a safety issue. The City will not neglect nor forget these concerns and confirmed with the Chief that this issue is still being addressed. Chief Portier added the highest recorded speed on College Street in the days after the Mayor and Chief had spoken was 34 mph. There have been 29 citations issued between College Street and Old Hamilton Road since the 1st of January of this year. There was a lot of enforcement of speed but other traffic violations as well.

Council Member Hutson raised the matter of the 25 mph speed limit within

her neighborhood. She knows the Mayor has received complaints about the 25 mph speed limit. Residents want the City to install speed bumps. Mrs. Hutson stated 25 mph is very fast and asked what can Council do to lower that 25 miles per hour in some neighborhoods. Law Director Shannon stated he believed that only the designated school areas at 20 mph or alleys at 10 mph can have the low speed limits. The City cannot lower the speed limit in a residential area. Chief Portier commented the City can raise the speed limit but not lower it. A speed limit is not based on the houses and who lives on the street; it is based on what is drivable (capable of being driven on safely or successfully, such as a road or other surface). Speed limits are based on driving a road, not by how many are living on a road. Speed bumps had been discussed before and the conclusion was there is too much liability associated with them and a city has to prove speed bumps are needed in any given neighborhood to control speed. Mr. Shannon advised Council would need to consult with City Engineer Steve Farst who would have a traffic engineer involved to perform a warrant study. The City would have to prove that the traffic control device sought is warranted based upon the number of trips, speed and other factors. If the City can't demonstrate those factors and puts the traffic control device in, then the City would be held liable. Ms. Hall interjected not only is there the legal issues but other issues come into play as well. Snow plows, large trucks / vehicles (e.g. trash pickup) and the sound associated with vehicles going over the speed bumps. Mr. Shannon wanted to know how the emergency personnel felt about speed bumps, such as having a patient in an ambulance going over the bumps. Council Member Dildine stated the bumps tear up the large emergency vehicles and patients certainly know when they are going over these types of traffic control devices. Many developments have been taking the speed bumps out because of the liability issues and the devices tearing up their snow removal equipment. Council Member Lockett wanted to know how long speed enforcement lasts when officers patrol the area. Chief Portier responded it lasts only as long as a patrol car is visible. 95% of the drivers are City residents or the children of City residents; some are even the children of residents who complain. First responders know from patient care the amount of damage a vehicle traveling 25 mph can do to a person. The residents need to know there will be continued enforcement and monitoring of the situation. Sharon Whitten added that the Madison Township Trustees have been addressing these issues as well.

B. Administrator - Marsha Hall

Nothing further to report.

[#161-2016](#)

Adm Report to Council - July 11

Attachments: [Adm Report to Council - July 11.pdf](#)

C. Chief of Police - Ralph Portier

Chief of Police Ralph Portier reported the department had 22 officers out during the activities on the 4th of July. He thanked Shawn Cleary

for supplying the officers' food for the day. Overall police activity was down this year over last year with only about ten incidents. The Chief made a couple of stops where kids were shooting off bottle rockets. He thinks about Officer Josh Guiler with his injury during these types of incidents and is concerned with the safety of the City's residents. There was one incident involving a group of kids with a lot of vodka and marijuana. Overall it was a good event.

D. Director of Finance - Jeff Green

Director of Finance Jeff Green reported Administration is looking at the possibility of putting the City's checkbook on Ohiocheckbook.com, a website that is Treasurer of State Josh Mandel's push for transparency. So far there are around two hundred communities, schools, townships, etc. already signed up for this service. Essentially, this gives a city's residents an opportunity or the ability to go in to see where their city is spending their money. It doesn't go into a lot of detail, but when Administration originally looked into Ohiocheckbook.com there was some concern that residents would not be able to see the whole picture. They would just see the revenue and the expenses. The website shows where the money is going through charts and graphs. There is no cost to Groveport to take part in the site and it will go a long way in providing the transparency Groveport residents are looking for from its Administration. Even though this is something in the Finance Director's purview to do, Mr. Green wanted to bring this matter to Council to let them know what he is thinking and if there are any qualms and/or concerns, he definitely wants to know before the City proceeds with it. It is a very easy process for Groveport, it will upload directly from the City's CMI accounting system. No Council Members had any issues with the City posting its checkbook online for public review on the Ohiocheckbook.com website.

E. Director of Law - Kevin Shannon

Director of Law Kevin Shannon reported it was his pleasure to drive Mrs. Donna Drury, the Grand Marshall of the 2016 4th of July parade. He learned that Mr. Drury is a Vietnam veteran and they talked about how Mrs. Drury used to drive around in a car similar to the one she was riding in the parade (a 1969 Pontiac Firebird convertible, turquoise in color), while he was in Vietnam and she was with a girlfriend. He reported it was a very nice morning and Mrs. Drury was extremely honored and touched to be chosen as this year's Grand Marshall. Mr. Shannon received a thank you note from Donna Drury in today's mail.

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

Council Member Hutson reported she may or may not be at next Monday's meeting.

Council Member Cleary announced since Mrs. Hutson is scheduled for vacation he would like to postpone the budget discussion and reschedule it for 5:30 p.m. on August 15, 2016 at the Committee of the Whole meeting. The Rules of Council Committee meeting will be continued on Monday, July 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Council Member Dildine commented that the 4th of July fireworks were the best he has seen in a long while. He and Mr. Cleary had a lot of positive feedback. The parade was well attended despite the weather. The fireworks being displayed with music was a nice touch. The Madison Township Fire Department found it very easy to work with the fireworks company. There were only six shells that failed to fire, which is a pretty good return. Mr. Dildine remarked that the Mayor hit on the point, that with everything going on, everyone needs to be vigilant. His heart goes out to everyone in Dallas, Texas, not to just the police officers but to the first responders, the civilians and all those affected by the tragedy. As a community, as a neighbor, we have to be vigilant and maintain what we do with our law enforcement community. Safety first in everything we do. He asked the Chief to pass on to his officers that they are in our prayers and tell them to always take that one extra step of safety. Always err on the side of caution and safety.

Council Member Hilbert reported she had friends in from Dallas over the 4th of July and they proclaimed Groveport's parade was the best they had ever seen. Someone commented to Mrs. Hilbert that they had gone to the Red, White and Boom celebration and Groveport's fireworks display was far better than the Columbus display. Groveport's longer display time and the intricacy of the display were two notable differences.

G. Clerk of Council - Ruthanne Sargus Ross

Nothing to report.

H. Standing Committees

Council Member Cleary reported the Volunteer Peace Officers' Dependents Fund Board met for the first time where Shawn Cleary was elected Chairperson and Ed Dildine was elected Secretary. Mr. Cleary, Mr. Dildine, Clark Manning, and Kristin Welter elected James Beidler as the fifth board member. Mr. Cleary commented let's pray this Board never has to act on a claim. Mr. Dildine wanted a minute to review the meeting minutes Mrs. Ross had given him to make sure

everything was covered. He went over some reporting requirements the Board has with the Ohio Department of Commerce. He was emailed the invoice for Groveport's initial premium and will forward said invoice to Mrs. Ross. The Board has to meet at least once a year to elect members and to facilitate the board itself. The Board would have to meet in the event something were to occur to warrant a claim. Groveport's total property valuation is over the 28 million maximum, which makes Groveport's initial premium to the Fund \$500. Groveport's current property valuation is \$249,523,930.

IX. Other Business - None

X. Adjournment

Council Member Cleary made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rarey to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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.