



City Council Agenda

Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm

6550 N. High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Minutes

4. **October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting**

Recommendation: Introduce and approve as presented.

Special Presentation(s)

5. **Resolution No. 70-2023 - Recognition of Councilmember Doug Smith**

Executive Summary: Expressing the Appreciation and Best Wishes of the Worthington City Council to Doug Smith for his Outstanding Service as a Member of the City Council and for his Service to the Community.

6. **Resolution No. 71-2023 - Recognition of Councilmember Bonnie Michael**

Executive Summary: Expressing the Appreciation and Best Wishes of the Worthington City Council to Bonnie Michael for her Outstanding Service as a Member of the City Council and for her Service to the Community.

Reports of City Officials

Reports of Council Members

Other Business

Adjournment

7. **Motion to Adjourn**



City Council Agenda

Minutes

Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm

6550 N. High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Worthington City Council met in person on Monday, October 16, 2023. President Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Minutes:

Members Present: Katherine Brewer, Peter Bucher, Rebecca Hermann, Beth Kowalczyk, Bonnie Michael (via Microsoft Teams), Doug Smith, David Robinson **Member(s) Absent:** None **Also Present:** Acting City Manager Robyn Stewart, Assistant City Manager David McCorkle, Director of Law Tom Lindsey, Director of Finance Scott Bartter, Planning & Building Director Lee Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Acting Chief of Police Eric Grille, Chief of Fire & EMS Mark Zambito, and Clerk of Council Grace Brown.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

President Robinson invited those in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Visitor Comments

Minutes:

Mr. Mark Gideon, 91 Chaucer Ct, addressed Council. He expressed concerns over what he called a legitimate dispute concerning the construction of the Northbrook sanitary sewer. Mr. Gideon stated that of dispute in a lawsuit should be resolved by application of the law and not personal insults or attacks. He cited what he called anti-Catholic language in a court filing by the City. While he did not provide the exact words or phrase, Mr. Gideon shared that he was referring to words found in a reply in support of its Motion to Dismiss and Request for Expedited Ruling dated October 2, 2023.

President Robinson responded that he would look into the issue and if there was merit, he would communicate with Mr. Gideon.

Special Presentation(s)

5. Pool Survey Results

Minutes:

Ms. Stewart provided background that City Council had authorized a survey to be conducted to get insight from citizens in July 2023. She noted that there were limitations with the Auditor of State regarding the option to survey the openness of a tax increase because the City was funding the survey. She added that the evening presentation was to hear the results and ask questions with the expectation of having further discussion in November.

Ms. Kay Hoffman of 5555 Indianola Avenue offered public comments regarding the Pool Survey. She shared her concerns as a senior citizen living on a fixed income and escalating property taxes. She stated there was no tax relief for the 20% of Worthington residents living on a fixed income. Ms. Hoffman expressed interest in knowing how her tax dollars were spent.

Mr. Paul Fallon with Fallon Research & Communications, Inc. joined Council via Microsoft Teams and presented a PowerPoint to Council and audience members. Mr. Fallon highlighted the survey that took place from September 25-October 2, 2023 via secure SMS/text-to-web surveys, and telephone interviews performed by specially-trained opinion research interviewers. It was conducted with 301 randomly selected adult residents over 18 years of age and had an estimated margin of error of +/- 5.64% with a confidence interval of 11.28% within the results could vary. He added that due to rounding, not all results would add up to 100% and that the data were presented in a different order than the questions were asked.

Mr. Fallon gave an overview of what was described as the overall mood of quality of life in the greater Worthington area. He provided information that 85% of those polled were satisfied with City Services. He then offered a look at the results of familiarity with the Worthington Pool. Fifty-one percent of those surveyed were familiar. The survey also covered a general question of how those polled felt about the condition of the outdoor pool. Mr. Fallon offered several breakdowns. He then presented how the respondents answered about the importance of upgrades and repairs. Mrs. Fallon continued by sharing results on the impact of quality of life.

Fallon research also polled the participants about the three options Swiminc. was seeking from the City. (In terms of cost and what repairs would be done in conjunction with the price). He shared results from the \$10, \$13 and \$15 million dollar requests. He followed that looking at possible reasons the respondents would oppose the prospective plans for the Worthington Pool. He also touched on the possibility of raising admission fees, local budget priorities, and key findings. The survey concluded that the majority of residents were satisfied with the quality of life within the community and there is immense trust in the city leaders and officials. None of the options explored garnered most of the support except raising admission fees. (From the participants of the survey). It also found that residents saw the Worthington Pool as a social fabric of the community and would be receptive in continuing the discourse for varying solutions.

Approval of the Minutes

6. Approval of Minutes

September 11 Regular & Special Meetings, September 18, & October 2, 2023 Regular Meetings.

Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Bucher moved, seconded by Hermann to adopt the minutes of the September 11 Regular & Special Meetings, September 18, & October 2, 2023 Regular Meetings.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Public Hearings on Legislation

7. Ordinance No. 22-2023- Village Green Tree Removal Ordinance

Approving the Removal of a London Planetree from the Northeast Quadrant of the Village Green.

Minutes:

Mr. Hurley provided background that he did not favor removing trees, but that this was necessary. He added that removal of the tree in question would need to be approved by six councilmembers. Mr. Hurley provided a PowerPoint presentation with directional and street views for Council and audience members. Mr. Robinson asked what happens if trees compete. Mr. Hurley responded that there would be an undesirable effect on the large tree with potential limbs coming off of the tree, as well as root and moisture issues. Mr. Robinson asked if there would be another tree planted, and Mr. Hurley responded that other trees, including smaller canopy, would cause site issues for the roadway.

Recommendation: Approve as presented.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 22-2023. The motion carried by the following vote: Vote Results: 6-0-1 **Yay Nay Abstain** Ms. Hermann Mr. Bucher Ms. Kowalczyk Mr. Smith Ms. Michael Mr. Brewer Mr. Robinson (Abstain)

New Legislation - Resolution(s)

8. Resolution No. 38-2023 - Orange Township Joint Economic Development District

Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Joint Economic Development District Contract with Orange Township pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 715.72.

Minutes:

Motion to remove Resolution No. 38-2023 - Orange Township Joint Economic Development District from the table Mr. Bucher Moved, Seconded By Ms. Kowalczyk. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Stewart provided a brief background that Council had heard prior information about the Orange Township Joint Economic Development District and that the evening would be a continuation of the discussion. She then turned the presentation over to Mr. McCorkle. He shared that Orange Township was considering their legislation that week, as well. Mr. McCorkle continued by sharing that a JEDD was a special purpose district and that they promoted economic development. Worthington would share the income tax revenue with Orange Township. He also shared additional details of the agreement. Worthington would have two representatives on the Board of Directors, including Mr. Ethan Barnhardt and a business representative. Mr. McCorkle stated that there is tremendous potential in the partnership. He spoke of growth opportunities over the next 50 years with estimates of \$20,000-\$25,000 more immediate. Ms. Kowalczyk expressed support for the JEDD and called it a great idea. She saw it as a win-win and thanked staff for the work being done.

Mr. Bucher asked if RITA would distribute the funds. Mr. Bartter replied that there would be a separate fund that receives RITA distributions. RITA would distribute the funds to the city and the

city would make quarterly distributions to the township. Then the funds would go to the JEDD specifically for the maintenance fees.

MOTION: Ms. Kowalczyk moved, seconded by Ms. Michael to adopt Resolution No. 38-2023 The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

9. Resolution No. 56-2023- General Fund and 933 High Street TIF Fund

Adjusting the Annual Budget by Providing for a Transfer of Previously Appropriated Funds.

Minutes:

Introduced by Ms. Hermann.

Ms. Stewart provided background that the Resolution was to move funds from one line item to another as there was a projected shortage in funds.

MOTION: Ms. Hermann moved, seconded by Ms. Brewer to adopt Resolution No. 56-2023. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

New Legislation - Ordinance(s)

10. Ordinance No. 23-2023 - Additional Appropriations – General Fund and 350 W. Wilson Bridge TIF Fund

Amending Ordinance No. 39-2022 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the General Fund and 350 W. Wilson Bridge Rd. TIF.

Minutes:

Introduced by Ms. Hermann for a public hearing on November 6, 2023.

Reports of City Officials

11. Discussion Item(s)

a. Proposed 2024-2028 Capital Improvements Program

Minutes:

Mr. Arron Schearer of 6875 Bowerman St. East addressed Council before the discussion began. He encouraged council members and city officials to consider the fact that parks are not solely funded by the maintenance costs, but also by the improvement costs, which he thought were much higher.

Mrs. Stewart gave a brief background on the rolling five-year plan that would update the previous 2023-2027 plan. She shared the demands for expenditures were greater than revenue. She mentioned that was excluding the Worthington Pool Discussion.

Mr. Bartter next gave an overview of the 2024 to 2028 Capital Improvement Fund. The plan was previously provided to Council on October 2, 2023. He shared trends in revenue and expenditures. He added that it covered the same material as the prior week's discussion.

Mr. Bartter emphasized that debt levels are increasing. Debt service payments were set to increase from \$1,381,751 in 2023 to \$2, 289503 in 2028. (Funding requests would greatly exceed funds available). Mr. Bartter shared slides that were made available to the public that included areas of focus, debt, 2024 projects that included Building Improvement Plans, Street and Sidewalk Maintenance, and more.

In summary, Mr. Bartter shared that income tax collections were anticipated to be strong with a strong General Fund being utilized to support Capital Investments. He closed by

saying many projects and equipment purchases were planned to result in much-needed reinvestment in infrastructure.

Reports of Council Members

Ms. Kowalczyk reminded Council and audience members of the next Sunday Funday which would be dog-themed.

Mr. Smith thanked the police and fire for the great open houses.

Ms. Brewer gave an update about the upcoming Architectural Review Board.

Mr. Robinson asked to continue the discussion of the sustainability manager/position in Worthington. He shared background that it stemmed from a conversation with his son regarding climate change. He reminded Council that there was a motion on the table to create and fund a sustainability position with the City. He asked Council to remove it from the table.

Ms. Hermann responded that she was interested in the position and wanted there to be a City Manager in place before the position was created.

Ms. Michael agreed that the City Manager should be in place before determining staffing needs.

Mr. Robinson shared that Section 2.07 of the code gave City Council the ability to draft job positions.

Ms. Michael responded that it had not happened in the 28 years she was on Council.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to untable the prior motion, Mr. Bucher seconded the motion.

Ms. Kowalczyk shared that she did not think it was time to create a position, but agreed that sustainability was an issue to address. She wanted to hear from the Vision Team (Sustainability) Committee before making a decision.

Ms. Hermann brought up emissions and the need of the Housing Study to be completed before the issue of the position is revisited.

Mr. Robinson believed it was important to have a staff member whose sole job was to address the issue.

Ms. Brown called Roll with the following results:

Yay Nay

Mr. Bucher
Ms. Michael
Mr. Smith
Ms. Brewer
Ms. Kowalczyk
Ms. Hermann
Mr. Robinson

The Motion failed and the issue was not removed from the table.

Other Business

Executive Session

- a. To conference with an attorney(s) for the City concerning disputes involving the City that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.
- b. To consider the appointment of a public official.

Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Bucher moved, seconded by Ms. Michael to enter into an Executive session to conference with an attorney(s) for the City concerning disputes involving the City that are the subject of pending or imminent court action and to consider the appointment of a public official.

The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

City Council entered Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

Members returned to open session at about 10:02 p.m.

Adjournment

MOTION: Rebecca Hermann moved, seconded by Doug Smith to adjourn.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Robinson declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:03 p.m.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Contact: Grace Brown, Clerk of Council (grace.brown@worthington.org) (614) 436-3100 | Minutes published on 12/14/2023 at 4:27 PM

RESOLUTION NO. 70-2023

Expressing the Appreciation and Best Wishes of the
Worthington City Council to Doug Smith for his
Outstanding Service to the Community.

WHEREAS, Doug Smith diligently served the City of Worthington as a member
of City Council for 12 years from January 2012 through December 2023; and,

WHEREAS, during his time on City Council, Doug Smith served and shared his
expertise on a number of committees including the Community Improvement
Corporation and the Worthington Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Doug Smith was an advocate for the City's electric aggregation
program to promote reusable energy resources and bring savings to Worthington
residents and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, Doug Smith has contributed to the betterment of the community
through his service in the Worthington-Linworth Kiwanis and other community
organizations; and,

WHEREAS, Doug Smith has represented the people of Worthington through his
commitment to the pursuit of excellence in all City services,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of
Worthington, County of Franklin, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That on behalf of the residents of the community, the City Council
hereby expresses to Doug Smith sincere appreciation for his contributions and dedicated
service and extends him best wishes in future pursuits.

SECTION 2. That the Clerk of Council be instructed to forward a duly certified
copy of this Resolution to Doug Smith and to record said Resolution in the appropriate
record book.

Adopted _____

President of Council

Attest:

Clerk of Council

RESOLUTION NO. 71-2023

Expressing the Appreciation and Best Wishes of the Worthington City Council to Bonnie Michael for her Outstanding Service as a Member of the City Council and for her Service to the Community.

WHEREAS, Bonnie Michael has dedicated 38 years of service to the Worthington community; and,

WHEREAS, Bonnie Michael diligently served as a member of City Council for 28 years, from November 1995 to December 2023, and a member of the Parks & Recreation Board for 10 years from 1985 to 1995; and,

WHEREAS, Bonnie Michael was the first woman to serve as Worthington City Council President, serving as President of Council for eight years, and previously as President Pro-Tem for six years; and,

WHEREAS, Bonnie Michael has shown incredible leadership, support and enthusiasm for the community she serves, as well as City leadership and staff; and,

WHEREAS, Bonnie Michael has also provided leadership and tremendous support to many other community, regional and professional organizations including as the longest serving commission member of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Chair and board member of the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association, a member of the Community Improvement Corporation, the Worthington International Friendship Association, the Worthington Women's Club, the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce, and many more; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie Michael has contributed tremendously to the vitality and growth of the Worthington community and has represented the people of Worthington with dignity through her commitment to the pursuit of excellence in all City services; and,

WHEREAS, Bonnie Michael has demonstrated exemplary devotion and dedication over the past 38 years of meritorious service to the Worthington community;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Worthington, County of Franklin, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That on behalf of the residents of the community, the City Council hereby expresses to Bonnie Michael sincere appreciation for her contributions and years of dedicated service and extends her best wishes in future pursuits.

SECTION 2. That the Clerk of Council be instructed to forward a duly certified copy of this Resolution to Bonnie Michael and to record said Resolution in the appropriate record book.

Adopted _____

President of Council

Attest:

Clerk of Council