



**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Daniel Swartwout called the Tuesday, June 20, 2023 meeting of City Council to order at 7:30 p.m. Councilmembers present included, Ferzan Ahmed, Jon Bennehoof, Christina Drummond, Heather Karr and Daniel Swartwout. Councilmember Tom Counts was absent. City Staff included, Andrew White, City Manager; Jeffrey Tyler, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director; Rosa Ocheltree, Finance Director; Jason Nahvi, Human Resource Manager; Grant Crawford, Director of Public Service; Yazan Ashrawi, Law Director; and Mallory Sribanditmongkol, Strategic Communication Officer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Jon Bennehoof.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mayor Swartwout opened the floor Citizen Participation for comment on matters not on the evening's agenda.

Arthur Thorn, 8060 Hillingdon Drive, said he would like to know how City of Powell budget information is educated to the public and if someone could educate him on where to find the information. Also, he wanted to know how City Council works.

Rosa Ocheltree, Finance Director, said the budget is approved by City Council, posted to the website <https://cityofpowell.us> and distributed over social media. Budget information can be found under the Finance Department link. Ms. Ocheltree offered to walk Mr. Thorn through the budget. Further, she stated budget work sessions are open to the public and posted on the website and social media.

Andrew White, City Manager, agreed attendance at public meetings is crucial in understanding the role of City Council and said there is a very transparent process in regards to the budget. He said with respect to Mr. Thorn's position regarding the Pickle Ball Courts, Mr. White said the \$300,000 appropriated in the 2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was an estimate and explained part of the allocated money was for a professional engineering firm to review the site, which found drainage issues and potential parking issues. This information has pushed cost of the project to \$657,000, which requires going before the Operations Committee with a request for additional appropriations to City Council.

Mayor Swartwout explained Citizen Participation is not a back and forth, but rather a chance for comment for items not on the agenda and offered the floor for additional comment. Hearing none, he closed this portion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2023

[City Council Minutes 06062023.pdf](#)

MOTION: Jon Bennehoof moved to approve the City Council Minutes of June 6, 2023 as written. Heather Karr seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VOTE: Y – 5 N – 0 AB – 0

CONSENT AGENDA

Monthly Department Reports - May 2023

[Police Department Report May 2023.pdf](#)

[HR Department Report May 2023.pdf](#)

[Building Department Report May 2023.pdf](#)

[Community Development Department Report May 2023.pdf](#)

[Communications Department Report May 2023.pdf](#)

[Notice to Legislative Authority - Memo.pdf](#)

[Notice to Legislative Authority - Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Councilmember Drummond requested removal of the Police Department Report from Consent Agenda for discussion. She noted the traffic crash statistics, as they appear to have doubled. Additionally, she flagged the nature of calls for service, which has the third highest percent of time spent assisting other agencies and units. She is requesting staff provide more detail regarding those agency calls.

City Manager White noted some of the crashes were hit-skip on private property. He agreed outside agency calls consume a good deal of time, which is something being looked at internally.

MOTION: Jon Bennehoof moved to accept the May 2023 Police Department Report back into the Consent Agenda. Christina Drummond seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE: Y – 5 N – 0 AB – 0

MOTION: Jon Bennehoof moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Heather Karr seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE: Y – 5 N – 0 AB – 0

ORDINANCES: FIRST READING(S)

ORDINANCE 2023-16 – AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023

[Ord. 2023_16_Memo.pdf](#)

[Ord. 2023-16_Ordinance.pdf](#)

[Ord. 2023-16 Exhibit A .pdf](#)

[Ord. 2023-16 Exhibit B .pdf](#)

Mayor Swartwout talked about the ordinance as it relates to the proposed development discussed at the June 6, 2023 meeting of City Council.

City Manager White said essentially this is a placeholder should the City move forward with approval of the proposed development on Depot Street. The appropriation would be needed in support of the Depot Street reconstruction.

Councilmember Drummond confirmed the ordinance is for the road reconstruction envisioned by the CIP and being done in conjunction with the proposed development.

Mayor Swartwout and City Manager White both talked about the savings of doing the road in concert with the proposed development.

Mayor Swartwout opened the floor for public comment on Ordinance 2023-16. Hearing none, closed public comment and declared the ordinance will go to the next City Council Meeting on Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee: Next meeting is Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee: Next meeting is Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Police Conference Room

Operations Committee: Next meeting is Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Police Conference Room

Community Diversity Advisory Committee: Next meeting is Wed., July 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Police Conference Room

Planning & Zoning Commission: Next meeting is Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Police Roll Call Room

Powell Development Corporation: Next meeting is Wednesday, June 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Police Conference Room

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/CITY CALENDAR

City Calendar

[City Calendar.pdf](#)

City Manager White updated Council on the items staff is working on and reviewed the City Calendar reminding them of the refresh to Council Chambers in July.

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Drummond announced she is hosting a booth in with Liberty Township Trustee Donaldson at the Powell Festival.

Councilmember Bennehoof suggested a public meeting the rolls and responsibilities of City Council and staff. Councilmember Karr talked about a Coffee with Council type of event.

Councilmember Ahmed suggested with the potential Depot Street project, a plan for Case and Scioto Street improvements should be considered.

Mayor Swartwout invited the public to the "Talking Trash with the Mayor" event on Sunday, June 25th @ 7:00 a.m. for cleanup of the Village Green after Powell Fest.

Mayor Swartwout announced the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Powell as a Tree City USA for 2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) – To consider the appointment of a public employee or official, and the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee.

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(8) – To consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance.

MOTION: Jon Bennehoof moved to enter into Executive Session. Ferzan Ahmed seconded the motion.

Mayor Swartwout requested a roll call for passage: Heather Karr, yes; Daniel Swartwout, yes; Ferzan Ahmed, yes; Jon Bennehoof, yes; and Christina Drummond, yes.

VOTE: Y – 5 N – 0 AB – 0

Entered Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

MOTION: Jon Bennehoof moved to adjourn Executive Session and re-enter Regular Session. Heather Karr seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y – 5 N – 0 AB – 0

Re-entered Regular Session at 10:15 p.m.

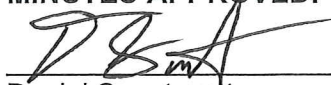
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jon Bennehoof moved to adjourn. Heather Karr seconded the motion.


VOTE: Y – 5 N – 0 AB – 0

Meeting Adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023


Daniel Swartwout,
Mayor

7-5-23
Date


Jason Nahvi,
Acting City Clerk

7-5-23
Date