



**CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 2, 2024**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Tom Counts called the January 2, 2024 City Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Councilmembers present included, Council Member Tyler Herrmann, Council Member Leif Carlson, Council Member David Lester, Council Member Ferzan Ahmed, Council Member Christina Drummond, Vice-Mayor Heather Karr, and Mayor Tom Counts. Staff present included Mallory Sribanditmongkol, Strategic Communications Officer; Yazan Ashrawi, City Attorney; Rosa Ocheltree, Finance Director; Aaron Stanford, City Engineer; Grant Crawford, Public Service Director; Ron Sallows, Interim Police Chief; Jason Nahvi, Human Resource Manager; Jeffrey Tyler, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director; and Andrew White, City Manager.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. COUNCIL OATHS OF OFFICE** - The Honorable David Gormley, Delaware County Court of Common Pleas

The Honorable David Gormley issued the Oath of Offices for Ferzan Ahmed, Heather Karr, Tyler Herrmann, and Leif Carlson.

**IV. APPOINTMENT AND OATH OF OFFICE FOR THE MAYOR AND VICE-MAYOR** - The Honorable David Gormley, Delaware County Court of Common Pleas

- a. RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01  
A RESOLUTION TO ELECT \_\_\_\_\_ AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF POWELL FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025.

MOTION: Heather Karr moved to nominate Tom Counts as Mayor. There were no other nominations. Ferzan Ahmed seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE:        Y-7                N-0                AB-0

The Honorable David Gormley issued the Oath of Offices for Mayor to Tom Counts.

- b. RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02  
A RESOLUTION TO ELECT \_\_\_\_\_ AS VICE-MAYOR OF THE CITY OF POWELL FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025.

MOTION: David Lester moved to appoint Heather Karr as Vice-Mayor. There were no other nominations. Christina Drummond seconded. Motion passed.

The Honorable David Gormley issued the Oath of Offices for Vice-Mayor to Heather Karr.

VOTE:        Y-7                    N-0                    AB-0

## V. RESOLUTIONS

c. RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF ELAINE MCCLOSKEY AS THE FULL-TIME CLERK OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POWELL.

Mayor Tom Counts read Resolution No. 2024-03 into the record for the first time. There was no additional discussion from Council on the resolution.

MOTION: Ferzan Ahmed moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-03. David Lester seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE:        Y-7                    N-0                    AB-0

d. RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER AN AGREEMENT WITH TRACY OWENS TO PROVIDE STRATEGY AND SERVICES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING AND TEAM-BUILDING MEETING.

Mayor Tom Counts read Resolution No. 2024-04 into the record for the first time. City Manager White recognized that Tracy Owens was in attendance for the meeting and that it has been two years since Council reviewed goals. He was hoping to get this before Council as early as possible in the year and this meeting will be held on January 6, 2024 and is open to the public. At this meeting Council will work with the consultant and staff to determine the roadmap for the next two years. City Manager White provided Tracy Owens with the opportunity to introduce himself to Council.

Tracy Owens  
3 Point Consulting Ltd  
6008 Trafalgar Ln  
Dublin, Ohio 43016

Mr. Owens expressed his excitement for the upcoming meeting. Councilmember Drummond questioned what preparation that Council can do to be ready for the meeting as a group. City Manager White addressed looking at past objective measures and this information has been available to the consultant. Councilmember Drummond recommended Council review the newly passed budget. Councilmember Ferzan Ahmed questioned the process of notification of the meeting. City Manager White addressed that the notification would take place as required and normal procedures. Councilmember Karr questioned if the meeting can be streamed live. Mayor Tom Counts opened Resolution No. 2024-04 for citizen participation. Hearing none, he closed the citizen participation for Resolution No. 2024-04.

MOTION: David Lester moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-04. Heather Karr seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE:        Y-7                    N-0                    AB-0

## VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mayor Counts opened the meeting for citizen participation. The following individual spoke during the meeting:

Larry Coolidge  
78 W. Olentangy Street  
Powell, Ohio

Mr. Coolidge first voiced his support over the recent hiring of the Economic Development Administrator position. He then spoke on his concerns regarding a recent social media post regarding the Village Green Property and potential redevelopment. He provided a history of how the property was acquired and the benefits it has to the community. He provided a copy of the posting for Council review, which is labeled as Attachment A. He also addressed that a Delaware County official discussed at a meeting that the building would be torn down starting in 2025. He voiced that there needs to be more consideration by Council on the topic. City Manager White addressed that the document provided is a copy of a social media post and that the City has responded to. He further clarified that there has been discussion regarding the property, but that there is no imminent design. The City had submitted a request for qualifications to the development community on the potential to partner with private entities to generate revenue that could be used for potential parking improvements, public greenspace improvements, business improvements and answer to citizen request for amenities as presented in the Community Attitudes Survey. He clarified that the property is not for sale and that there would be a required legislative process with public comment required for this to occur. There has not been a determination on the three respondents to the request for qualifications to potentially partner with the City, but he expects this to be a future conversation of Council. If Council decides to entertain a partnership in the future for the property there will be a legislative process and the partnership would include community input.

## VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the Minutes from the City Council meeting held on December 5, 2023.

MOTION: Heather Karr moved to approve the Minutes from the City Council meeting held on December 5, 2023. David Lester seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE:        Y-7                N-0                AB-0

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Development Committee:** Next Meeting: February 6, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

**Finance Committee:** Next Meeting: January 30, 2024 @ 7 pm (Note Date Change)

**Operations Committee:** Next Meeting: January 16, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

**Community Diversity Advisory Committee:** Next Meeting: January 17, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

**Planning & Zoning Commission:** Next Meeting: February 15, 2024 @ 6:30 pm (Note Date Change)

**Powell Development Corporation:** Next Meeting: January 23, 2024 @ 7:00 pm



## IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/CITY CALENDAR

City Manager White reinforced the earlier discussion relating to the public comment received and restated that the City is in possession of almost 13 acres in the downtown area and that there have been conversations about how the property could be used different from its current use. This administration would not move forward without further discussion and input from the public.

## X. OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

a. Council Appointment to: Mayor Tom Counts proposed the following members of Council to Committees below:

i. Development Committee

Mayor Tom Counts proposed the following members of City Council to the Development Committee: Ferzan Ahmed, Leif Carlson, and David Lester. He recommended that Ferzan Ahmed serve as Chairperson.

ii. Finance Committee

Mayor Tom Counts proposed the following members of City Council to the Finance Committee: Heather Karr, Leif Carlson, and Tyler Herrmann. He recommended that Heather Karr serve as Chairperson.

iii. Operations Committee

Mayor Tom Counts proposed the following members of City Council to the Operations Committee: Christina Drummond, Heather Karr, and Tyler Herrmann. He recommended that Christina Drummond serve as Chairperson.

MOTION: Tyler Herrmann moved to approve the recommended Council appointments to committees. David Lester seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE:        Y-7                N-0                AB-0

b. Extension of Expired Boards and Commission Members Appointment

Mayor Counts stated this will be further discussed in Executive Session.

Christina Drummond provided comment relating to the Village Green and the public value as a parks and recreation area. She noted that a related order of business that was before City Council in the past months was the Master Park Plan. This process is underway and will show assess the parks and recreation throughout the City.

## XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) Personnel - to consider the appointment for boards and commissions, and employment and promotion of a public employee.

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) (2) To consider the purchase of property for public purposes.

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) (8) To consider confidential information related to negotiations with other political subdivisions regarding economic development.

MOTION: Christina Drummond moved to enter into executive session related to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) Personnel - to consider the appointment for boards and commissions, and employment and promotion of a public employee; Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) (2) To consider the purchase of property for public purposes; Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) (8) To consider confidential information related to negotiations with other political subdivisions regarding economic development. David Lester seconded. Motion passed. Mayor Tom Counts notified the public that there may be further action taken by Council following executive session.

VOTE:            Y-7            N-0            AB-0

Council entered executive session at 8:03 p.m. Councilmembers present included, Council Member Tyler Herrmann, Council Member Leif Carlson, Council Member David Lester, Council Member Ferzan Ahmed, Council Member Christina Drummond, Vice-Mayor Heather Karr, and Mayor Tom Counts. Staff present included Yazan Ashrawi, City Attorney; Rosa Ocheltree, Finance Director; Jason Nahvi, Human Resource Manager; and Andrew White, City Manager

MOTION: Ferzan Ahmed moved to exit executive session and return to open session. Heather Karr seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE:            Y-7            N-0            AB-0

Council entered back into open session at 9:07 p.m.

MOTION: Heather Karr moved to appoint Ron Sallows as Chief of Police. David Lester seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE:            Y-7            N-0            AB-0

MOTION: Tyler Herrmann moved to approve the appointment of Elizabeth Balick and Ryan Griffin to a 4-year term to Planning and Zoning Commission. David Lester seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE:            Y-7            N-0            AB-0

MOTION: Ferzan Ahmed moved to approve the appointment of Andy White, Sean Hughes, and Mayor Tom Counts to Powell Development Corporation. David Lester seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE:            Y-7            N-0            AB-0

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: David Lester moved to adjourn the January 2, 2024 City Council meeting. Heather Karr seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

VOTE:            Y - 7            N - 0            AB-0



Tom Counts,  
Mayor



Date



Elaine McCloskey,  
Clerk

Date



## ATTACHMENT A

I heard some disturbing news a few days ago. The City of Powell is said to be selling the land behind and adjacent to the Powell Police Department to developers. They intend to move the Veteran's Memorial to a parking lot next to the cemetery, and destroy the fire pit, the children's splash pad and the amphitheater. This is the only green space downtown, and is enjoyed by residents attending the Powell Festivals, bonfires, and community events. Apparently, to date there have been three bids submitted for the land.

This information was shared by a current City Council member, yet the 2024-28 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), currently posted on the City of Powell website, makes no mention of selling the only open space in the downtown area, or dismantling/moving the Veteran's Memorial.

With a capital budget of 48 million dollars, the CIP funds will include parking spaces, sidewalk improvement, a pickle ball court, and signage.

Because of the effort of those people who planned, raised funds, and built the Veteran's Memorial, and what the Memorial represents, it is important to confirm the City Council's plans.

If the City Council is planning to move the Veteran's Memorial, as the council member stated, now is the time to speak out. City Council contact numbers can be found at [cityofpowell.us/government/city council](http://cityofpowell.us/government/city-council).

A Council Meeting is being held tomorrow, Jan 2, at 7:30.

