



**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Christina Drummond called the February 26, 2024 Operations Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Committee members present included Christina Drummond, Council Representative and Chairperson; Vice-Mayor Heather Karr, Council Representative; Taylor Brown, Citizen Representative; and Norman D Miller, Citizen Representative. Absent from the meeting was Tyler Herrmann, Council Representative. Staff present included Jeffrey Tyler, Community Development Director/Assistant City Manager; Aaron Stanford, City Engineer; and Andrew D. White, City Manager.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the Minutes for the Operations Committee Meeting held on January 23, 2024.

MOTION: Vice-Mayor Heather Karr moved to approve of the Minutes for the Operations Committee Meeting held on January 23, 2024. Taylor Brown seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE: Y-4 N-0 AB-0

3. TODAY'S BUSINESS

- a. Introduction of New Members
Chairwoman Christina Drummond welcomed new members Dee Miller and Taylor Brown, who both recently served on the Community Diversity Advisory Committee which has been absorbed into the Operations Committee. She recognized former Citizen Representative Seth Camick for his service on Operations Committee. Citizen Representatives Dee Miller and Taylor Brown provided their introductions and background to the Committee.
 - i. Dee Miller
 - ii. Taylor Brown
- b. Police Technologies
 - i. Flock Program

City Manager Andrew White informed the Committee that Chief Ron Sallows was unavailable to attend the meeting due to illness. He discussed that the Flock Technology includes infrastructure of ten cameras and a database of license plate reading. The technology was used as a trial basis for the City in December and Olentangy City Schools also utilize the technology and also surrounding communities. The concern is how the information is accessible and utilized. He recommended reviewing the video from the February 20, 2024 City Council meeting in which a presentation occurred. He discussed reintroducing the technology to the Committee for further guidance on how the program is working and moving forward. Chairwoman

Christina Drummond expressed that she was unable to attend the City Council meeting due to traveling for work, but that she had submitted her comments as public comments in advance of the meeting and watched it virtually. She discussed looking at the risk regarding the data and does the City need a privacy advisory committee or does the Operations Committee take over this task if the data is not deleted per the schedule. She is concerned that the database is managed by a private party and holds sensitive information. City Manager Andrew White discussed providing the policy standards and a copy of the presentation from the recent meeting where it was discussed the potential locations of the cameras. Citizen Representative Taylor Brown questioned best practices for surrounding areas. City Manager White discussed that Council had indicated their support for the technology based on the safety benefit to the community. He discussed that there are best practices in place as the technology is not new but can get input from the Committee and would like to see after a period how the technology was used and outcomes. Chairwoman Christina Drummond also discussed that council goals related to efficiency and leverage technology that is available. She discussed that there are other technologies available and how to use what is learned from the Flock program to implement a system policy overall. Vice-Mayor Heather Karr reported how the technology can alert police if there is an alert for a specific license and a recent silver alert that Flock camera was utilized to help locate her safety. Chairwoman Christina Drummond recommended that this be a continued discussion.

c. Charter Review Process and Discussion

City Manager Andrew White discussed that this is a bigger committee at a Council level but will involve operations of the City. The City is a City Manager-Council form of government. The Charter was established while the City was Village status and has been updated since. The last update occurred in 2013 and the Charter stipulates that a review will take place every ten years. During this review, a body of citizen representatives studied the Charter and work with the law department to look at trends and practices. Most significant change made in 2013 was the requirement for every ten years. The Charter Review is out of date but was delayed due to the pandemic. He discussed that some Cities stipulate the process to every five years and others are related to when an election of four councilmen are up for reelection or as needed. Every recommended change to the Charter must go on a ballot for the citizens final approval. He recommended looking at a fall 2025 ballot timeline. Citizen Representative Taylor Brown stated that the City should start the process and try for the 2025 timeline. Vice-Mayor Heather Karr discussed that there have been previous conversations with the Mayor regarding this topic. The Committee agreed that the City should start the process and try for the 2025 timeline.

d. Defining Committee Charges

Chairwoman Christina Drummond discussed that when she first started on the committee, she was looking for by-laws and the framework for the committee. She realized that this committee does not have any and would like to look at documenting a standard approach for the standing committees. This will assist with onboarding of new council members and citizen representatives regarding what they would expect to see for the committee charges. Chairwoman Christina Drummond recommended that staff and legal work on a template that can be brought before the Committee for review and discussion. She proposed that between now and the next meeting for the committee to think about what falls in scope for operations and what is out of scope. City Manager Andrew White encouraged members to reach out for questions. Vice-Mayor Heather Karr recommended having by-laws drafted by the Law Director as he previously did for the Community Diversity Advisory Committee and make changes from his recommendations.

e. Update on Eclipse - April 8, 2024

PRESENTOR:

Scott Stewart, Deputy Director/LEPC Information Coordinator
Delaware County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
10 Court Street
Delaware, Ohio

Mr. Stewart provided a presentation regarding the eclipse that will occur within the City of Powell on April 8, 2024. The next totality eclipse in Ohio is in 2099. This a rare event that will have an impact on infrastructure, increase on population with visitors and traffic management issues. Delaware County is in the path of totality. He provided a map on viewing spots which are listed on the Ohio Eclipse Website: eclipse.ohio.gov. This event will have expected population increases, extreme demand for food, lodging, fuel, stresses to traffic and local infrastructure and educational opportunities. The Delaware County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management started planning for the event two years ago and have worked with local municipalities and townships with the planning. Population estimates for Ohio are 125,000 to 500,000 from out of state. Concerns also include phone line accessibility and the ability to dial 911. Mr. Stewart reminded the Committee of the option to text 911 in the event phone lines are busy. Traffic is expected to be a concern for commuting and safety forces due to the expected high traffic volume to view the event due to the proximity to many major thoroughfares. The Columbus Zoo will be hosting an event from noon to 4 pm on this day, which can cause additional traffic congestion.

Vice-Mayor Heather Karr discussed that schools will be closed for the day in the area. City Manager Andrew White discussed conversations with other agencies regarding traffic and safety and is encouraging non-essential staff to work from home this day if able. The Committee voiced no opposition to this recommendation. Chairwoman Christina Drummond questioned if portable bathrooms will be needed in public areas. Mr. Stewart replied that the State of Ohio back ordered available units for the various events. Dee Miller questioned the communication that was being used. Mr. Stewart discussed the various events to educate on the event and safety at libraries, social media and news media. Chairwoman Christina Drummond requested that the City get the message out to allow for preparations and to reach out to local businesses to provide them with information regarding the day and potential traffic and safety issues.

f. Discussion on Pathways and Trails

Chairwoman Christina Drummond reviewed previous presentations at the February 6, 2024 City Council meeting regarding paths and trails and staff is in the process of evaluating the condition of trails, how many miles of trails/paths, private or public paths for maintenance responsibility. City Engineer Aaron Stanford discussed looking at an evaluation of all existing pathways in 2024 and have a rating and conditional analysis. The second part is an inventory of all paths, including privately maintained pathways and come up with a Path Master Plan. This will help to identify missing segments and allow for CIP planning of new projects. He also discussed working with the township on a working partnership.

Vice-Mayor Heather Karr questioned the pathways that have been created by daily use of individuals and unsure whose property is located at but is clearly used. City Engineer Aaron Stanford discussed that some of these may be considered nature paths and need to identify the property ownership. Also, will need to identify if there are natural trails that

lead to other areas and what is needed to be in the area. City Engineer Aaron Stanford discussed regional connections to other communities and need to look at how it directly correlates and benefits the City of Powell.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Les Wibberly
5005 Bayhill Drive
Powell, Ohio

Les Wibberly discussed his efforts with OPAL Trail Committee to work on gaps in trails and what the trails can look like. He previously worked with MORPC and the township to create a survey on prioritization of trails. City Manager Andrew White discussed that the City has been engaged in conversations with township on potential connectivity.

4. FUTURE BUSINESS

a. Legislative Calendar

Chairwoman Christina Drummond discussed the goal to create a calendar to plan out goals and priorities that may need legislative action.

b. Other Business or Items of Discussion

City Manager Andrew White provided information on Powell Festival and that the Columbus Zoo has also scheduled an adult only event on June 22. There will be some overlap of events on Saturday. Councilmember Heather Karr recommended that staff notify the Columbus Zoo that the City is unable to provide law enforcement support for their event.

c. Next Meeting Date: March 20, 2024 (time to be determined)

The Committee agreed to a start time of 5:30 pm for future meetings. City Clerk Elaine McCloskey clarified that the March date was changed due to election date on March 19.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Vice-Mayor Heather Karr moved to adjourn the meeting. Citizen Representative Taylor Brown seconded. Motion passed. The Operations Committee meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

VOTE: Y-4 N-0 AB-0

 3/20/24

Christina Drummond, Chairperson Date

 3/20/24

Elaine McCloskey, Clerk Date