



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

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Tom Counts called the April 2, 2024, City Council meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Councilmembers present included Councilmember Ferzan Ahmed, Councilmember David Lester, Councilmember Tyler Herrmann, Councilmember Leif Carlson, Vice-Mayor Heather Karr, and Mayor Tom Counts. Absent from the meeting included Councilmember Christina Drummond. Staff present for the meeting included: Aaron Stanford, City Engineer; D. Grant Crawford, Public Service Director; Sean Hughes, Economic Development Administrator; Yazan Ashrawi, Law Director; and Andrew White, City Manager.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mayor Tom Counts opened citizen participation for public comment. Hearing none, he closed citizen participation.

IV. PRESENTATION

- a. MORPC Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update presented by Maria Schaper, Associate Transportation Director.

Maria Schaper provided a presentation to City Council to discuss the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. MORPC is the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and serves the Columbus region. They serve over 2.4 million people and work with over 85 local governments, both rural, urban, and suburban. They have a focus to bring local communities together to collaborate around transportation, infrastructure, economic development, planning and sustainability, data, and work on policy and advocacy. We are a growing region and expect to be a region of 3.15 million people by 2050 within the 15-county region that is covered. In terms of population and jobs, MORPC is looking at about 726,000 more people to the region by 2050 and over 357,000 more jobs. This expected growth will create new demands on resources and on the transportation system. MORPC looks at local land use policies for each community to determine potential and expected growth in the area.

MORPC transportation plan is a long-range plan that is completed every four years, and is required as the Metropolitan Plan Organization for the region to submit to USDOT and ODOT. They identified 78 draft strategies that will be included in the plan. These plans fall into two different categories. They identified system management

strategy, and how they are maintaining and preserving the existing transportation system and how they are making the existing system more efficient. The second category is the system development strategy, and how to expand our transportation system due to impact of growth. This plan includes bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects, as well as transit, freight, and multimodal connections. MORPC forecasts about 35 billion dollars of investments in our transportation system in this region. A large portion of this is transit which includes Federal and increased local shares at least in the COTA service area. Other portions of the investment are management and operations. This plan forecasts more transit investment than in previous plans. She provided information relating to the passenger rail that is being studied which would include a stop in Delaware County, within the City of Delaware. The MTP shows roadway connections for the City of Powell that were based on the recent Thoroughfare Plan that was developed by the City. She discussed ways to get feedback related to the plan. The plan is expected to be brought to the MORPC Transportation Policy Committee in May for adoption.

Councilmember Ferzan Ahmed questioned if there are enough freight corridors to accommodate the expected increase in population, and that with increase in population there is also an increase in consumers. Maria Schaper discussed that this region is not a maritime region and would look more at the freeway system as freight corridors. ODOT is taking a statewide look in the Strategic, Transportation, and Development Analysis to review how economic development and transportation work together.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the Minutes from the City Council meeting held on March 20, 2024.

MOTION: Councilmember David Lester moved to approve the Minutes from the City Council meeting held on March 20, 2024. Vice-Mayor Heather Karr seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE: Y-6 N-0 AB-0

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. ORDINANCE 2024-12
AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS OF THE VERONA SECTION 3, AS THE SAME NUMBERED AND DELINEATED UPON THE PLAT, THEREOF RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORD 1618, PAGES 684-688, DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO RECORDER'S OFFICE.
- b. City of Powell Police Department 2023 Annual Report

MOTION: Councilmember David Lester moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Ferzan Ahmed seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE: Y-6 N-0 AB-0

VII. DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TREX APPLICATION

- a. Dream Catcher Hospitality LLC., DBA, Locust Table, 16 Crossing Street, Powell Ohio.

Economic Development Administrator Sean Hughes provided background information relating to the TREX for Locust Table. This TREX would allow the applicant to transfer a D-2 liquor permit from West End Group LLC in Westerville, Ohio. Law Director Yazan Ashrawi reviewed that the City has the option to object to the TREX. Economic Development Administrator Sean Hughes discussed the recommendation to combine the TREX application and the future Notice to Legislative Authority waiver of objections into one process to streamline the process. If Council authorizes the City Manager to sign the TREX application, the City will later receive a Notice to Legislative Authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control after the TREX is processed. Staff is requesting City Council allow the City Manager to "waive objections" and sign the Notice to Legislative Authority when it arrives to expediate the process. City Council voiced no opposition to the request for the TREX or to not request a hearing.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee: Next Meeting: May 7, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.

Councilmember Ferzan Ahmed reviewed that the Development Committee met prior to the City Council meeting to appoint Ross Irvine to the open citizen seat on the committee. There was also a comprehensive presentation from the Economic Development Administrator on current projects. Also discussed was an intentional effort to do more community engagement.

MOTION: Councilmember Ferzan Ahmed moved to appoint Ross Irvine as citizen representative to Development Committee. Councilmember David Lester seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE: Y-6 N-0 AB-0

Finance Committee: Next Meeting: April 9, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Operations Committee: Next Meeting: April 16, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission: Next Meeting: May 8, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.

Councilmember David Lester discussed that there are no current new updates until after the April meeting.

Powell Development Corporation: Next Meeting: April 23, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Tom Counts discussed that the last meeting the PDC approved two façade improvement grants which included landscaping and maintenance repairs.

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/CITY CALENDAR

Mayor Tom Counts recognized City Manager Andrew White on his recent four-year anniversary of employment with the City of Powell. City Manager White provided an update on the recent Ohio State University Medical Center groundbreaking event. He also provided that on April 3,

2024 will be the inaugural State of the City which will be hosted at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. He had Public Service Director Grant Crawford and City Engineer Aaron Stanford provide their thoughts related to MORPC. Public Service Director Grant Crawford discussed that both he and City Engineer Aaron Stanford have been closely engaged with MORPC throughout their time at the City and their previous careers. They participate weekly in the MORPC Money Monday meetings, which is used to overview different funding opportunities and discuss grant support. MORPC will not assist in applying for grants or to help write the grant, but they can offer a checklist and can assist in gathering information and reviewing. The City is currently exploring a grant opportunity for Safe Streets which would be an 80/20 match if awarded. This would help to create the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. This Safety Action Plan would bolster the City's opportunity to seek additional funding for different projects. City Engineer Aaron Stanford discussed that MORPC drives an investment portal that is a place to get information on grant opportunities and fact sheets. He also discussed that the City is close to putting an RFQ out for the path systems. This will become the planning document for the Active Transportation Plan and a framework to invest dollars. Mayor Tom Counts questioned what size of community should be to have an employee dedicated to grant writing. Public Service Director Grant Crawford discussed his previous experience did not include a dedicated position and that they would seek support from other third-party consultants.

X. OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

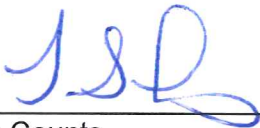
- a. Continued Discussion Relating To Council Goals and Action Items

City Manager White discussed the need for staff to work on forming action items into a SMART Goal format. There were additional questions relating to the objectives which had no action items. It was discussed that this is a fluid document, and changes can be made as needed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilmember David Lester moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Ferzan Ahmed seconded. Motion passed. The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

VOTE: Y - 6 N - 0 AB-0



Tom Counts,
Mayor

4/16/24
Date



Elaine McCloskey,
Clerk

4/16/24
Date