

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
WESTERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Council Chambers, February 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

Council met in Work Session on February 11, 2020 with Council Members, Kathy Cocuzzi, Valerie Cumming, Craig Treneff, Kenneth Wright, Michael Heyeck, Alex Heckman, Diane Conley, City Manager David Collinsworth and Staff, Law Department Director Bruce Bailey and Clerk of Council Mary Johnston present.

3. **OHIO ETHICS LAW TRAINING**

Susan Willeke, Ohio Ethics Commission, provided a session on the Ohio Ethics Laws to City Council and numerous city staff members.

4. **PUBLIC RECORDS UPDATE**

Clerk of Council Mary Johnston provided an overview of the Public Records Laws. Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Swihart provided a report on recent public records law cases involving City of Cincinnati officials and text messages during Council meetings.

5. **COTA PLUS PROGRAM**

Mr. Treneff left the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

Assistant City Manager Julie Colley and Traffic Engineer Jennifer Alford updated Council on the Central Ohio Transit Authority COTA Plus Program. Ms. Alford reviewed the logistics of the program and presented to cost scenarios for Council to consider. Weekly meetings have been held with COTA to discuss needs and goals for this service. In the initial estimate from COTA, the cost to provide the service was between \$360,000 and \$580,000; however, the proposed zone did not include the entire City and essentially limited service to west of Spring Road. Staff believed it was important to provide this service to all people within the City limits; enlarging the service area was one of the first items discussed with COTA. As a result, the service area was enlarged to include the City, thus increasing the cost of operating the service as more vehicles were needed to provide appropriate coverage and keep response time to less than 15 minutes. The updated operating cost for the service increased to \$650,000. The City is able to take advantage of a grant from COTA in the amount of \$250,000 for each of the two years of the proposed contract. The plan is to start the program June 1, 2020. There is an option to expand the service area to include a portion of Polaris area, Sunbury Plaza and Glengary Shopping Center. This service would run Monday through Friday and during special events. COTA has agreed to cover the first \$250,000 of operating expenses for the first two years of service with the City covering the remainder. Marketing and outreach will be key components to making micro-transit a success in the City. COTA and staff will coordinate efforts to promote the service to the community. Staff is seeking direction from Council on moving forward with this program and under which scenario (Scenario 1 – Westerville City Limits; Scenario 2 – City Limits Plus Polaris area; Scenario 3 – Special Events Add on).

Discussion was held on the designated area pick-ups, limited hours, reporting of data, concerns with Scenario 2, and adequate staff coverage. After discussion, Council would like to move forward with Scenario 2 but eliminate the Polaris area and add Glengary Shopping Center. It was requested that staff

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and COTA pay attention to seniors who do not have smartphones. Council would like an update at the Fall Budget meeting in October.

4. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Mary J. Johnston, MMC
Clerk of Council

Michael Heyeck
Chairman of Council