

**BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 20, 2010**

Mayor Joe Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:** City Council members Ross Barton, Ed Bell, John Jennings, Mike Pence, Mary Stewart and Buddy Templin were present at the meeting. Also attending were Clerk Treasurer Chris Duffer and Deputy City Attorney Jeff Logston.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Chris Duffer read the November 29, 2010 minutes into the record. Councilor Stewart motioned to approve the minutes as read. Councilor Pence seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:** Gerry McLaughlin of 1005 Byland, spoke to her concern about how the money has been spent and how the current tax anticipation warrant money will be spent. She had concerns that if it does not pass the employees of the city would not get paid. She implored the mayor to "pull in the reins".

Next spoke Bob White of 332 Timber Grove Way, he stated the need for the tax anticipation warrant and assured the council that, as a member of the Board of Works, the money would be spent wisely. He stated his concern that next year's tax distribution money is expected to be as much as 15% less than expected. He warned that Beech Grove is not immune to the depressed economic effects that the rest of the United States is experiencing. He stressed that everyone needs to start working together. To that end he asked the councilors to vote for the tax anticipation warrant.

**REPORTS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Deputy City Attorney Jeff Logston read second reading of Special Ordinance No. 8, 2010, an Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Elected Officials for 2011. Councilor Jennings motioned to accept the Ordinance as read. Councilor Pence seconded the motion. The Ordinance passed by a vote of 6-0 on second reading.

Deputy City Attorney Jeff Logston read third reading of Special Ordinance No. 8, 2010, an Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Elected Officials for 2011. Councilor Stewart motioned to accept the Ordinance as read. Councilor Pence seconded the motion. The Ordinance passed by a vote of 6-0 on third reading.

Deputy City Attorney Jeff Logston read into the record by title only the second reading of Special Ordinance No. 9, 2010, an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of Tax Anticipation Warrants for the General Fund for 2011. Councilor Bell made a statement against the tax warrant. He further stated he wanted on record that "I opposed all the way through this mess.

I'll probably be forced to, but it's just a Band-Aid, so you may get paychecks but, watch out." Councilor Templin stated that he agreed with what Ed Bell and Bob White had to say. Councilor Templin stated that he nor Mary nor Ed voted for the raises. He stated the raises will cost anywhere from \$450,000-\$500,000 for 2011. He also stated if we don't raise utility rates this year we stand to lose another half million dollars. He talked about numerous other items the mayor should have done to alleviate the financial situation. Councilor Templin made a motion to amend the tax warrant amount to \$2 million. Councilor Bell seconded the motion. Councilor Jennings stated that if we amend the tax warrant down to \$2 million, and we do not raise the extra \$1.6 million in other fees as Councilor Templin suggested, we would then incur the extra fees associated with doing a second tax warrant. Mayor Wright asked the Clerk to take a roll call vote. Councilor Templin, yes; Councilor Bell, yes; Councilor Stewart, yes; Councilor Pence, no; Councilor Jennings, no; Councilor Barton, no; Mayor Wright broke the tie with a no vote, the amendment failed. Mayor Wright called for a vote on the original motion and the clerk took a roll call vote of: Councilor Templin, no; Councilor Bell, no; Councilor Stewart, no; Councilor Pence, yes; Councilor Jennings, yes; Councilor Barton, yes; Mayor Wright broke the tie with a yes vote and Special Ordinance No. 9 passed on second reading.

Deputy City Attorney Jeff Logston read into the record by title only Special Ordinance No. 9, 2010 for third reading. Councilor Jennings motioned to accept Special Ordinance No. 9 as read. Councilor Pence seconded the motion. Mayor Wright asked the clerk to take a roll call vote. Councilor Templin voted no; Councilor Bell abstained; Councilor Stewart, no; Councilor Pence, yes; Councilor Jennings, yes; Councilor Barton, yes. Deputy City Attorney Jeff Logston explained that with two no's, three yes's, and one abstention there is no action on the bill and special Ordinance No. 9, 2010 fails on third reading.

Councilor Templin asked for a moment with his fellow councilors and Mayor Wright granted a 10 minute recess for caucus. Councilors Templin, Stewart and Bell retired to the hallway for caucus.

Jeff Logston explained that first and second reading of Special Ordinance No. 9, 2010 were still valid and that third reading could be put back on the table as the Council or the mayor desires. Councilor Templin made a motion to put Special Ordinance No. 9, 2010 back on the table for further consideration of third reading, Councilor Stewart seconded the motion which was approved by voice vote.

Deputy City Attorney Jeff Logston then read into the record by title only Special Ordinance No. 9, 2010 for third reading. Councilor Jennings made a motion to accept Special Ordinance No. 9, 2010 for third reading. Councilor Barton seconded the motion. During discussion, Councilor Bell stated that he did not want to go blind as to the spending of this money and wanted monthly information as to where the funds are being spent. Chris Duffer stated that Councilor Bell was welcome to copies of the Board of Works dockets which enumerates everything upon which the city spends money. Councilor Templin suggested that everyone get together after the first of the year and address these problems concerning spending. Mayor Wright asked the clerk to poll the Council for their vote. The vote went as follows: Councilor Templin, no; Councilor Bell, no; Councilor Stewart, no; Councilor Pence, yes; Councilor Jennings, yes; Councilor Barton, yes. Mayor Wright broke the tie with a yes vote and Special Ordinance No. 9, 2010 passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Deputy City Attorney Jeff Logston read into the record Resolution No.6, 2010, a Resolution Authorizing a Temporary Transfer of Funds between Budget Accounts pursuant to I.C. 36-1-8-4. Councilor Jennings motioned to accept the resolution as read. Councilor Pence seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** None

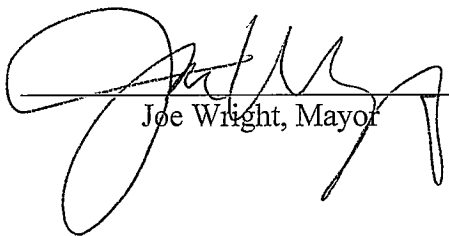
**COMMENTS:** Councilor Templin said he heard dispatch would be closing on December 31<sup>st</sup>. He lamented the loss of the civilian paramedics and now another city service in the form of dispatch. He appreciated the city of Lawrence hiring several of the dispatchers. He wished to stress, for the record, that the employees of dispatch and others that have lost their jobs, were thanked for their years of service officially. He stressed that we should involve the citizens in the dialogue of how to approach the cuts the city is facing.

Councilor Bell wished to thank all of the cities besides Beech Grove that have taken our employees that we cannot afford. He stated he thought the public safety employees do a good job and wouldn't live here if otherwise.


Councilors Pence, Stewart and Barton had no comments.

Councilor Jennings wanted to solicit sympathy and prayers for the young woman, from Beech Grove, that was just killed on Bluff Road.

Councilor Stewart motioned to adjourn. Councilor Pence seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M.



Joe Wright, Mayor



Chris Duffer, Clerk-Treasurer