

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 6th, 2013

Mayor Dennis Buckley called the meeting to order at 7: 00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: City Council Members, Dave Mobley, John Jennings, Dave Harrison, Ed Bell, Mary Stewart, Anthony Davidson and Kathy Coates. Also present: Mayor Dennis Buckley, Clerk Treasurer Dan McMillan and City Attorney Craig Wiley.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Clerk Treasurer McMillan presented minutes of the April 1st, 2013 meeting. Councilor Jennings moved to table the minutes until the next meeting so corrections can be made and additional information can be added. Councilor Coates seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

American Legion Poppy Proclamation - Mayor Buckley asked the members of the American Legion Auxiliary to come forward and then read the Poppy Proclamation, recognizing May 10th and May 11th as Poppy Days in Beech Grove.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Greenscape Commission: Presented by Tim Latimer

The commission met last month on April 15th and had a guest who asked a few questions.

Beech Grove has been awarded designation as a 2012 Tree City USA. This is the eighth year in a row for the city.

The Arbor Day celebration is being planned for the first or second week of October and will coincide with something the Beech Grove High School science department is doing. Dave Miller has been in contact with Chris Kaufman and they are working together on setting an exact date.

Commission members will be out on Saturday May 18th to inspect the trees on the roundabout at 17th and Churchman to see how they are doing. They also will be inspecting city ash trees for the emerald ash tree borer at the end of May or first of June when all the leaves are a little bit fuller.

Councilor Jennings asked what they can do about the emerald ash tree borers. Mr. Latimer replied that if they see any they will notify the Department of Natural Resources, who will then conduct their own inspection. If there is infestation the only recourse is to cut down the tree.

Councilor Coates asked if there is a way for the owners to inspect their trees and who would they report their findings to. Mr. Latimer replied that they would be happy to inspect them for the owners but there are actually two things to look for. One would be an indentation in the shape of a sideways D, and about half the size of a quarter. The second way would be to cut underneath the bark and you will see a squiggly line that they leave. Also, another way to tell would be if the crown of the tree is starting to die but the rest of the tree looks okay. The bug cuts off the nutrients and kills the tree from the top down.

Redevelopment Commission: Presented by Joe Griffin

Mr. Griffin thanked all the elected officials who showed up at their last meeting and hopes they will come more often. The RDC received two resignations, Stephanie Hubbard, President and Dawn Whalen, Secretary. Councilor Jennings asked if they gave a reason for their resignations. Mr. Griffin said that they stated their reasons in their resignation letters. Councilor Bell has the letters and will give council members a copy. Councilor Coates asked if the members were mayor appointments or council appointments. Mr. Griffin answered that there is one of each.

Jeff Peters, Financial Consultant, and Heather James, Attorney at Law, gave a power point presentation on the fundamentals of the RDC. It can be found on the Beech Grove city website. He stated the information presented was very informative and recommended that people read it or listen to the audio files.

Public Safety: Presented by Fire Chief Cheshire

The Public Safety Committee will host a Crime Watch Meeting on Wednesday, May 22nd, 6:30pm, at Hornet Park Community Center. They welcome the Council and the public to attend. Summer crime watch tips will be presented..

ABC : None

Financial Report: Presented by Clerk Treasurer Dan McMillan

April was a busy month for the Clerk's office. The new Keystone accounting program was installed on April 9th. The program was paid for last year and it records transactions in 'real time', which makes a huge difference when trying to accurately track expenditures and deposits and get reports on the numbers. Accupay is continuing to administer the payroll for the city and they now have taken over the task of filing PERF with INPRS every payroll. There is no additional expense for the city to have Accupay take over this task.

The city has secured financing from Regions bank for the new fire and police vehicles.

On June 28th approximately \$1.1 million is due on the tax anticipation warrant. Clerk Treasurer McMillan is not sure the tax money will be here by June 28th, so he has spoken with the bond bank and has an alternative plan in place.

The city has signed off with Grady Brothers for the 2013 paving project and with Fitzgerald & Fitzgerald for the Lick Creek streambank stabilization project.

The office wrote checks for the new trucks just recently purchased by DPW. The majority of this money came from auction proceeds with the remaining balance coming from sewage.

The 2012 bond issuance has a remaining balance of \$295,949.02.

The budget the Council approved for this year seems to be working well. The city may have to ask for an additional appropriation for MVH. Brad Meriwether cut his budget for 2013 and in 2012 the city had to request an additional appropriation. Clerk Treasurer McMillan noted that Brad has done a great job of keeping costs down for his department and the same goes for the Parks Department. The Parks budget was also cut and Tom Hannan is doing a good job of keeping costs down.

The April bank statements and financial reports are available on the city's website.

Clerk Treasurer McMillan presented a letter requesting approval for new hires. It was brought up at the last meeting that the Council is the body which actually approves new hires for the Clerk's office. Councilor Davidson and Councilor Coates asked for clarification on these positions.

Clerk Treasurer McMillan stated they are replacements that have already been approved by the Board of Works, but according to state statute should have been approved by the Council. There were two full time people and there is now one full time and two part time positions. Approval for the following new hires was requested:

Brenda Michael, full time HR/Administrative Clerk, salary position of \$30,000, which includes educational incentive pay. She has an Associate's Degree in Applied Science in Professional Accounting and is a Beech Grove resident. Councilor Jennings moved to approve Brenda Michaels. Councilor Bell seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Debbie Springer, Part Time Clerk, working 21 hours per week with no benefits. Clerk Treasurer McMillan would like to keep this position under 29 hours per week because of vacation times when he would need to use her more than the 21 hours. The part-time ordinance does say 29 hours and he would like to keep it at that. Councilor Davidson moved to approve Debbie Springer, not to exceed 29 hours per week. Councilor Jennings seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Sheri Morgan, part time clerk working 15 hours per week with no benefits and the clerk would also like to be able to use her up to 29 hours some weeks to cover vacations and when someone is off sick. Councilor Coates moved to approve Sheri Morgan, not to exceed 29 hours per week. Councilor Davidson seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

MAYOR'S LIAISON REPORT: Presented by Gary Loveless

Mr. Loveless is signing up people for an e-mail blast list after losing about 200 e-mail addresses around the Beech Grove area. If you have not received anything from him lately, this would be the reason why.

For areas outside of Beech Grove, pot holes and high weeds and grass can be reported online, or on a smartphone by going to "Request Indy Mobile App." The most common requests are for animals, street signs, signals, trash, dumping, zoning violations and abandoned vehicles. In Beech Grove, per Mayor Buckley, you can go to the Mayor's hot line to report these directly to Beech Grove.

"Neighbor Power" is a big event that is coming up on October 12th at Marian University. They are interested in recruiting small, successful organizations in neighborhoods to share their stories. Beech Grove is too big for this, but if the city put on a seminar about 'what works for us,' there would be lots of neighborhood organizations there to listen and find out what we do well.

Indy Green Zone - Indianapolis is only one of two in the nation that received a Federal Grant for this project. The city just had one meeting and will have two more. There will be a meeting on Thursday, May 9th, from 5:45 until 7:30 which will consist of a Visual Preference Survey and Block Exercise. The big public reveal will be Thursday, August 1st at Zink Distributing on Shelby Street.

Sanitary Sewer Project – a lift station is being installed at Pappas and Sumner Drives for the sewers.

Conservation at the Crossroads – Marion County Soil and Conservation District is a good organization that does soil analysis, water sheds and rain gardens to name a few. Right now they are doing rain barrels. There are two sizes of rain barrels, a high quality one for \$100.00 and lower quality ones that are 50 gallons for \$60.00. They are putting off their tree sales for the spring due to hail damage, but they will still have the one in the fall.

Engineering News Record, the bible of the engineering industry, Cover Story - Marion County was recognized for saving taxpayers 740 million dollars with the combined sewer overflow project and renegotiating an agreement with the EPA to avoid a penalty.

Councilor Harrison asked if he knew when they would be finishing the Southport and Emerson intersection. Mr. Loveless stated that it should be done by August. They will begin working at night starting at 8:00 p.m. going one direction through the intersection, and when it is done they will go the other direction through the intersection. They are still working with the State about widening the bridge over Interstate 65. They will be paving south all the way to County Line Road.

Mr. Loveless has community office hours at the Perry Township Government Center from 11:00am to 1:00pm and at the Franklin Township Library from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RDC Appointment - Councilor Bell read into record the resignation letter from Dawn Whalen dated April 17th 2013 and asked for approval from the Council to accept her resignation. Councilor Jennings moved to accept the resignation. Councilor Stewart seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote. Councilor Mobley asked why each council member did not receive a copy of the letters in their packets so they could review them before the meeting. Councilor Bell stated that he just received it in his packet Friday. Councilor Mobley stated he thinks these letters should be included in all Councilor's packets.

Councilor Bell opened up the floor for nominations for the Redevelopment Commission. Councilor Harrison nominated Buddy Templin. Councilor Bell nominated Lori Middleton. Councilor Davidson nominated Donald Webb

Councilor Jennings asked if nominations could remain open until next meeting in light of the fact that the council was unaware that nominations for the RDC were being brought forward tonight.

Councilor Jennings asked if contact information was available for all the nominees. Councilors Harrison, Bell and Davidson will provide nominee's contact information to each Council member.

Councilor Bell closed the nominations for the meeting but will leave it open for additional nominations. The nominations submitted tonight and any additional nominations will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting on June 3, 2013.

Beech Grove Fire Department Merit Board Appointment:

The Council has an appointment to the Beech Grove Fire Department Merit Board due to Don Smith's term expiring. Councilor Bell stated that Don Smith would like to be considered for another term. Councilor Coates asked Chief Cheshire if he had any input or knew anyone who would be interested. Chief Cheshire said "No, I think that Don would like to serve and it is the council's decision. Mr. Smith does regularly attend meetings." Councilor Jennings asked Chief Cheshire if he has had a good working relationship with Don. Chief Cheshire replied, "absolutely". Councilor Mobley asked Chief Cheshire if he would like to see Mr. Smith continue. Chief Cheshire said it is the council's decision, but yes. Councilor Bell closed the nominations for the meeting but will leave it open for any additional nominations. The nomination submitted tonight and any additional nominations will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting on June 3, 2013.

General Ordinance No. 4, 2013 ... *Incorporates the provisions of Resolution No. 5, 2004 (Establishing the Beech Grove Greenscape Commission), Special Ordinance No. 8, 2005 (Tree and Flora Ordinance) and Special Ordinance No. 2, 2008 (Term of Office Amendment)*

Mayor Buckley introduced General Ordinance No. 4, 2013 for Third and Final Reading and asked for a motion to waive the rules and read the ordinance in by title only. Councilor Jennings moved to read General Ordinance No. 4, 2013 by title only. Councilor Bell seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Clerk Treasurer McMillan read Ordinance No 4, 2013 into the record by title only.

Councilor Stewart moved to approve General Ordinance No. 4, 2013 on Third and Final Reading. Councilor Bell seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

General Ordinance No. 6, 2013 ...*an ordinance that amends Article XV of the City of Beech Grove, Indiana Personnel Manual concerning employee's drivers licenses.*

Mayor Buckley introduced and Clerk Treasurer McMillan read into the record General Ordinance No. 6, 2013 for Third and Final Reading. Councilor Coates moved to approve General Ordinance No. 6, 2013 on Third and Final Reading. Councilor Stewart seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

General Ordinance No. 7, 2013 ...*an ordinance that amends Article I: Employee Classification of the City of Beech Grove, Indiana Personnel Manual.*

Mayor Buckley introduced and Clerk Treasurer McMillan read into the record General Ordinance No. 7, 2013 for Third and Final Reading. Councilor Coates moved to approve General Ordinance No. 7, 2013 on Third and Final Reading. Councilor Mobley seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

General Ordinance No. 8, 2013 ...an ordinance that amends Chapter 37, Section 37.04 [Holidays] of the Code of Ordinances [for the City of Beech Grove, Indiana] and Article VII of the City of Beech Grove Personnel Manual pursuant to recognized holidays for employees of the City of Beech Grove [Indiana].

Mayor Buckley introduced General Ordinance No. 8, 2013 is for Third and Final Reading and asked for a Motion to waive the rules and read by title only. Councilor Jennings moved to read General Ordinance No. 8, 2013 by title only. Councilor Bell seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Clerk Treasurer McMillan read General Ordinance No. 8, 2013 into the record by title only.

Councilor Bell moved to approve General Ordinance No. 8, 2013 on Third and Final Reading. Councilor Coates seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of six to one. Ayes - Councilors Stewart, Bell, Davidson, Jennings, Harrison and Coates. Nays - Councilor Mobley.

General Ordinance No. 9, 2013 ...an ordinance that amends Article XIII of the City of Beech Grove Personnel Manual pursuant to drug testing for employees.

Mayor Buckley introduced and Clerk Treasurer McMillan read into the record General Ordinance No 9, 2013 for Second Reading.

Councilor Bell moved to approve General Ordinance No 9, 2013 on Second Reading. Councilor Davidson seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Third and Final Reading will be carried over to the June 3, 2013 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conflict of Interest - Chris Whittaker/Beech Grove Police Officer

Clerk Treasurer McMillan read the Conflict of Interest statement into record. Clerk McMillan stated that Officer Whittaker is completing work for the police department by installing camera and radio equipment into police cars.

Councilor Mobley asked if Officer Whittaker has already done the job. Clerk McMillan answered yes. Councilor Mobley then asked, "why are we voting on it now?" Clerk McMillan explained that it is an ongoing process and Officer Whittaker did not realize that he needed to fill out the Conflict of Interest Statement. Councilor Mobley then stated that we are paying Officer Whittaker \$2,500.00 and he questioned how many cars were included in the price. Chief Swartz stated that it includes 23 cars and for another company to do it would have been double or triple the cost.

Councilor Jennings asked if we need the statement for the project that has already been completed since it was grant money. Clerk McMillan stated yes. He added that since the city writes the checks and then is reimbursed with grant money, he believes the city should err on the side of safety and get approval of the statement for all work performed by Officer Whittaker. Councilor Jennings asked Chief Swartz if the officer is doing a good job. The chief confirmed that he is.

Councilor Stewart moved to approve the Uniform Conflict of Interest Statement for Chris Whittaker. Councilor Mobley seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

General Ordinance No. 11, 2013 ...an ordinance that amends Article XVI "USE OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLES" of the City of Beech Grove Personnel Manual pursuant to accident notification and testing.

Mayor Buckley introduced and Clerk Treasurer McMillan read into the record General Ordinance No. 11, 2013 for First Reading.

Councilor Coates stated that she believes this is an important piece of legislation.

Councilor Bell asked what the repercussions would be if someone fails the test. City Attorney Craig Wiley stated that it is addressed in the employee manual.

Councilor Jennings moved to approve General Ordinance No. 11, 2013 as written on First Reading. Councilor Bell seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Second Reading only will be carried over to the June 3, 2013 meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Mobley asked if next time they can have some kind of microphone because it was very hard to hear some of the people as they speak. It was very hard to hear Ed Bell and he couldn't hear half of what he was saying. It was not Councilor Bell's fault; it is just difficult to hear him when I am sitting down here, and he sitting down there.

Councilor Davidson thanked everyone who was involved in the Beech Grove Little League Parade on opening day. He thought it went rather smoothly. His son enjoyed his first parade last year, and that was cold and rainy. This year we did not have any rain, so he felt it went well.

The next meeting of the Council will be Monday, June 3, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Jennings moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Mobley. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Dennis Buckley, Mayor

Dan McMillan, Clerk-Treasurer

Minutes prepared by: Sheri Morgan