

**BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
October 5, 2009**

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:** City Council members Ross Barton, Ed Bell, Bill Cincebox, John Jennings, Mike Pence, Mary Stewart, and Bud Templin were present at the meeting. Also attending were Clerk Treasurer Sarah Kincaid and City Attorney Brian Bosma.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

**MEETING MINUTES:** John Jennings motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 3, 2009 as read. Mary Stewart seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. John Jennings motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 17, 2009 as read. Bill Cincebox seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. John Jennings motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 31, 2009 as read. Ross Barton seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. Mary Stewart motioned to approve the September 8, 2009 meeting minutes as read. Ed Bell seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** Mayor Wright presented to the council the key ideas of the budget. Chief Witmer, Chief Pierce, and Brian Butler all spoke on the topic of the budget.

**COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:** Two citizens signed in to speak on topics not about the budget. John Jennings motioned to limit all citizen comments to 3 minutes. Bill Cincebox seconded the motion. Bud Templin motioned to limit comments to 4 minutes. Ed Bell seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. The motion passed as amended by voice vote.

Debbie Turner spoke on the topic of parking citations. Ray Whithouse spoke on the topic of cross walks and safety.

**REPORTS:** Tim Latimer gave a report for the Greenscape Committee. Tim Showalter gave a report for the Cable Authority. Cindy Kirchoffer gave a report for the Redevelopment Commission. Chief Witmer gave a report for the Public Safety Committee.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** John Jennings motioned to open the public hearing for the 2010 Budget. Bill Cincebox seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. Lowell Shroyer, Susie McMillan, Mary McVey, Nancy Neworth, Gerry McLaughlin, Derrick Blyce, Joe Griffin, Dan McMillan, John Smith, and Chuck Fox all spoke on the topic of the budget. John Jennings motioned to close the public hearing. Bill Cincebox seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote.

City Attorney Brian Bosma introduced on first reading Special Ordinance No. 8, 2009. Bud

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Templin stated that it would take far too much time to read in the entire budget and felt that

reading the budget in by title only was appropriate. All council members agreed unanimously. Brian Bosma read in by title only Special Ordinance No. 8, 2009, the 2010 Budget on first reading. Bud Templin motioned to postpone the first reading of the budget until October 12<sup>th</sup> to allow more time for changes and considerations to be considered. Ed Bell seconded the motion. In discussion, Mayor Wright stated that the budget has time to change and move until final adoption at the end of October. Ed Bell expressed concern that the city would not be able to afford the changes made to the currently considered version of the budget after having seen previous versions of the budget that appeared to spend less money. Bud Templin expressed concern with the time constraint on the budget and would like more time to look the most current version over, having only received this version the day of the meeting. Brian Bosma clarified to the council that part of the delay in getting the most current version of the budget to the council was due to concessions made by the union in meetings just prior to this meeting. He stated that a delay in considering the budget on first reading might cause more changes, and that working with the current budget gives time to adjust and amend the budget as the council sees fit. Ross Barton stated that he would like to work with the current budget presented knowing that it can be amended. He also noted that he would like to review the cable budget given that Tim Showalter was not consulted this year as it was developed. A vote was taken by role call with a result of 3 votes in favor, 4 against.

John Jennings motioned to accept the budget as presented on first reading. Ross Barton seconded the motion. In discussion, Bud Templin stated that the Greenscape Commission is a bright point of the city. He thanked all department heads for their time in caucus meetings. Bud expressed concern that the caucus meetings in the previous weeks were based on a different budget than was presented this evening. Revenues showed that the dispatchers could be funded, and did not provide for raises for city employees. Changes to the budget work in favor of keeping dispatch. He feels that there is excess to be cut, but that dispatch is not an excess. In talking with the unions, Mr. Templin stated he got the feeling that the unions were encouraged to work with the phase out plan for dispatch. From the dispatcher side, there is pressure on these people in these positions. He feels that our dispatchers want to work for Beech Grove and no one else, and that there is a deep sense of loyalty for the city. He stated that at this point in time he feels like we are starting to have to fight to continue to be an independent community. He stated he will not be voting on the budget this evening because he has not had time to look it over. Finally, he stated that the council works for the people of the city, not for the Mayor, and wants time to ensure the budget meets the needs of the citizens he represents. Ed Bell thanked all who spoke this evening and stated that his town hall meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> will specifically address how dispatch services work. John Jennings stated that approving the budget on first reading does not mean the budget passes, it is simply a way to begin to consider it. A role call vote was taken, resulting in 4 for, 3 against. The motion passes on first reading by title only as presented.

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Mayor Wright introduced the Consideration of Rezoning Petition for the Property Located at 218 & 222 S 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Brian Bosma clarified to the council that this would allow the council to act as the hearing body for the rezoning petition, and suggested that the regular November meeting date works well for the time frame in which it must be heard. Bud Templin motioned for the council to act as the hearing body for the rezoning petition at 218 & 222 S 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the regular council meeting. Bill Cincebox seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** None.


**COMMENTS:** Councilman Templin thanked all citizens in attendance this evening, and asked that no one give up on the budget. He asked those with concerns or questions to talk to the Mayor and express these concerns.

Councilman Bell thanked all in attendance and reminded citizens of his Town Hall meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Senior Center (topic will be dispatch).

Councilwoman Stewart reiterated what both Bud and Ed said and stated that she is not ashamed of the city and what has gone on, she is just disappointed.


Councilmen Barton asked that anyone in District 3 with questions contact him to discuss further the budget.

Mary Stewart motioned to adjourn. Ed Bell seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 P.M.



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Joe Wright, Mayor



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Sarah M. Kincaid, Clerk-Treasurer