

**BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 7, 2009**

John Jennings called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL: City Council members Ross Barton, Bill Cincebox, John Jennings, Mike Pence, Mary Stewart, and Bud Templin were present at the meeting. Also attending were Clerk Treasurer Sarah Kincaid and Deputy City Attorney Tricia Leminger. Not attending were Ed Bell and Mayor Wright.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

MEETING MINUTES: Mary Stewart motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 2, 2009 as read. Ross Barton seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS: Two citizens signed in to speak. John Jennings motioned to allow each speaker 4 minutes to speak. Mary Stewart seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. Lowell Shroyer spoke on the subject of Appropriations and Phil Gurganus spoke on the topic of Retiree Insurance.

REPORTS: The Youth Council had no report. Terry Dilk gave a report for the Redevelopment Commission. Tim Latimer gave a report for the Greenscape Committee. Tim Showalter gave a report for the Cable Authority. Chief Witmer gave a report for the Public Safety Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: John Jennings introduced and City Attorney Tricia Leminger read in Special Ordinance No. 10, 2009, An Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Elected Officials for the City on first reading. Mary Stewart motioned to approve Special Ordinance No. 10, 2009 on first reading. Bill Cincebox seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote on first reading.

John Jennings introduced and Ms. Leminger read in Special Ordinance No. 11, 2009, An Ordinance Relating to the Additional Appropriations. Ms. Leminger clarified that this is the first reading only and that a hearing would be held on December 14th. John Jennings motioned to approve Special Ordinance No. 11, 2009 on first reading. Ross Barton seconded the motion. In discussion, Bud Templin stated he felt \$530,000 for a roundabout was an excess in a time of cuts and did not feel it is appropriate. Mike Pence asked for clarification on the amendment process. Ms. Leminger clarified that a formal amendment process must be followed after discussion as taken place. Mr. Pence stated that while some of the appropriations were appropriate, others were fluff and he would like to see a reduction of \$330,000, and motioned to change and reduce Category 8 to \$698,500. John Jennings seconded the motion. Bill Cincebox stated that this amendment would be pulling monies from the Sherman/Albany roundabout landscaping items

that were not needed at this time. Ms. Leminger clarified that the new total for appropriations is

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\$753,500, which was confirmed. Mr. Templin stated that this reduction does not indicate exactly where this money comes from and that it merely reduces the line item itself. Mary Stewart stated that while this a move in the right direction, in the end it is just a drop in the bucket compared to what needs to be done. Ross Barton asked Mr. Templin to clarify what changes he would like to see specifically. Mr. Templin stated that his problem is in the fact that the council is only changing the amount, not where money is actually meant to be spent. A roll call vote was taken with 4 in favor of and 2 against the amendment. A vote was taken on Special Ordinance No. 11, 2009 as amended, with a result of 4 in favor, 2 against, passing on first reading as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: None.

COMMENTS: Councilman Templin stated that health insurance for retirees carries big issues and he feels that the city could do more for its retirees. He is disappointed the council does not have a vote on this. He feels that the health savings accounts are another issue themselves. He stated that he would like to see the appropriations voted on tonight be more detailed instead of broad by category. He thanked the Clerk for distribution of minutes. He also stated he has some questions on tax anticipation warrants due at the end of the year and he will seek those answers.

Councilwoman Stewart stated she feels it is insane to spend on items that only look pretty. She apologized to the retirees with regard to health insurance matters and is ashamed that the city has not done more.

Councilman Pence stated he is also concerned with health insurance matters for retirees and is not happy about increases. He is looking into the matter and he himself is facing rates doubling where he works. He is generally in favor of the appropriations as many of these projects are funded by stimulus money and have an 80/20 matching amount which is a benefit to the city. He feels that the reductions made in amendment form tonight bring the amounts to what is needed and cuts out what is not needed and is fluff. He feels strongly that the city not remain stagnant. He also noted that most of the fees are engineering fees for the projects.

Councilman Barton stated that he will be distributing a park survey to his district in order to get feedback on Sarah T. Bolton park.

Councilman Cincebox stated that the money included in the parks portion of the appropriations is to replace the bridge and address drainage problems at Hartman Park, both of which are very much needed.

Councilmen Jennings thanked Mr. Spitz for his information at the recent Town Hall meeting. He addressed the concern of retiree health care and stated that he himself experienced an increase of his health insurance with it doubling, and that the issue is not dead. He finally encouraged everyone to support the local basketball teams.

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Mike Pence motioned to adjourn. Mary Stewart seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 P.M.



Joe Wright, Mayor



Sarah M. Kincaid, Clerk-Treasurer