

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 18, 2020

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

**Roll Call-**

Present: City Council Members, Buddy Templin, Kevin Day, Dave Harrison, Elizabeth Lamping, Kara Ferguson, Robert Ferguson, and Gary Hall. Also, present were, Mayor Dennis Buckley, Clerk Treasurer James W Coffman, and City Attorney Craig Wiley.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

**Public Comments-**

Pam Stallard- Has conducted research and feels more time is needed and should table the vote. She has not seen any documentation of rates being raised by Citizens Energy.

Dave Grenoble- We need more time and research. According to the OUCC, rates are going down. If voted in without including apartments or commercial, contact has already been made with the ACLU for discrimination lawsuit.

Matthew Kochevar- Nobody likes rate increases but understands it has to be done at times. Please remember your constituents and how these rate increases affect their daily life.

Richard Buzbee- Many people are on fixed income. Implement a two tier system for those on lower pay. Freeze the budget, talk, table it, and listen to the citizens.

Kevin Kocher- Solve the problem and be creative in creating the proper plan to pay the bills without just turning to the citizens. Live within the budget.

Dennis Buckley- Urged the Council to fix this issue and not table it. The rates presented are not enough but they must happen. People might don't like it or understand it but it must happen. We have extra trucks for a reason and we have used them.

Gary Hall- Asked for extra time to talk. We need to fix this now and not kick it down the road. He has received lots of info from the neighborhood. 94% of those he spoke with in District two are against the increases. Change the way we charge for totes. We offer great service and we need to invoice for all extras services when they are requested. We should modernize the office by going to usage versus flat fee in order to be fair to all. We must also restructure the budget, it is a piece of junk.

Julie Edgecombe- Rates are not fair and we should not charge the same rates for all regardless of usage. Also requested Councilors to vote by hand so each vote can be seen.

Phil Gurganus- Letter was read into the record by Councilor Lamping.

Rob Cheshire- We as department heads, are fiscally responsible. The budget is slim and personnel is the biggest part, which would take the biggest hit if rates aren't increased and budgets are cut.

Michael Maurice- We sacrifice a lot to be here and to do our jobs. We are bought into the community regardless of where we might live. Public safety being a number one priority is important for the citizens and directly affects them. Cutting budgets is scary. Reports and crime numbers are not doctored.

Mayor Warner Wiley- Lived here for 83 years. Rates should have been raised before and is the only option. Second option would be to rip it all out, which probably is not even possible.

Robert Ferguson- We represent the citizens of Beech Grove and its my job to meet with department heads. Spoke with DPW last week and learned nothing is planned to fix any problems with the sewer. PVC pipes do not need relined. The catastrophic event last week was due to paper towels clogging the system. Clean up cost was about \$2,000 to fix the blockage. Cost to purchase clean up vehicles would run approximately \$700,000. A form showing the total number of gallons of water treated includes a steady increase of 30 million gallons a year. Last year, we treated less water than expected.

### **Old Business-**

**General Ordinance #1, 2020 Trash Fee, Second reading-** General Ordinance #1 is an ordinance that amends chapter 96 of the code of ordinances pursuant to fees collected for trash pick up in residential and commercial properties.

Buddy Templin- He was involved with the previous administration where the Mayor resigned. It was a devastating time for our city and layoffs had to happen. We can not forget that and must remember to be frugal. Work has been completed over the years and our choices are limited. We can improve, but we are doing well. We must be fair.

General Ordinance #1 was read into the record. Councilor Lamping made a motion to approve Ordinance #1 on second reading, Harrison seconded the motion, which was followed by a voice vote and approved five to two.

**General Ordinance #1, 2020 Trash Fee, Third reading-** General Ordinance #1 is an ordinance that amends chapter 96 of the code of ordinances pursuant to fees collected for trash pick up in residential and commercial properties. Councilor Day made a motion to read by title only, Templin seconded the motion and was approved by a unanimous voice vote. Councilor Lamping made a motion to approve Ordinance #1 on third reading and final reading, Harrison seconded the motion which was followed by a voice vote and approved five to two.

**General Ordinance #2, 2020 Sewer Fees, Second Reading-** General Ordinance #2 is an ordinance that amends Chapter 50 of the code of ordinances for the City of Beech Grove pursuant to fees charged to Beech Grove Sewage Works customers for the treatment of wastewater.

Councilor Day made a motion to amend Ordinance #2 to charge apartments the same rate as a homeowner. Templin seconded the motion, which is followed by a unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Councilor Templin made a motion to amend the 2020 residential increase from \$6.34 down to \$6.00 per unit. Day seconded the motion which was followed by a unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Councilor Ferguson discusses the option of including some type of assistance for those in need. A proposal will be developed and introduced at a later date.

General Ordinance #2 was read into the record. Councilor Day made a motion to approve Ordinance #2 on second reading with two amendments, Lamping seconded the motion, which was followed by a voice vote and approved four to three.

**General Ordinance #2, 2020 Sewer Fees, Third Reading-** General Ordinance #2 is an ordinance that amends Chapter 50 of the code of ordinances for the City of Beech Grove pursuant to fees charged to Beech Grove Sewage Works customers for the treatment of wastewater.

Councilor Templin made a motion to amend the ordinance to include the increased flow rate charge for commercial properties that are billed based on usage. Harrison seconded the motion, which was followed by a voice vote and approved six to one.

Councilor Robert Ferguson made a motion to amend the ordinance to only increase rates for 2020 and 2021, Day seconded the motion, which was followed by a voice vote and approved four to three.

Councilor Templin made a motion to read Ordinance #2 by title only. Day seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Councilor Lamping made a motion to approve Ordinance #2 on third and final reading. Harrison seconded the motion, which was followed by a voice vote and approved five to two.

**Council Comments-**

**Councilor Templin** – Thanks to all for being here. People are on fixed incomes and maybe we can help them.

**Councilor Day** – Thanks for coming and thanks to those who spoke.

**Councilor Harrison-** The Ritter game is tonight, so there is no sports update! This is a tough job and he appreciates the work done by Hall and Robert Ferguson. It is not easy.

**Councilor Lamping-** Thanks to everyone for coming. Thanks to the department heads, you are where we progress and you do a great job.

**Councilor Kara Ferguson-** Thanks for coming and thanks to the Councilors for collaborating to improve our City.

**Councilor Robert Ferguson-** Thanks for coming and thanks to our Officers for their work. He is here to represent his constituents and that is why he voted the way he did.

**Councilor Hall-** Thank you for coming. Thank you to the Chiefs that spoke, you are appreciated. Lets not take things for granted or things out of text. I am sorry, lay offs was never in his verbiage, you deserve more.

**Mayor Buckley-** Asked Chief Cheshire to pass out information in regard to ambulance rates charged by the City of Beech Grove. This will be discussed in March.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Robert Ferguson moved to adjourn, and Councilor Harrison seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm. The City Council will meet for a meeting on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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Dennis Buckley, Mayor

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James W. Coffman, Clerk–Treasurer