

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 4, 2022

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

Roll Call-

City Councilors Dave Harrison, Kevin Day, President Pro-Tem Robert Ferguson, Elizabeth Lamping, Ryan Matkins, and Kara Ferguson were present. Also, present were Mayor Dennis Buckley, Clerk Treasurer James Coffman, and City Attorney Craig Wiley. Councilor Buddy Templin was absent. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Invocation was presented.

Moment of Silence was observed for Lowell Plake, Mike Cleary, Mario Minatel, Robert Roell, and Ron Melbert.

Special Presentations-

Rezoning Petition- Case #2022-ZON-035, 5457 Elmwood Avenue- Petitioner Singh, Baljinder & Satnam Singh Sangha, by David Kingen and Emily Duncan. The request is to rezone 4.09 acres from the I-2 district to the I-3 district. David Kingen presented the case and explained plans for the property include a repair/maintenance facility for semi-trucks along with a semi-truck parking area.

Staff Report-

Staff recommends approval of the request to rezone subject to the following commitment- A 40-foot half right of way shall be dedicated along Elmwood Avenue, prior to the issuance of any permits of the proposed development.

Remonstrators-

Mike Hofmann- Local business owner spoke against the request.

Dennis Buckley – Mayor and resident spoke against the request.

Brad Meriwether- Beech Grove DPW director submitted a letter against the request.

Support-

A letter was read into the record in support of the request. This letter was submitted four times and signed by the following in support. Harvinder Sidham, Jasbir Kaur, Amanda Fields, and Big Tex Trailers.

Petitioner Response-

Mr. Kingen explained the new owners would be happy to abide by any requests the City sees fit. The Council was reminded the Council that most of the area is already zoned I-3 and the variance will not decline semi use.

Discussions on public safety, amount of increased traffic and semi use, overnight security, and more was discussed.

Councilor Robert Ferguson made a motion to deny the re-zoning request, Councilor Matkins seconded the motion, which was denied by a unanimous voice vote of six to zero.

2021 RDC Annual Report- President Matthew Kochevar presented the RDC 2021 Financial report that is to be submitted on the Gateway.

Approval of Minutes-

March 7, 2022- Councilor Day made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Lamping seconded the

motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of six to zero.

Public Comments-

Matthew Kochevar- Reminder to update voting for the May primary.

Committee Reports-

Police Station – Chief Mercuri

RDC- President Matthew Kochevar presented the monthly RDC report.

Financial Report- Clerk Treasurer, James W. Coffman

Current bank balances are listed below-

City Corporation \$5,042,354.66

ARPA Fund- \$918,470.60

Utilities \$1,902,975.60

Criminal Investigation Fund (CIF) \$327,756.31

RDC General \$622,260.94

Old Business-

General Ordinance #1, 2022- 3rd Reading- General Ordinance #1, 2022 is an ordinance concerning amounts charged for permits in the City of Beech Grove. Mayor Buckley and Clerk Treasurer Coffman explained how this was discussed about one year ago, and not everything will increase. The Ordinance will clear up some confusion about inspections and attempt to make the entire process more manageable. Councilor Robert Ferguson made a motion to approve General Ordinance #1, 2022 on third reading, Councilor Lamping seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of six to zero.

General Ordinance #2, 2022, 2nd Reading- General Ordinance #2, 2022 is an ordinance providing guidance to Common Council and all Boards and Commissions of the City of Beech Grove when members may attend meetings virtually during a declared local or state emergency. Councilor Day made a motion to read General Ordinance #2, 2022 by title only, Councilor Harrison seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of six to zero. Councilor Day made a motion to approve General Ordinance #2, 2022 on second reading only, Councilor Matkins seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of six to zero.

New Business-

ARPA Request, Servants Heart- The Mayor and Councilor Robert Ferguson submitted a request to give Servants Heart \$15,000.00 from the ARPA funds that the City received to purchase a vehicle to assist with the food distribution efforts they provide to people in and around the City of Beech Grove. Discussion of needs and costs of new vehicles took place. Councilor Kara Ferguson suggested the City provide Servants Heart with \$50,000.00. Councilor Day made a motion to

give Servants Heart \$50,000.00 from the ARPA funds, Councilor Kara Ferguson seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of six to zero.

ARPA Request, Hornet Park Elementary School- Councilor Lamping has been in contact with Melissa Keeley from Hornet Park Elementary School regarding funding for an Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine at the school to reward the children. Fundraising for the project has been going on, but more funds are needed. Councilor Lamping made a motion to award the project with \$7,500.00 from the ARPA funds, Councilor Day seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of six to zero. The funds will be presented to the Beech Grove Education Foundation and the project would be funded from there.

Comments-

Councilor Templin- Absent.

Councilor Day –Thanks for coming. Congratulations to the boys' basketball team.

Councilor Dave Harrison- Thanks for coming! Good job to the Council tonight, and congratulations to the boys' basketball team.

Councilor Robert Ferguson- Thanks for coming. Good job to the Council on the rezoning decision. Its hard to turn down new business, but we must remember how it affects the public interest, health, and safety. Congratulations to the boys' basketball team! It was positive for the City.

Councilor Lamping- Thank you for coming and thanks for working together. Invest in our planet and celebrate Earth Day.

Councilor Matkins- Thanks for coming. Great job winning state! The rezoning must be a good fit for us as well as them. Losing tax dollars is not good, but also spending tax money to repair is not good either. The vending machine is a great idea and I hope it encourages reading.

Councilor Kara Ferguson-Congratulations on the new police station groundbreaking. It is great for our City.

Mayor Buckley- In your packet is a draft version of the fire code. Franciscan Trail ribbon cutting is on April 15th at 1:00 and all are invited.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Harrison moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Matkins seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Dennis B. Buckley, Mayor

James W. Coffman, Clerk–Treasurer