

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 5, 2021

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

Roll Call-

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

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Invocation was presented.

Special Presentations-

Moment of Silence- Patty Frieson, Roy Swartz, Judy Flanders, and Jim Hix

American Legion Flag Presentation- Post 276

Recognition- BGHS Boys Sectional Champs

Parks Board Appointee Nominee- Introduction Jeff Woehler

Approval of Minutes-

March 1, 2021- Councilor Day made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Harrison seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments-

Dave Copenhaver- Beech Grove is sovereign and Mayor Buckley is giving the City away piece by piece regarding the Library, dispatch, and now the potential IFD Fire Suppression Agreement. Feels the mutual aid agreement in place now is sufficient and works.

Anna Ottinger- Spoke regarding the State of the City Address. Had questions about the fire department costs, the mutual aid agreement currently in place, and asked what we are gaining by losing the Fire Department. Concerns about the Police station, what was approved by council, and the advertising that was published on February 26th.

Mayor Buckley- Spoke regarding the misinformation stated by Dave Copenhaver. The Dispatch was lost under Mayor Wright and the Library had its own board that was responsible for the merger. The Mayor's office had nothing to do with it.

Committee Reports-

ABC – None

RDC- Met and discussed Main Street improvements. A presentation on preservation and redevelopment of the areas around the old hospital was given. Docket was approved.

Compliance- Report is in the packet.

Greenscape- No meeting.

Financial Report- Clerk Treasurer, James W. Coffman

Current bank balances are listed below-

City Corporation \$2,275,684.57

Utilities \$1,657,912.77

Criminal Investigation Fund (CIF) \$34,318.54

RDC General \$346,312.36

RDC Debt Service (DSR) \$240,000.00

A list of unclaimed warrants for checks issued in 2018 but never cashed was presented. A total of eighteen corporate checks and eight utility checks have been receipted back into their respective funds.

Old Business-

None

New Business-

Council Appointment to the Merit Board- Councilor Robert Ferguson had another appointee but he had not heard back from them prior to the meeting. Dan McMillan was nominated by Councilor Templin. Councilor Templin made a motion to nominate Dan McMillan, Councilor Day seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of six, with Councilor Lamping abstaining in hopes of waiting to hear who the second nominee is. The motion to approve Dan McMillan as the Council appointee for a four-year term, passes with a vote of six to one, with Councilor Lamping casting the nay vote.

Council Appointment to the Parks Board- Bishop Griggs letter of resignation was submitted by his wife, Barb Hook and read into the record. Jeff Woehler was nominated to the Parks Board by Councilor Robert Ferguson, seconded by Councilor Day and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Police Station Update- RFQ's were due by March 9th, 2021 and a total of four were received before the deadline. Chief Maurice and the Committee feel that Meyer Najem Construction are the best option. This process started in 2017 and the next step would be to verbally continue the process with Meyer Najem Construction. On April 22, 2021, a City Council Workshop is scheduled for a presentation by Meyer Najem Construction for design and Peters Municipal Consulting for finance options. Public is invited to attend, public comment will be allowed, but no vote will be taken. Meyer Najem will not require any upfront costs from the City, which is different than the other RFQ's that were received.

Councilors Robert Ferguson, Day, and Templin discussed their views as being part of the Committee and how they came to choose Meyer Najem Construction. Councilor Robert Ferguson made a motion to move forward with Meyer Najem Construction, Councilor Day seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Comments-

Mayor Buckley- Update on the Citizens Energy bill for the treatment of wastewater and the increased costs. A list of all city events was included in the Councilors packets. Letter from IDEM regarding the property and cleanup for 118 Main Street. The Annual MS4 report was submitted to IDEM by Wessler. In the packet is an invoice from AES (IPL), which is the

first of three invoices to replace all the streetlights with LED. Lastly, there is an ordinance regarding permit fees that should be addressed by the council later this year. On April 13th at 6:30 Local 416 will be hosting an informational meeting at the Hornet Park Community Center regarding the BGF/IFD fire services contract.

Councilor Harrison – Thanks for coming. Congratulations to Basketball team.

Councilor Day – Thanks for coming. Congrats to Jeff on the Parks Board and Dan on the Merit Board.

Councilor Lamping- Thanks for coming and congrats to Mr. Woehler. April 22nd is Earth day and April is National Poetry Month.

Councilor Hall- Apologies to a citizen for not being informed about the State of the City address. Street sweeping starts soon, so be sure to move vehicles so they can do a good job. Thanks to the citizens that spoke with honesty and transparency. Councilor Hall wishes we all had that.

Councilor Kara Ferguson- Nothing to add.

Councilor Templin- BG baseball opening was great and named in honor of Jim Hensley. The BGD has served out of the old building for years and it is time to build a new one. Other communities are building these facilities and we deserve to have something nice that will last for years. The fire department belongs to the Community and the firefighters need to talk to the community. Congratulations to Dan on being appointed to the Fire Merit Board. Congrats also to Jeff Woehler.

Councilor Robert Ferguson- Shred day is coming up and is free to the public. Thanks for coming out and speaking. I support public comment and feel people have the right to speak without being interrupted. Kudos to the BG police department for all their work behind the scenes.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Lamping moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Harrison seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Dennis B. Buckley, Mayor

James W. Coffman, Clerk–Treasurer