

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, May 3, 2021

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

Roll Call-

Present: City Council Members Dave Harrison, Kara Ferguson, Kevin Day, Elizabeth Lamping, and Gary Hall were present. President Pro-Tem Robert Ferguson phoned into the meeting. Also, present, 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.

Special Presentations-

**Moment of Silence-** Gene Brown, Tom Carson, and Samaria Blackwell

**American Red Cross Recognition-** BGPD presented to Officer Shipley for his life saving actions in June 2020.

**Councilor Gary Hall-** Announced he will be stepping down from his City Council position to focus on his health.

Approval of Minutes-

**April 5, 2021-** Councilor Day made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Harrison seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of six to zero.

Public Comments-

**Dave Harrison-** My wife drives a school bus. The BGPD has been following busses in order to catch those that run the stop arms. He appreciates them going out to catch these people.

Committee Reports-

**Police Station Update-** Not much to update. We are on track and moving forward. Meeting with landowners to help lock down a location.

**ABC –** None

**RDC-** Met and discussed Main Street improvements. Workshop is scheduled for May 22 and regular meeting scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Compliance-** Report is in the packet.

**Greenscape-** No meeting.

**Financial Report-** Clerk Treasurer, James W. Coffman

Current bank balances are listed below-

City Corporation \$1,838,509.08

Utilities \$1,657,445.04

Criminal Investigation Fund (CIF) \$34,318.54

RDC General \$342,318.54

RDC Debt Service (DSR) \$240,000.00

A letter regarding the sewer SRF account and how the City is now compliant with its deposits was read into the record. An update was also provided for the account balances of the General Fund and the Sewer account.

Public Comment-

**Leona Shumate-** Rodney Court- Spoke in opposition of the City Ordinance requiring vehicles to be moved every three days.

Old Business-

None

New Business-

**Main Street Parking-** Mayor Buckley stated that Moms Restaurant located at 510 Main Street has requested outdoor table space and the elimination of one parking space. O’Gara’s Irish Pub located at 522 Main Street has also requested outdoor table space, which would require the elimination of two parking spaces on Main Street. Mom’s representatives spoke in support of this and the benefit this would have for their business. They do not want the tree removed. A drawing and insurance papers were presented to the Clerk Treasurer. Concerns raised by others include business owners taking spaces and not moving throughout the day, a lack of enforcement for the two-hour limit, and other business complaints for the lack of adequate parking along Main Street. The possibility of sharing dining spaces was also discussed.

Kelsey Behl, resident, employee of Mader Design, and Greenscape Commission member spoke regarding greenspace and parking. She spoke about the importance of saving the trees and the Greenscape. Behl works with these issues all the time and referenced the 2019 Main Street Revitalization Plan and the perception of distance and parking. She counted the spaces around Main Street and provided a diagram showing what was available. One parking space would yield about 250 square feet of table space. She would be willing to help come up with solutions to please everyone, while keeping safety in mind. Mayor would like suggestions from the Council on how to proceed and doesn’t want to arbitrarily remove parking spaces. No vote taken but will be discussed again.

**Post Office Request for Parking-** Local USPS Postmaster Michelle Rockey has raised some concerns about parking along the side of the Post Office near the drop box. Councilor Hall was asked to investigate the options and concerns. Councilor Hall spoke with surrounding businesses and had some great conversations and discussed concerns. Councilor Hall asked about the possibility of moving the drop off box to their parking lot. Postmaster Rockey is concerned about traffic, congestion, and the elderly citizens trying to maneuver the area. She is open to suggestions and will look into the other options and will be in touch. If the Council decides to eliminate parking, that would have to take place by ordinance.

**Wastewater Treatment Bill Update-** The most recent wastewater treatment bill was presented by Clerk Treasurer Coffman, who also discussed the rate increases and how much they have increased since last year. No vote taken, just information was provided.

**2021 Paving Schedule-** The Community Crossing Grant was not awarded the first round of 2021. The next round will take place in July. Bid packets were opened tonight at the BOW meeting and the bid award will be announced at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**2021 OCRA Grant Update-** Pre bid meeting scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, with bids due by May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The bid will be awarded at the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Comments-

**Mayor Buckley-** The DNR has certified the Parks new five-year plan. A local establishment on Main Street is under new ownership and goes before the ABC on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilor Harrison –** Thanks for coming and thanks to the Police for their hard work. Wanted to clear up incorrect statements brought up by Dave Copenhaver at the last meeting regarding St. Francis, dispatch, and Milestone.

**Councilor Kara Ferguson-** Nothing to add.

**Councilor Robert Ferguson-** Thank you to Officer Shipley for saving those residents. Asked if we could get an estimate on how many gallons of wastewater would be saved after the sewer work is completed later this year.

**Councilor Day –** Thanks for coming. Gary, I wish you well and will be praying for you. You have done great for your constituents.

**Councilor Lamping-** Thanks for coming. Going Green in the Grove is this Saturday. There will be free trees available and they are open for volunteers. Mr. Hall, I wish you well.

**Councilor Hall-** Thank you!

**Mayor Buckley-** There was a fire at the Amtrak facility, and it was deliberately set. Letters were sent to Congress requesting an FBI investigation.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Day moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Harrison seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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Dennis B. Buckley, Mayor

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James W. Coffman, Clerk–Treasurer