

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 5, 2022

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

Roll Call-

City Councilors Buddy Templin, 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. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Invocation was presented.

Moment of Silence was observed.

Special Presentations-

Oath of Office- BGPD- Officer Bryant

ARPA Check Presentation, Girls Softball Association- Council awarded the Beech Grove Girls Softball Association \$50,000.00 from the ARPA Funds.

Public Hearing, Police Station Financing- The second public hearing for the financing of the new Police Station took place. Resident Matthew Kochevar spoke during public comments in support of the project. No one else spoke on the issue.

Councilor Templin made a motion to close the public hearing, Councilor Day seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Sanitary Sewer Presentation- Wessler Engineering- Brent Siebenthal discussed the Beech Grove Sewage System, work that has been one over the last several years, work that needs to be completed to improve the system in the future, Citizens rates to treat wastewater, I&I, and current rates. Financial Advisor Jeff Peters discussed the rates and the need to adjust the rates to stay on track with the rising costs to treat and maintain the system.

Approval of Minutes-

June 6, 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 seven to zero.

Public Comments-

Richard Buzbee – Resident voiced concerns about two properties on N. 18th. Discussions about compliance and what the City can and can't do regarding problem properties took place.

Ron Louzon- Resident voiced concerns about access to the City Park for the annual July 3rd fireworks.

Committee Reports-

Police Station – No update but construction has started!

RDC- President Matthew Kochevar presented the monthly RDC report.

Financial Report- Clerk Treasurer, James W. Coffman- Copies of recent ARPA invoices were attached. Also attached to this report was a copy of Form 22 spring tax disbursements.

Current bank balances are listed below-

City Corporation \$6,747,406.74

ARPA Fund- \$585,031.24

Utilities \$2,118,467.45

Criminal Investigation Fund (CIF) \$336,540.99

RDC General \$1,001,249.40

Old Business-

None

New Business-

Resolution #7, 2022 Police Station Funding – This Resolution approves the building, tax rates, lease, and funding for the new Police Station. The police station project, financing, and tax rates were discussed by Municipal Advisor Jeff Peters. Councilor Templin made a motion to approve Resolution #7, 2022, Councilor Day seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

General Ordinance #5, 2022 Environmental Donation Fund- 1st Reading- General Ordinance #5, 2022 is an ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Beech Grove, Indiana, establishing an Environmental Donation Fund #617 in the Beech Grove Sewage Works Utility. As part of the Recycling program with Rays, the City receives a percentage back from Rays every six months. The recent financial audit recommended a separate fund be created to better track the funds received from Rays. Councilor Robert Ferguson made a motion to approve General Ordinance #5, 2022 on first reading only, Councilor Kara Ferguson seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

General Ordinance #6, 2022 Purchasing Goods and Services- 1st Reading- General Ordinance #6, 2022 is an ordinance that amends Chapter 35 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Beech Grove concerning the dollar amount a Purchasing Agency must establish when purchasing goods and services through public bidding. The recent financial audit recommended this process be approved with a City Ordinance that outlines what process the City uses when making purchases. Discussions took place about changing the \$10,000.00 back to the \$25,000.00 to make it easier for the Mayor or Purchasing Agent to purchase goods or services for the City. After discussions with the Council Members, five out of seven councilors agreed to read the Ordinance into record replacing the \$10,000.00 with \$25,000.00. Clerk Treasurer Coffman read Ordinance #6, 2022 into the record. Councilor Templin made a motion to approve General Ordinance #6, 2022 on first reading only, Councilor Lamping seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote of five to two. Councilors Robert Ferguson and Kevin Day voted against the ordinance.

SBOA Report, President Pro Tem- Councilor Robert Ferguson explained the audit, reasoning it was requested, and the outcome. The audit covered 2018 through 2021, which included Clerk Treasurer Dan McMillan and Clerk Treasurer James Coffman. Overall, the audit was a good audit, no misuse of funds and nothing irregular was found. The audit

report provided some suggestions on cleaning up a few things, which included work on internal controls. Clerk Treasurer Coffman discussed the experience and thanked all those that helped get the audit completed over the last two months. There are plans to implement the audit recommendations from the SBOA over the next couple of months. Copies of the audit reports were emailed to all Council Members and placed on the City website.

Comments-

Councilor Kara Ferguson- Life Bridge will be offering a free backpack and school supply giveaway on July 16th!

Councilor Matkins – Police Station progress is good but feels we have missed out on some good weather and more progress could have been made. Thank you to Mr. Buzbee for coming out and sharing the frustration on these properties. Our hands are tied but would like to see some changes in ordinances to help. Thanks to all for coming out.

Councilor Lamping- Thank you to Mr. Buzbee for coming out. Work will be done with Compliance to see what can be done to get the problems addressed.

Councilor Robert Ferguson- Thank you Mr. Buzbee. We always have good conversations and hopefully we can get some resolutions. Congratulations to Officer Bryant. The support is great to see and that is needed in this line of work. Great to see the help for the girls' softball. We have done a lot for the Little League, so it is good to see help for the softball as well. Also, let the record show that Councilors Kara Ferguson and Robert Ferguson don't always vote the same way!

Councilor Harrison- Thank you Mr. Buzbee. Councilor Templin and he have a neighbor that doesn't take care of their property either, which makes no sense to him.

Councilor Day- Thank you for coming. The July 3rd fireworks were top notch. The next morning you couldn't tell anything happened. The City looked great.

Councilor Templin – No comment.

Mayor Buckley- Peace Walk will take place on July 30th at Sarah T. Bolton Park at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Harrison moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Matkins seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Dennis B. Buckley, Mayor

James W. Coffman, Clerk–Treasurer