

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, August 2, 2021

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

Roll Call-

Present: City Council Members Dave Harrison, Buddy Templin, Kevin Day, President Pro-Tem Robert Ferguson, Elizabeth Lamping, Kara Ferguson, and Ryan Matkins 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.

Special Presentations-

**Moment of Silence-** Linda Harris

**Beech Grove Promoters Club, ARPA-** Promoters Club Secretary Tim Latimer explained what the nonprofit does.

**Franciscan Trail Update-** An update on the Franciscan Trail was provided.

**Plat Petition, Amtrak Industrial Park-** A public hearing on dividing the current seven parcels into three parcels to better suit planned develop of the 85-acre site for Emerson Avenue LLC. There were no public comments, but a question was asked about the Indianapolis line and traffic on Emerson. Councilor Lamping made a motion to approve the plat division, Councilor Day seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes-

**July 6, 2021-** Councilor Dave Harrison made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Kara Ferguson seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments-

**Dave Grenoble-** Rejects resolution on Fire Services Agreement. The City can not approve a contract for twenty years. The current assessed value has increased but that will soon drop due to the impending evictions. Assessed value must increase drastically over the next years to cover the planned increase in the agreement.

**Dan McMillan-** Opposes the Fire Services Agreement. It is a one-sided contract and would be the second worst decision after getting rid of dispatch. We lost our dispatch and our library without a twenty-year contract. We need more police and not more firemen. Councilor Robert Ferguson asked about tax line item for the library and townships and how that is totally different than what is being done with the fire department in Beech Grove.

**Dennis Buckley-** Supports the Fire Services Agreement as a local resident. It will enhance our Police Department by allowing the base salary to be raised, more officers, and a new police station.

Committee Reports-

**Police Station Update-** Good news on Phase II and a good appraisal on the main property, with a purchase agreement coming soon. National Night out is this week so be sure to come out. The Department is currently in a hiring process with just 21 applicants for four spots.

**ABC –** Two renewals.

**RDC-** None.

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

**Greenscape-** No meeting.

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

Current bank balances are listed below-

City Corporation \$6,126,567.86

ARPA Fund- \$1,686,182.18

Utilities \$1,667,744.52

Criminal Investigation Fund (CIF) \$83,954.17

RDC General \$555,483.37

RDC Debt Service (DSR) \$240,000.00

Old Business-

**General Ordinance #5, 2021, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading-** General Ordinance #5, 2021 is an ordinance that adds a new Federal Holiday to the City of Beech Grove's Personnel Manual. June 19<sup>th</sup> of each year is now proclaimed as Juneteenth and a Federal Holiday as President Biden recently signed legislation into law. Councilor Day made a motion to approve General Ordinance #5, 2021 on third reading, Councilor Robert Ferguson seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

New Business-

**Resolution #5, 2021/Interlocal Agreement, IFD/BGFD-** Resolution #5, 2021 adopts an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Beech Grove and the consolidated City of Indianapolis for fire prevention and protection services. This agreement is up for a vote after the Council voted earlier this year to enter into an agreement.

**IFD Chief Malone-** Spoke in support of this agreement, explained the tax rates and how it varies for townships vs. cities and towns, and the current mutual aid agreement that is in place.

**City Attorney Craig Wiley-** Thanked Chief Cheshire and Jim Pierce. The City of Beech Grove is an independent city and has strived to maintain that. This agreement has been worked on for ten months and is far from a one-sided agreement. The Interlocal Agreement will enhance fire services in Beech Grove while investing in our Police Department. If approved this evening, the Agreement will be heard by the Indianapolis City County Council.

**Councilor Buddy Templin-** Discussed what had changed from the original amount and contract. Disputes will go to mediation. Asked questions about assessed value and how we can plan for what happens in the years to come. Are these numbers set in stone? I respect both departments. Things have changed over the years and our departments were designed to take care of our size city. Our departments go to Indianapolis quite often based on how calls are dispatched. The people of Beech Grove will be paying the budget amount to take runs outside of Beech Grove. Asked whether this a Board of Works issue or a City Council issue? The Mayor said he is being transparent and wants the Council's opinion to be heard.

**Councilor Kevin Day-** Questioned why this must be a twenty-year contract. A five-year contract is more justifiable than a twenty-year contract.

**Councilor Robert Ferguson-** The cost we are agreeing to pay is what it costs to run one fire house for IFD. The City has approximately \$12 million in assets that must be replaced over the next ten years.

**Clerk Treasurer Coffman read Resolution #5, 2021 into the record.** Councilor Robert Ferguson made a motion to approve Resolution #5, 2021, Councilor Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Councilors Kara Ferguson, Ryan Matkins, Elizabeth Lamping, Robert Ferguson, and Dave Harrison voted yes. Councilors Buddy Templin and Kevin Day voted no.

Resolution #5, 2021 passes with a vote of five to two.

**Nepotism Certificate, Conflict of Interest, Contract Certification, Ryan Matkins-** Councilor Robert Ferguson made a motion to approve the forms submitted by Councilor Matkins, Councilor Dave Harrison seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Comments-

**Councilor Templin-** Thanks to the Promoters Club, let's try to help them if we can.

**Councilor Day –** No comment.

**Councilor Dave Harrison-** Thanks for coming. Linda Harris was a great person for the city and her death was very unexpected.

**Councilor Robert Ferguson-** Thank you to Crossroads for the update on the Franciscan Trail. The Police Department just received a \$10,000 grant for new bikes with help from the Drug Free Coalition. There are many nonprofits working hard to help our City. Prayers for Linda Gray who is in the hospital with Covid.

**Councilor Lamping-** Work as a team and move forward. Get vaccinated and help prevent sickness.

**Councilor Matkins-** Thanks for coming. There were some hard topics tonight. Looking at the numbers, this was a no brainer. Hopeful we can help the Promoters Club.

**Councilor Kara Ferguson-** Thank you to our peers. As City Councilors, we make decisions, we have difficult conversations and we still respect each other. We come together for our City.

**Mayor Buckley-** On August 12, the BOW will meet to discuss and approve financing on the Police Station. The next Council meeting is September 7<sup>th</sup>, but the need to call a special meeting with the RDC may need to be made.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Dave Harrison moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Lamping seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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Dennis B. Buckley, Mayor

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James W. Coffman, Clerk–Treasurer