

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 7, 2022

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

Roll Call-

City Councilors Buddy Templin, Kevin Day, Dave Harrison, 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-

Resolution #10, 2022- RDC (Safeway/DQ) TIF Area- This Resolution approves Resolution #9, 2022 of the RDC which removes the old Safeway and Dairy Queen from the TIF District. The plan is to have the buildings demolished prior to the end of 2022. RDC President Matthew Kochevar, Financial Advisor Jeff Peters, and Attorney Brian Statz all spoke on the Resolution. Councilor Day made a motion to approve Resolution #10, 2022, Councilor Harrison seconded the motion which was approved by a unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Resolution #11, 2022, OCRA Stormwater Funding- A public hearing was held as the City will be applying for a \$600,000.00 OCRA grant for work on and around McFarland Creek. Resident Matthew Kochevar spoke in support of the project Kasey Marley from Wessler explained the project plans. Councilor Lamping made a motion to approve Resolution #11, 2022, Councilor Day seconded the motion which was approved by a unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

American Rescue Plan Update-

A request was made to use ARPA funds to purchase and install security cameras at the EMS Station for a cost of \$12,775.00 from Hustontech and to install security lighting by GEMCO with a cost of \$11,700.00. Councilor Lamping made a motion to approve using ARPA funds for cameras and lighting at the EMS Station, Councilor Harrison seconded the motion, which was approved by a unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Beech Grove Band Boosters presented several funding requests to the City Council which included uniforms, percussion carts, trailer wraps, and drum major stands for a total request of \$54,090.00. Councilor Day made a motion to approve funding the Beech Grove Band Boosters with \$60,000.00 of ARPA funds, Councilor Matkins seconded the motion which was approved by a unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Approval of Minutes-

October 17, 2022- Councilor Harrison made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Matkins seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Public Comments-

Matthew Kochevar- Election Day is tomorrow, be sure to go vote!

Diana Hendricks- Beech Grove Drug Free Coalition was granted ARPA funding earlier this year and they are planning on purchasing new white boards with the funds. A discussion about listing how they were funded was discussed.

Committee Reports-

RDC- Report is in the packet.

Financial Report- Clerk Treasurer, James W. Coffman- Copies of recent ARPA invoices were attached for review along with an updated EXCEL spreadsheet showing all activity within the ARPA fund.

Current bank balances are listed below-

City Corporation \$6,349,421.01

ARPA Fund- \$1,896,227.61

Utilities \$2,167,177.17

Criminal Investigation Fund (CIF) \$1,056,368.13

RDC General \$799,386.41

Old Business-

General Ordinance #8, 2022 Garage/Yard Sales- 2nd Reading- General Ordinance #8, 2022 is an ordinance that amends Chapter 114 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Beech Grove concerning garage/yard sales. Residents recently voiced concerns about the limit of garage sales the current City ordinance has in place. This ordinance will increase the frequency of garage sales a residence can have each year. Councilor Day made a motion to read General Ordinance #8, 2022 by title only, Councilor Harrison seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero. Clerk Treasurer Coffman read General Ordinance #8, 2022 into the record by title only. Councilor Day made a motion to approve General Ordinance #8, 2022 on second reading only, Councilor Robert Ferguson seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote of seven to zero.

General Ordinance #9, 2022 Rainy Day Fund/Interest- 2nd Reading- General Ordinance #9, 2022 is an ordinance that amends Chapter 38 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Beech Grove concerning city finance and the Rainy-Day Fund. Recent economic events have drastically increased the interest rates for government investing accounts. Clerk Treasurer Coffman has been in conversation with Regions, the SBOA, and TrustIndiana about government interest accounts. Amending the current Rainy-Day fund ordinance will allow the Clerk Treasurer to receipt interest received into the Rainy-Day Fund. Councilor Robert Ferguson made a motion to read General Ordinance #9, 2022 by title only, Councilor Lamping seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero. Clerk Treasurer Coffman read Ordinance #9, 2022 into the record by title only. Councilor Lamping made a motion to approve General Ordinance #9, 2022 on second reading only, Councilor Kara Ferguson seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote of seven to zero.

General Ordinance #10, 2022 Capital Assets- 2nd Reading- General Ordinance #10, 2022 is an ordinance that creates new Chapter 41, Capital Asset Capitalization, and Inventory Policy, into the Code of Ordinances for the City of Beech Grove. The SBOA has recently changed how municipalities track and report capital assets on the annual report. This

policy will add a depreciation schedule, set the life of assets by category, and set a capital assets threshold of \$20,000. Councilor Day made a motion to read Ordinance #10, 2022 by title only, Councilor Harrison seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero. Clerk Treasurer Coffman read Ordinance #10, 2022 into the record by title only. Councilor Lamping made a motion to approve General Ordinance #10, 2022 on second reading only, Councilor Robert Ferguson seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote of seven to zero.

New Business-

General Ordinance #13, 2022- Sewer Rates, 1st Reading- General Ordinance #13, 2022 amends the sewer rates for the City of Beech Grove Sewer Utility over the next three years. Citizens Energy continues to increase the cost of treating wastewater and will do so for the next several years. Mayor Buckley discussed several items, including proposed rates, the cost of treatment, improvements that have been made to the sewer system, and reducing amount of money the sewer provides to the general fund. Clerk Treasurer Coffman discussed what has been paid to Citizens Energy this year compared to previous years and how it will continue to increase. Through November of 2022, the City has spent \$249,852.71 more in treatment costs compared to 2021 and there will be one more invoice to be paid. Clerk Treasurer Coffman read the full ordinance into the record. Councilor Harrison made a motion to approve General Ordinance #13, 2022 on 1st reading only, Councilor Robert Ferguson seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote of five to two. Councilors Templin and Day voted against the ordinance.

Comments-

Councilor Kara Ferguson– The Christmas Parade on Main Street will take place on Sunday, November 27th at 2:00 with Santa’s House set up at 102 Main Street, across from the new police station.

Councilor Matkins –Shop Small Business Saturday is coming up! Thank you to everyone that came out today.

Councilor Lamping- November is Native American Heritage month! This Saturday will be a free paper shredding and recycling event behind City Hall from 9:00 to noon.

Councilor Robert Ferguson- Thanks for coming tonight. I am happy we were able to help the band, performing arts, and the high school in our City.

Councilor Harrison- It was very important that we help the band like we did. It is never easy to raise rates, but it is something that needs to be done for the City to remain solvent.

Councilor Day- Thanks for coming and thanks to those watching. I am glad we could help the band. On Friday, November 11th, there will be a Veterans Day Memorial on the steps of City Hall.

Councilor Templin- I voted no to increase the sewer rates because I told people I would not vote to increase them, even if they don’t take effect until next year. There is no question about things needing to be increased. There is other money there, we have been blessed and now is not the time to do so; however, I do understand why those did vote yes to.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Harrison moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Lamping seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Dennis B. Buckley, Mayor

James W. Coffman, Clerk–Treasurer