

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 5, 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-

ARPA Funding- Holy Name- Withdrawn

ARPA Funding- HPCC Security Cameras- Two quotes for security cameras at the HPCC were presented. One from Hustontech for \$27,300.00 and one from Central IN Security for \$13,037.60. Discussion on the quotes and potential quotes from our IT vendor took place. Councilor Templin made a motion to table the decision, Councilor Day seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Wreath Presentation- Beautify Beech Grove- Jim Coffman and Barbara Bell, on behalf local nonprofit Beautify Beech Grove, presented new wreaths for Main Street that were purchased and donated to the City of Beech Grove. Thanks to the DPW for putting up and taking them down!

ARPA Check Presentation, BGHS Band Boosters- As approved by Council, a \$60,000.00 check was presented to the Band Boosters for some much-needed improvements.

BGPD, Project Aware- Tom Hurrle discussed the new program Project Aware for the BGPD.

ARPA Funding- Main Street Signs- (Presented after the Financial Report). Jim Coffman and Ben Easley presented Main Street wayfinding signs to the Council for potential ARPA funding. Three signs would be manufactured by Business Art Designs and installed along Main Street for a total cost of \$9,849.00. Councilor Robert Ferguson made a motion to fund the signs with ARPA Funds, Councilor Day seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Committee Reports-

RDC- Matthew Kochevar provided a report.

Financial Report- Clerk Treasurer, James W. Coffman- The 1782 Notice was attached for review. Copies of recent ARPA invoices were also attached for review along with an updated EXCEL spreadsheet showing all activity within the ARPA fund.

Current bank balances are listed below-

City Corporation \$6,164,207.34

ARPA Fund- \$1,332,311.97

Utilities \$1,755,434.29

Criminal Investigation Fund (CIF) \$1,033,359.30

RDC General \$799,386.41

Discussions of the balances took place after the report was read into the record.

Approval of Minutes-

November 7, 2022- Councilor Day made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Robert Ferguson seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero.

Public Comments-

Pam Stallard- Beech Grove resident spoke in opposition to the proposed sewer rate increases.

Dan McMillan- Beech Grove resident spoke in opposition to the proposed sewer rate increases. Discussed sewer balances while in office and does not recall ever having a sewer balance more than \$500,000.00.

Old Business-

General Ordinance #8, 2022 Garage/Yard Sales- 3rd 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. This ordinance will increase the frequency of garage sales a residence can have each year. Clerk Treasurer Coffman read General Ordinance #8, 2022 into the record. Councilor Day made a motion to approve General Ordinance #8, 2022 on third reading, Councilor Lamping seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote of seven to zero.

General Ordinance #9, 2022 Rainy Day Fund/Interest- 3rd 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. Amending the current Rainy-Day fund ordinance will allow the Clerk Treasurer to receipt interest received into the Rainy-Day Fund. Councilor Templin made a motion to read General Ordinance #9, 2022 by title only, Councilor Day 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 Matkins made a motion to approve General Ordinance #9, 2022 on third reading, 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. Clerk Treasurer Coffman read Ordinance #10, 2022 into the record. Councilor Robert Ferguson made a motion to approve General Ordinance #10, 2022 on third reading, Councilor Harrison seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote of seven to zero.

General Ordinance #13, 2022- Sewer Rates, 2nd 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. Councilor Templin made a motion to read General Ordinance #13, 2022 by title only, Councilor Day seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote of seven to zero. Clerk Treasurer Coffman read Ordinance #13, 2022 into the record by title only. Discussions on payment assistance, sewer balances, proposed Citizens treatment rates, work that has been done and more took place. Councilor Harrison made a motion to approve General Ordinance #13, 2022 on 2nd reading only, Councilor Robert Ferguson seconded the motion, which failed by voice vote of four to three. Councilors Templin, Day, Lamping, and Matkins voted against the ordinance, while Councilors Harrison, Robert Ferguson, and Kara Ferguson voted in favor of the ordinance.

General Ordinance #13, 2022- Sewer Rates, 3rd Reading- Ordinance failed on second reading.

New Business-

None

Comments-

Councilor Kara Ferguson– No comment.

Councilor Matkins – Sewer rates need to increase, it’s going to happen, even when budgets are tight. There may be money in the fund, but we don’t want that to go negative. There is some ARPA money left, maybe set up an umbrella fund to help. Thanks for coming.

Councilor Lamping- I think we all understand we are in a situation where rates will need to go up but not tonight. We can get together for some common ground and do this as a group. We have done a lot together. December is universal human rights month as well as HIV/Aids awareness month.

Councilor Robert Ferguson- Thanks for coming tonight. Thanks to Dan and Pam for speaking, I always welcome public comments. Thanks to Officer Hurrle for the new initiative. Thanks to the Council for having healthy debates. Sewer increases may not have to happen today but is something we will have to explore.

Councilor Harrison- With the sewer, as a business owner, if your rates are increased and you don’t increase rates to your own customers, you’re a fool. We have received more grants and done more work in the last few years and the rates will have to increase. Provided a boys’ basketball update.

Councilor Day- Thanks for coming. Good to see Dan and Pam back at the meetings. Merry Christmas see you next year!

Councilor Templin- Thank you to Next Stop, Beech Grove and Beautify Beech Grove for what is done for the City. Thanks to the Police Department for another home run! Job well done.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Robert Ferguson moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Harrison seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Dennis B. Buckley, Mayor

James W. Coffman, Clerk–Treasurer