

**BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 2015**

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

ROLL CALL: Present: City Council Members; John Jennings, Dave Harrison, Anthony Davidson, Ed Bell, Mary Stewart and Kathy Coates. Also present were Mayor, Dennis Buckley, Clerk Treasurer, Dan McMillan, and City Attorney, Craig Wiley. Absent, Councilor Dave Mobley.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

BGHS Boys Swim Team Recognition:

The team won the Indiana Crossroads Conference Championship. On behalf of the City of Beech Grove, Mayor Buckley and Councilor Jennings recognized the team for their accomplishments. The coach introduced the each swimmer that was present and acknowledged their accomplishments. It is the largest team he has ever coached. The coach noted that 14 of the 28 swimmers were present this evening.

Bri Markland- was recognized for her 2015 Indiana Crossroads Conference Championship in the 100M breaststroke. Her time was 1:21:58. The coach acknowledged Bri for her leadership skills in and out of the water and expressed what a source of pride she has been for the school and the community.

BGHS Wrestling Recognition:

Cody Conway- is 106 pound weight class, 2015 Indiana Crossroads Conference Champion. The coach also recognized him as an excellent student and great athlete.

Evan Smiley- is 125 pound weight class, 2015 Indiana Crossroads Conference Champion. The coach also recognized him as an excellent student and great athlete.

Ethan Smiley- is 113 pound weight class, 2015 Indiana Crossroads Conference Champion. The coach also recognized him as an excellent student and great athlete.

Eagle Scout Recognition:

Michael Trebing was recognized for his work on the landscaping in front of City Hall to earn his Eagle Scout Badge. He also donated the remaining funds he had left to the parks department. An official ceremony will be held at city hall in the near future. Councilor Jennings read the Certificate of Appreciation.

DPW – Recycling

Brad Meriwether, DPW Director, gave a brief description of recycling. He explained that Beech Grove handled approximately 5,077 tons of trash in 2014 and we take about 90% of that to Covanta Energy. Covanta converts the trash into steam and then sells it to Citizen's; which it is then used to heat a portion of downtown Indianapolis. Covanta back in the early 2000's had frozen their rates, but in 2010 and they had notified customers that they were going to begin raising rates and they have done that consistently since 2010 at a rate of about 70 cent per ton, per year, consequently we now pay \$31.36 per ton. In 2014 the city spent approximately \$145, 536.00 with Covanta. The other place the City uses occasionally is Southside Landfill, but is more expensive and not as environmentally friendly. In 2014 the city spent approximately \$161,000.00 to dump trash. Recycling is not only environmentally friendly, but will save the City money. The City's goal for participation in the recycling program will be 40% and that would ultimately save the City approximately \$65,000.00 per year.

Brad recognizes that it will take time to build up to that. He cited the fact that the Town of Speedway is viewed as a pioneer in recycling because they have been doing it since the 70's. They have the model program in central Indiana. Brad also cited the improvements DPW has seen over the past few years. He believes they're operating more efficiently now than before and the recycling program would just be another component to that.

Mayor Ballard's Liaison- *presented by Kelly Foulk*

She congratulated Beech Grove on our "A rated" school system it is hard to achieve that. Mayor Ballard has announced that the 2015 IMPD Recruiting Class has been increased to 115 for this year. Mayor Ballard is also proposing a Mandatory Minimum 20 Year Sentence for any crime involving firearms. Statistics show that in 2014-48 homicides wouldn't have occurred if this sentencing was in place because the offenders would have still been in jail.

Tax season- Indy Free Tax Preparation is a volunteer income tax assistance offered by the IRS. Information is available on the city's website. Mayor Buckley asked what the Indianapolis City Council did with the Stormwater Fee. Nothing has been decided yet, but the assumption is that a storm water adjustment will appear on the November property tax bill.

READING OF MINUTES AND APPROVAL:

Clerk-Treasurer McMillan presented the January 5th, 2015 minutes to the Council for approval.

Mary Stewart moved to approve the minutes as presented. Anthony Davidson seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Liz Lamping voiced her support on recycling and the importance of it. She wants to see the City of Beech Grove set a good example on the importance of recycling for future generations. Also, it is an opportune time to show the future voters of tomorrow how good government works and to prove to them that their voices can be heard and their opinions count.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Youth Council:

[The Grover](#) is a new bi-weekly newsletter that is coming out and will keep you updated on "All Things Beech Grove High School".

Also, you can now follow Principal Steve Cox on twitter @ [SteveCoxBGHS](#) or an administrator can follow at [BGHShornets](#).

Recently students participated in a youth summit at Pike High School, sponsored by WISH Television. That is available to view on You Tube –it was geared toward modern urban society and there were many questions that were discussed that were very thought provoking.

She also gave a schedule on upcoming sports events.

BG Idol Winners were announced.

In 2015 yearbooks will be all in color.

Students of the Month- Olivia Malone & Sam Ulrey

Deca Business Organization- advanced to the Deca State Competition

The Beech Grove Robotics Team placed 7th out of 55 teams and the will compete again on Saturday, February 14th at Zionsville.

She also reported on the BGHS singers and their accomplishments.

The BGHS Video Class/Club will be competing Friday, February 7th, in the Indiana Association of Schools Broadcasters

Greenscape: the report is included in the council packet.

RDC- *presented by Don Webb*

Their meeting was January 15th and re-elected the same officers. Donald reported that the RDC paid for paving some city streets in the amount of \$220,000.00. Crossroads Engineers were present to discuss the possibility of applying for a Greenway Grant in May. The Commission approved to spend in 2015 \$134,000 for the new sidewalks that will be going in along Churchman Avenue east of the high school. The RDC will also be completing some other projects such as addressing the issues with the old tennis courts, new carpet and bathroom at Hornet Park and fix the parking lot. There is nothing new to report on St. Francis.

Public Safety: Report included in the council packet.

ABC: *presented by Jim Brooks*

They had two applicants this month. Walmart, which was approved and the DJ Taps, they are working to correct variance/zoning issues.

Financial Report- this is the Annual Financial Report – *presented by Clerk-Treasurer Dan McMillan*

He reported that he included with the report the information on the [Tax Anticipation Warrant](#).

Our City Website; which was built by a few volunteers and myself continues to grow and is packed full of information. It is the promise I made to the Citizens of Beech Grove to provide them with open, honest government. Our website volunteers continue to volunteer their services and we thank them for their service to our community. To date the website has cost the taxpayers zero dollars because it is staffed by volunteers and a local business continues to pay the annual fees. The website has received praise from many Mayor's and Clerk Treasurer's across the state as well as Auditors from the State Board of Accounts.

The Clerk-Treasurer's office continues to fill public information requests without bias or discrimination and in accordance with the law.

We finished 2014 with a balance in our corporate bank account of \$2,703,902.38. I only mention this because it is approximately 2.5 million more than when I took office on January 1, 2012.

The Main Street Project is now completely paid off.

We obtained a lease/purchase agreement for the purchase of a Skid Steer in 2014. The interest rate is 2.38% and we financed it for 5 years. All our lease/purchase agreements on equipment are financed for 5 years.

We do have a \$2 million dollar bond that was financed for a period of 10 years.

We have 2 bonds from the 2004 and 2005 that were financed for 20 years each and we continue to pay on those. The SRF was for approximately 1.8 million and I believe the 2005A was originally 1.5, but both were financed for 20 years.

I am looking into the advantages or disadvantages of refinancing both through the Indiana Bond Bank, but my thoughts are-the majority of interest has been paid and we are paying toward the principal, so I am not certain it will be advantageous for us to refinance.

The RDC continues to pay on their 2005 and 2007 bonds.

In 2014 they received property tax revenue from St. Francis/Franciscan Alliance in the amount of approximately \$670,000.00. That revenue is included in their bank balances and I believe that revenue is still under appeal, so it should not be spent until those appeals have been exhausted.

The bank fees for the corporate account in 2011-2012 were sometimes running over \$700.00 per month. After re-negotiation we now pay a total of \$50 to \$60 in fees per month and that fee includes all the bank accounts.

In 2012 the TAW was approximately \$2.4 million and the 2015 TAW is under \$1.8 million, so we are going in the right direction with that.

The Annual Report for 2014 has been completed and entered on the Indiana Gateway and the City Website.

We now have a Capital Assets inventory that is kept updated and is included on the Gateway and the City Website.

The State Board of Accounts audit was the best the City has received in years.

We have invested approximately 1.5 million dollars in paving over the last 3 years (this does not include the Main Street Project) and approximately \$500,000.00 in sewer projects.

In 2014 we invested approximately \$125,000.00 in the Safe Sidewalk Grant and approximately \$40,000.00 in the Sign Grant.

Brad Meriwether, DPW Director applied for and received a Fema Salt Grant in the amount of \$29,695.79. It came to my attention that there was a federal reimbursement program for ambulance service, so with the assistance of many we

applied for the reimbursement retro to 2011 and we received \$82,861.12 in reimbursements and we will continue to file annually for these reimbursements. We had unfiled sewer liens dating back to 2009 and those are all now current as we filed in excess of 800 releases in 2014.

The 2014 Annual Report has been completed and is available on the Indiana Gateway and the City Website.

All in all, we are in pretty good financial shape and as long as I am Clerk Treasurer, I will do my best to keep it that way. 2014 had its ripples but the Office of the Clerk Treasurer never skipped a beat and we continued to conduct business and complete the tasks at hand in a successful manner. As I have always said, I do not work for the Mayor or the Council, I work for the Citizens of Beech Grove and doing what is best for our City will always be my main objective.

As always, my door is open if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or stop by.

Compliance Division: *presented by Dereck Blice*

Dereck reported that things were slow at the moment due to the weather. Less than a dozen inspections were completed. Compliance spent time reworking their data base and they now have a new data base. They have a GIS map on inspections completed in 2014

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Green scape Commission Appointment: - *presented by Councilor Bell*

Councilor Bell nominated Erin Sheridan and gave a brief description of Erin.

Councilor Jennings moved to approve the appointment of Erin Sheridan to the Greenscape Commission. Councilor Davidson seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

General Ordinance No. 27, 2014

...amends Chapter 105 pursuant to trees and flora

Proposal for Remediation of Tree-Sidewalk Conflicts

Clerk Treasurer McMillan read into the record General Ordinance No. 27, 2014

Councilor Jennings moved to approve the ordinance. Councilor Davidson seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. General Ordinance No. 27, 2014 passed on Third and Final Reading.

General Ordinance No. 28, 2014 (Tabled until March 5th Meeting)

...Amends Title XIII General Offenses

General Ordinance No. 1, 2015

Amends Chapter 36 pursuant to trash pick-up (recycling)

Councilor Bell moved to read by title only. Councilor Jennings seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Clerk –Treasurer McMillan read the ordinance into the record.

Councilor Jennings made a Motion to approve the ordinance on Seconded Reading. Councilor Stewart seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. General Ordinance No.1, 2015 was approved for Second Reading.

General Ordinance No. 2, 2015

Amends Chapter 39 pursuant to the Ordinance Violations Bureau

Councilor Jennings moved to read by title only. Councilor Davidson seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Clerk –Treasurer McMillan read the ordinance into the record.

Councilor Davidson moved to approve the ordinance on Seconded Reading. Councilor Stewart seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. General Ordinance No.2, 2015 was approved for Second Reading.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Appointment to the Beech Grove Library Board:

Councilor Bell stated that he had a letter from Mr. Fennema and he expressed his wishes to continue his service on the Beech Grove Library Board.

Councilor Stewart moved to appoint Butch Fennema to the Library Board. Councilor Jennings seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Council Appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals:

Councilor Bell reported that Dawn Whalen wishes to serve on the BZA.

Councilor Stewart moved to appoint Dawn Whalen to the BZA. Councilor Jennings seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Council Discussion on Main Street & Neighborhood Zoning: - presented by John Neal, Department of Metropolitan Development Division & Planning

The stage they are at is they have a complete draft done and they are vetting it to the Excluded City's, realtors, developers and others. They are working to finalize the details of it.

There are two steps in the approval process:

- 1) Introduction and passage by the Metropolitan Development Commission
- 2) Consideration by the City County Council

They thought they would be ready by now but they are not and they are hoping to have it ready for introduction to the Metropolitan Development Commission in March.

Tamara Tracy gave an overview of *Indy Rezone* at the December Council Meeting and John gave a little more detailed description.

Councilor Bell stated he would like more time for Council to review.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS:

Councilor John Jennings- none

Councilor Dave Harrison- complimented the young lady from the BGHS, she was very informative. After watching the news and seeing and hearing some of the crazy things the youth are doing across the county, it is refreshing to hear from

youth that are really into their school. He also told Councilor Davidson that the Youth Council is the best thing that he has done.

Councilor Anthony Davidson- thanked Councilor Harrison. Thank you to the Beech Grove High School students that came out this evening and thank you to the Eagle Scout. Also, Congratulations to Erin Sheridan and Dawn Whalen for volunteering to serve the City of Beech Grove. Looking forward to baseball season.

Councilor Ed Bell-thank you all for coming. He is going to form a committee to redevelop the employee handbook and he is going to include the employees and department heads. We have some fantastic athletes in Beech Grove from the Middle School to the High School, both boys and girls.

Councilor Mary Stewart- thank you for coming. I would just like to reiterate what these gentleman said tonight and add that we hope to see you all again next month.

Councilor Kathy Coates- everything has been said.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Jennings moved to adjourn. Councilor Stewart seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, March 5th, 2015 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Dennis Buckley, Mayor

Dan McMillan, Clerk–Treasurer

Minutes prepared by: Dan McMillan