

**BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th, 2016 at 7:00pm
2017 SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**

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

ROLL CALL: Present: City Council Members, Bud Templin, Dave Harrison, Jim Brooks, Kevin Day, Ed Bell, Chris Duffer, and Elizabeth Lamping. Also present were, Mayor Dennis Buckley, Clerk Treasurer Dan McMillan and City Attorney Craig Wiley.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting minutes from August 1,2016 were presented to the Council. Councilor Duffer asked that on page 2, under Ron Mote’ comments, curve be corrected to read “curb”. Then under a report given by Ashley Piland the “G’ is missing from Grove. Councilor Brooks moved to approve the minutes with the corrections. Councilor Duffer seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting minutes from September 6,2016 were presented to the Council. Councilor Harrison moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Duffer seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting minutes from September 12,2016 were presented to the Council. Councilor Duffer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Brooks seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pam Stallard -Spoke to the raises for elected officials, most in opposition.
Dan Pavey- Spoke in favor of the raises.
Don Webb-Spoke to the raises, prefers smaller raises for the elected officials.
Susie McMillan- Spoke to the raises in favor.
Kym Quick- Spoke in favor of the raises.
Nathan Rinks- Spoke to concerns in the handling of the budget and salary ordinance.
Rob Cheshire – Spoke to amending the pension base and the salary ordinance.
Michael Maurice – Spoke to concerns of transparency with the budget.
Chief Swartz -Spoke to the concerns of the shortage in the operations budget
Paul Cloyd – Spoke to his support of the police.

OLD BUSINESS:

[General Ordinance No. 22, 2016 – 2017 Salary Ordinance](#)

Councilor Templin asked the Council to amend the ordinance to read 29 hours per week or 58 hours bi-weekly is the maximum for part-time. Councilor Brooks moved to approve. Councilor Harrison seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Templin moved to amend the ordinance for the Bailiff pay to include a line for Bailiff pay to read a minimum of 3 hours at time and a half pay, for the officer's current rate of pay. Councilor Lamping seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Templin moved to read by title only, Councilor Brooks seconded the Motion. The vote was 6- 1 with Councilor Lamping voting no, so the ordinance must be read in its entirety.

Clerk-Treasurer McMillan read the ordinance into the record.

Councilor Duffer moved to amend the Court Clerk to read up to \$1755.08 bi-weekly /\$45,632.08. Councilor Bell seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Clerk-Treasurer McMillan read the ordinance into the record.

Councilor Duffer moved to approve the 2017 Salary Ordinance with the three amendments. Councilor Harrison seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. General Ordinance No.22, 2016, was approved for Second Reading.

Councilor Harrison moved to amend the Pension Base for fire and police to read \$58,413.32 and an additional \$2,000.00 for longevity. Councilor Lamping seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Bell moved to amend the Deputy Clerk yearly salary up to \$37,400.00. Councilor Templin seconded the Motion; which was approved by a 6-1 vote with Councilor Lamping voting no.

Councilor Lamping moved to separate the salary ordinances between the elected/appointed officials and the employees; consequently, creating two separate ordinances. The Motion failed with no second.

Councilor Duffer moved to read by title only, Councilor Templin seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Brooks moved to approve the 2017 Salary Ordinance with the amendments. Councilor Bell seconded the Motion; which was approved by a 5- 2 vote, with Councilor Day and Councilor Lamping voting no. General Ordinance No.22, 2016, was approved for Third and Final Reading.

General Ordinance No. 23, 2016 - 2017 Budget

Clerk Treasurer read the ordinance into the record.

Councilor Duffer moved to approve the 2017 Budget. Councilor Harrison seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. General Ordinance No.23, 2016, was approved for Second Reading.

Clerk Treasurer read the ordinance into the record.

Councilor Brooks moved to approve the 2017 Budget. Councilor Duffer seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. General Ordinance No.23, 2016, was approved for Third and Final Reading.

General Ordinance No. 24, 2016 – Additional Appropriation

Clerk –Treasurer McMillan read the ordinance into the record.

Councilor Bell moved to approve the additional appropriation. Councilor Harrison seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. General Ordinance No. 24, 2016, was approved for Second Reading.

Clerk –Treasurer McMillan read the ordinance into the record.

Councilor Lamping moved to approve the additional appropriation. Councilor Bell seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. General Ordinance No. 24, 2016, was approved for Third and Final Reading.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 13, 2016

...Statement of Objection Appealing Tax Rate

Clerk –Treasurer McMillan read the resolution into the record.

Councilor Brooks moved to approve the resolution. Councilor Bell seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. Resolution on No. 13, 2016, 2016, was approved for Second Reading.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Day – Thanks everybody for coming.

Councilor Duffer – Same thing here, it is a long process. Thank you all for coming.

Councilor Lamping – Well, I ran for office and I asked the citizens of District 1, to vote for me, because I am a public servant. I wanted to give back to the community, not take from the community. I rejected the pay raise, because I do not want to weaken our budget or weaken our budget potential to serve the community as a whole. We're under contractual agreement for the greenway; which is in progress, and we're going to have to ask for additional appropriations next year to meet that contractual agreement. We do have an anticipated utility, sewer raise and I have articles from the Indianapolis Star that the sewer rates went up in August and we will be voting to raise these rates. IPL seeks rate hikes in the Indianapolis Business Journal to clean up the Petersburg plant. The residents that I serve that I asked to vote for me in District 1 are living on the margins, many of them, paycheck to paycheck, I am not going to ask them to give me anymore of their money, so I will find a way to give back, I'll find a way to give back, I promise that.

Councilor Bell – Thank you people for coming tonight. It's a long process. I appreciate all the opinions and concerns, good and bad. That's what makes the process work.

Councilor Harrison- I want to thank everyone for coming. Some of the people that made some comments tonight have left and I really wanted to answer them. A couple comments that were made that I wanted to address was that the Mayor is a part time Mayor, that's about a joke. Maybe Mayor Dilk was a fulltime Mayor, but this Mayor puts in forty plus hours every week and so does the clerk. These two people brought this city back from hell as far as I'm concerned. You can look at it any way you want. Dennis didn't particularly want a raise, but even if he would have vetoed it, I think we would have overrode it. Why would I want to wait until 2020, as someone said and give a 2% raise for three years and then in 2020 give somebody a raise, who the hell am I going to give the raise to, people I don't even know.

Why shouldn't these two people be rewarded. They're the ones that did the job. As far as Ed and I go, we set on the council and I enjoyed every minute of it.

I didn't do it for the money either, but I know the time I put in is more than one meeting a month, and Maurice, I liked your comment about a Second Class city, because you know what, if it was, I would be with Lawrence, and I would be making 14,000.00 instead of 3,500.00. We are still one of the lowest paid councils in the state and the Mayor and the Clerk are still one of the lowest paid in the state.

There was a comment made on facebook and I have to get this off my chest, there was a comment made on facebook, I'll never get on facebook and say anything the Mayor told me, if he wants to get out and say it, that's his business, if the clerk's office wants to say it, that's their business. I did the facebook thing and I appreciate the people that stood up on facebook for the council. Comments were made and people said they heard the council got a raise in 2005, well I have the ordinances from 2003, 2004 and 2005 and the council has made this same rate for 30 years. I don't know how to prove it, but here is one, I knew several councilors back in the 90's and several people back in the 80's that were on the council. One other thing, the comment was made on facebook and here tonight about a 6% decrease in the average citizen salaries, well you know no what, I pulled those other cities with the family base rate pay and whatever, and Beech Grove is right there with everyone else, as far as Third Class cities. Now, are we with the Greenwood, Lawrence or Carmel, no, I don't think so, but every Third Class city that I have seen, our pay scale, here in this city, and actually we had some people that made 250,000.00 and above and some of those cities didn't even have those people. I rest my case. Thank you for coming.

Councilor Brooks - I would just like to thank everyone for the comments and think positive for the budget. It's been interesting and I appreciate all your comments.

Councilor Templin - I want to thank everyone for being here and those people that spoke. I was on the council four years ago and the four years I wasn't on the council I didn't come up here one time to give my opinion. I kind of sit here and I watch people come up and that's taking the extra effort. I have a great respect for our police and fire, our public works gets forgotten and we put a truck up for sale and do something for them and take their money away, I say that jokingly, because they seem to get forgotten, and I know the Mayor doesn't, because he puts an article out there every once in while reminding us when it snows, but getting back to the police and fire, their professionalism on handling some issues, has impressed me. The union folks have always been professional, if any of the employees of police and fire think their union people aren't standing up for them, well you're wrong, and the phone calls can be tougher than the podium. I have a lot of respect there. Police officers, firefighters, I don't know how we could ever pay you what your worth, we can't do that. One thing I want to talk about quickly is leadership and responsibility, police chief, fire chief, supervisors, police and fire assistants they go home at night with the responsibility of what goes on with their guys, and what goes on in the street, and it doesn't stop there, the Mayor takes it home. Now, I said a long time ago, and I was telling Dan the other day someone told me the first Mayor in 1906 made a chicken, and probably made 200 after that and 500 and 600, and who knows, eventually they made it, but the responsibility, this isn't little league; which I am proud to have been involved in and everyone up here I know has been involved and given their time to those organizations, whether their church or little league, or so forth, but it's about being accountable now as far as the council raise I don't know how much it means to everybody there, I didn't vote on a raise for these guys, or for the Mayor or the clerk, I voted because our budget has to be fiscally strong in all areas, and some areas are not, I thought about it tonight, real careful and not every area is, but we want to try,, it's about keeping ourselves fiscally responsible. We can keep putting things behind and behind and behind, now the Mayor himself would rather not even have a raise, that's because that's the last thing he thought about when he ran for Mayor, and the clerk he took a huge cut to be clerk, but the point is, it's not about them, it's about the responsibility on their shoulders, it easy for me to be a Monday morning quarterback and I have been, but to put that responsibility, every time to go out there and do their jobs, the responsibility about the money, and the responsibility of leadership and the Mayor is looking at his watch, and I'm actually saying good things about you Mayor, so give me a minute, but it's about responsibility, and someone said it's about getting good people.

I never thought of that. I don't know whether we'll ever get good candidates or bad candidates, or in between, that's up to the people, they'll get to make that choice on whatever we tell them, I guess, and judge whatever we do up here. I don't know if it's about that. It's not about raising the sewer rates. The sewer rates are totally different. This budget isn't based on the sewer rate of the future I don't know that will be if it goes up it goes up because we have to pay somebody else the bill.

Now we've got a choice, we can underfund it, and that will rock from the police, fire and public works and all the others, I have kind of a little on that. These things aren't about those, one doesn't mess with the other in this budget, this budget funds itself. Another thing someone said about taking money from the people, this budget doesn't raise taxes. I've known schools and other cities that have went above the tax cap that was passed years ago and asked for more money that you have to pay, but this Mayor, this clerk and this council that is passing this budget have never went to the public and asked for more tax money, but believe me others have throughout this state and even within our own entity, they probably maybe needed it, they set their case. I just want to say what happen here today is not a tax raise, your tax bill is going to be the same. The question is how to make this budget as strong as we can in every area. I'll say this in final, Mayor Cox, if anyone knows him, he is the New York Mayor, probably a liberal, I'm sure and some of you probably follow him, but he said one time when your budget is weak in one particular area you failed the responsibility that might get you down the road, so we don't want weak areas. I just want to say the police and fire you showed the citizens of Beech Grove what your about tonight. Whether you agree and are happy or your communication wasn't right, you guys showed it and I'm glad you had a chance to come up here and say it.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Brooks moved to adjourn. Councilor Bell seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm. The net meeting will be Monday, October 3, 2016 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Dennis Buckley, Mayor

Dan McMillan, Clerk-Treasurer