

BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 6, 2020

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

Roll Call-

Present: City Council Members, Buddy Templin, Kevin Day, Dave Harrison, Elizabeth Lamping, Kara Ferguson, Robert Ferguson, and President Pro-Tem Gary Hall. Also, present were, Mayor Dennis Buckley, Clerk Treasurer James W. Coffman, and City Attorney Craig Wiley.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Special Presentations-

BGPD Swearing in Ceremony- Officer Rainerio Comia

Approval of Minutes-

June 1, 2020- Councilor Day moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilor Lamping seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments-

Alisha Renfro- Spoke about the Girls Softball League and how they are dealing with the current events. She urged help from any one able to help them financially.

Pam Stallard- Discussed her concerns about donating \$9,500 to the Little League and Softball league and also about the finances of the city and who is able to spend money.

Dan Bailey- Spoke on behalf of the Mayors Faith Based Round Table and would like the City Council to consider opening each meeting with a prayer.

Committee Reports-

ABC – No report.

RDC- Met on June 11th. The annual report for overlapping taxing districts was discussed and approved. Bank balance is reported in the Clerk's financial report.

Compliance- No report.

Greenscape- Did not meet.

Financial Report- Clerk Treasurer, James W. Coffman

Current bank balances are listed below-

City Corporation \$4,107,902.24

Utilities \$898,534.07

Criminal Investigation Fund (CIF) \$42,656.19

RDC General \$729,027.30

RDC Debt Service (DSR) \$240,000.00

Old Business-

General Ordinance #2, 2020- Sewer Amendment- An amendment to General Ordinance #2 2020 concerning sewer charges for apartments is discussed. Request to revert back to how it has been and charge apartments based on usage and not bill on a flat rate. Councilor Templin made a motion to amend Ordinance #2, Harrison seconded the motion which was followed by a voice vote of 4 to 3. Councilor Hall voiced his concerns on amending back to usage just for apartments while charging homeowners a flat rate. Councilor Robert Ferguson would like to investigate the option of charging homeowners by usage instead of a flat rate.

RDC Appointments- Discussion on the two resignation letters submitted. Barbara Hook Griggs resignation was read into the record. Mayor Buckley said items stated in this letter are false and that nobody has done anything that was not above board. Councilor Day made a motion to approve the resignation, which was approved by a unanimous voice vote. Dave Grenoble resignation letter was read into the record. Mayor Buckley stated that any contract over \$50,000 must be uploaded. If this was not done, it was simply because this requirement was not known. Harrison made a motion to accept Grenoble's resignation, Councilor Day seconded, which was followed by a unanimous voice vote.

RDC Appointments- Three individuals have shown interest in serving on the RDC. Bonnie Dickinson, James Siegman, and Matt Kochevar have been nominated. Dickinson was not present and Siegman declined to speak. Kochevar introduced himself and discussed the possibilities he sees for the RDC. Conflict of interest between Councilor Hall and his mother in law, Bonnie Dickinson was discussed, along with City Council members serving on the RDC.

First vote, James Siegman received 6 votes, Bonnie Dickinson received 4 votes, and Matt Kochevar received 4 votes.

James Siegman is appointed to the RDC. Second vote, Bonnie Dickinson received 4 votes and Matt Kochevar received 3 votes. Bonnie Dickinson is appointed to the RDC.

New Business-

General Ordinance #5, 2020- Handicap Parking Permit- This ordinance would change the length of time a Handicap Permit is valid from one year to two years and remove the need to be approved by the BOW. The current cost includes an administrative fee and cost of sign/post. Councilor Day made a motion to amend the ordinance to read one time charge, Councilor Kara Ferguson seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous voice vote. Councilor Day made motion to approve the ordinance on first reading, as amended, Councilor Harrison seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous voice vote.

IDEM Report- IDEM was out and completed a survey on our sewer system and the City must submit a plan of action by July 22. Wessler Engineering has been retained to develop a plan that would address the issues raised by IDEM.

Discussion on maintenance plans for the sewer, financial issues and a lack of money is discussed. Brad Meriwether

discussed the current state of the sewer system and many of the problems they have faced over the years.

Council Comments-

Councilor Harrison – No comment.

Councilor Day – Thanks for coming and congratulations to the new RDC members. Thank you to the Police, Fire, and DPW for all they do.

Councilor Lamping- Stay safe! Congratulations to the new Beech Grove Police Officer.

Councilor Hall- Had a question about IURC letter and the raising of rates. Congratulations to the new RDC members and thanks to Dave and Barbara for serving.

Councilor Kara Ferguson- Inquired about the accident involving our Fire Department and also about Covid-19 in our Police Department.

Councilor Templin- Discussed the sewer, the rising costs, and the need to protect the utility. We have the best department heads and they are doing a great job. Congratulations to James and Bonnie, thanks to Dave and Barb for serving. Kudos to Cathy Chappell for a job well done for her time on the RDC. The RDC is still paying for poor decisions made in the past.

Councilor Robert Ferguson- Congratulations to James and Bonnie and thanks for stepping up. Thank you to the Police and Fire.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Robert Ferguson moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Day seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Dennis Buckley, Mayor

James W. Coffman, Clerk–Treasurer