

**BEECH GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 11, 2010**

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:** City Council members Ross Barton, Ed Bell, Bill Cincebox, John Jennings, Mike Pence and Buddy Templin were present at the meeting. Also attending were Clerk Treasurer Chris Duffer, Mayor Joe Wright and City Attorney Brian Bosma. Mary Stewart was absent.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

**MEETING MINUTES:** John Jennings motioned to approve the August 2, 2010 minutes as read. Ross Barton seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote.

John Jennings motioned to approve the September 7, 2010 minutes as read. Ross Barton seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** None

**COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:** None

**REPORTS:** Tim Latimer gave a report for the Greenscape Committee. Chief Witmer gave a report for the Public Safety Committee.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jeff Peters of Peters Municipal Consultants explained the need to adjust appropriations for the 2010 budget and to reclassify them to be used against the Public Safety LOIT and Rainy Day Funds. Peters explained that the reason for this need was that the 2010 budget was not fully funded. This was due to diminished return on investment on the Sewage Company and decreased property tax disbursements. He explained Special Ordinances No. 3, 4 and 5, 2010. At this point Mayor Wright paused to ask for questions from the Council. Councilor Templin asked how the return on investment of the Utility is figured and how Amtrak figures in when they have not paid in the past. He also asked about Special Ordinance No. 5 and how it interacts with Special Ordinances No. 3 and 4; and how critical is the time frame for passage of these ordinances going forward. Councilor Templin praised Mr. Peters for his efforts with the Democratic Caucus. Mayor Wright asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Councilor Templin made said motion which was seconded by Councilor Jennings and approved by voice vote. First to speak was Dan McMillan of 81 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. He encouraged the council to vote against the appropriations and the budget because he believes the Mayor has been fiscally irresponsible. He questioned the savings generated in moving dispatch to Indianapolis. He also questioned the \$1.7 million surplus that the dispatch transition committee said existed just a few months earlier. Mayor Wright then called for a motion to close the public hearing. Councilor Jennings made said motion which was seconded by Councilor Bell and approved by voice vote.

City Attorney Brian Bosma read Special Ordinance No. 3, 2010 into the record. Councilor Jennings motioned to accept Special Ordinance No. 3, 2010 on first reading. Councilor Barton seconded the motion, which passed by a 4-2 vote. City Attorney Brian Bosma read Special Ordinance No. 4, 2010 into the record. Councilor Jennings motioned to accept Special Ordinance No. 4, 2010 on first reading. Councilor Barton seconded the motion, which passed by a 4-2 vote. City Attorney Brian Bosma read Special Ordinance No. 5, 2010 into the record. Councilor Jennings motioned to accept Special Ordinance No. 5, 2010 on first reading. Councilor Pence seconded the motion, which passed by a 4-2 vote.

Mayor Wright then asked Mr. Peters to give an overview of the 2011 Budget. Mr. Peters said the 2011 Budget, to the best of his revenue estimates, was fully funded. He further explained Resolution October 25, 2010 that deals with an excess levy appeal. He also explained Resolution / Statement of Objection Appealing Action of Tax Adjustment Board or County Auditor in Accordance with I.C. 6-1.1-17-15, this protects the City in the event of a published mistake by the County. He proceeded to explain the second Resolution October 25, 2010. It directs the DLGF to allocate property tax and income taxes in certain amounts. He further stated that the estimated property tax cap loss for 2010 was 1.7 million dollars. Councilor Templin asked if it was too late to amend or increase money in a particular category since it has been published. Mr. Bosma confirmed that was correct. Councilor Templin commented concerning the deleterious effects of the tax cuts to Beech Grove. He also expressed his desire for the Democrats and Republicans to caucus together on the budget. He also explained that loss of a department, dispatch, is unfortunate and why he will most likely vote no on the budget.

Chief Witmer addressed the Council on the 2011 budget and its impact on his department. Chief Pierce then addressed the Council on the impact of the 2011 budget on the fire department.

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to open the public hearing on the 2011 budget. Councilor Templin so motioned, Councilor Bell seconded, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Joe Griffin of 65 S. 17<sup>th</sup> talked about tax caps and our core values. He gave figures of how many homes in Beech Grove and Indianapolis are in foreclosure, 36% and 44% respectively. The national average is 27%.

John Jennings made a motion to close the public hearing. Mike Pence seconded the motion which was approved by voice vote.

By full consent of the Council, Mr. Bosma read Special Ordinance No. 6, 2010, the 2011 Budget by title only. Councilor Jennings motioned to accept Special Ordinance No. 6, 2010 on first reading. Councilor Barton seconded the motion which was approved by a vote of 4-2. The vote was Yea for Councilors Barton, Cincebox, Jennings and Pence and Nay for Councilors Bell and Templin. Councilor Bell stated he was only asked to be involved in the budget process one time during his nearly 3 years on the council. He stated the Democrats on the Council were not involved on the 2011 budget process. He is concerned about the city losing vital services and would have liked to have been involved in the process.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** None

**COMMENTS:** Councilman Templin thanked several people that met with him concerning the 2011 budget. He thanked the Clerk Treasurer for his openness and help in answering questions as they arose. He stated Mary Stewart had gone home from work sick, that being the reason for her absence tonight. He explained his reasons for voting no on Special Ordinances 3, 4 and 5.

Councilman Bell thanked the citizens that spoke. He expressed his frustration regarding moving around the monies and the fact of other appropriated monies did not get spent on their respective projects; mentioning Hartman Field paving and 17<sup>th</sup> street roundabout. He wondered where the money for those projects had gone. He stated he thinks the money was used for something else. Mayor Wright answered Councilor Bell stating that sometimes the ambitions are bigger than the opportunities. He stated the projects in question were approved to do if we could afford them, which we could not. He stated he takes full responsibility for that. The Mayor wanted to make the point of the direct connection between the property tax bill and your local services. He also stated that we currently have 31 police officers and 32 fire personnel; when he took office we had 30 of each, indicating we had improved public safety. He admitted his ambitions sometimes outweigh his ability to fulfill those ambitions. He states he does have the desire to work together and welcomes the opportunity to do so.

Councilor Pence thanked Jeff Peters for his efforts with the budget. He also thanked Chiefs Witmer and Pierce for their efforts.

Councilor Jennings stated if we had not acted to move this money around the alternative was devastating, no trash pickup, no services and nobody gets paid.

Councilor Barton wanted to offer his encouragement for Mr. Duffer given his new responsibilities. He also wanted to congratulate the High School band for their 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes.

Councilor Jennings motioned to adjourn. Councilor Pence seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

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Joe Wright, Mayor

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Chris Duffer, Clerk-Treasurer