

**BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024
7:30 pm**

CALL TO ORDER: Zeb Wagner
PLEDGE & INVOCATION:
ROLL CALL: James *First Chair*
Reser
Springs
Aler
Baker
Davis
Fitzpatrick *Minister* All Present

SUSPENSION READING OF MINUTES: Moved by Springs, seconded by Reser V All Ayes
CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS: none
ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mayor - Swearing in of Firefighter Aaron Morrow.
S/SD - Passed out a press release on electric aggregation program (copy att to clerks official minutes). It explains that the rate is coming to an end at the end of this year. After several rounds of bids, we have entered into a contract for 12 months only as the rates are substantially higher than we have been seeing. We have been paying 0.0499/kWh and the new rate is 0.0718/kWh. Residents have a choice of who they get energy from and can opt out of the aggregation at any time. Residents will receive an opt out notice. If already enrolled in the aggregation program residents do not need to do anything to roll over into the new program. The natural gas contract is up in November and another press release will be going out. Questions answered. T

Law - The Planning Commission met in May to discuss changes by adding a new section to the zoning ordinance regarding solar systems on residential and commercial properties within the city limits. The Planning Commission suggested that Council consider approval of the legislation. In addition, Chapter 1127 regarding changes to our enforcements and violations for code violations was also discussed and approved by the Planning Commission. The Rules Committee, under Mrs. James, met this month and discussed the matter but came to a different conclusion than the Planning Commission as related to the solar zoning. They voted 2 to 1 against the approval of the commercial element of the solar zoning. The next step will be for Council to have a public hearing due to the proposed change of our zoning code. The legislation will be presented as approved by the Planning Commission. If there is an amendment to that on the floor, we would need a vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of voting Council (6 out of 7 Council members)
Asks President Wagner to request publication of the hearing for 30 days out.
President Wagner sets a hearing for zoning modifications or amendments at 7:00 pm for August 13th. Clerk will place a notice of hearing.

Auditor - Questions answered.
No report

Police Chief - Update on cruiser orders that keep getting pushed back. Two Explorers were set for June but have heard nothing as of yet. The pick-up has been assigned a vin number and a build date of July 29th.
New employees Jade Sheeley and Colin Stahler have accelerated training as they have 5 combined years of experience. In under two weeks Jade will be on her own and Colin will follow shortly after.
The drone that finance committee approved has been ordered and will be delivered in September. For the other drone, applied for through the Byrne Jag Grant, will hear around November/December.
Computer upgrades that were approved are in process. The required 911 upgrades have been pushed to September.

Fire Chief - Canine Chicken Dinners are on sale and will benefit the Canine Program. The dinner is August 17th.
Aaron Morrow will be our 22nd firefighter. He will be replacing Chief Fissel on the roster when he retires on July 31st. Appreciates all of the help and support in making the department what it is in his past 10 years.
Captain Wilson will be the interim Chief starting August 1st until an official replacement is made.

President Wagner thanks Chief Fissel for his service.

Engineer- The Engineers Office is involved in the zoning changes that Council will be discussing. There will also be other changes coming forward.

The Ludlow Project is going strong with lots of activity. Maris Park has single family homes going up. Commercial development is taking place in front of Lowes with continued interest in other commercial properties around town.

Parks & Rec- Not present

Economic Dev- Not present

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance – Explained resolution/ordinance on the agenda

Rules - No report

Utilities - The Utilities Committee is meeting June 26th at 9:30 am in Council Chambers to discuss rates, the City of Piqua Survey, the homeowner who did work on Lincoln Street who is asking for reimbursement and any other matters that come before the committee.

Streets - Explained ordinance on the agenda.

Sidewalks, Curbs & Parks - Explained resolution on the agenda.

Audit – No report

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

R24-48 A. A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN EMPLOYEE RETENTION INCENTIVE POLICY. **FINANCE**

Adoption- Moved by Baker, seconded by Aler V All Ayes

24-49 B. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE CERTAIN REAL ESTATE AS A DONATED GIFT FROM TOD JOHNSON IN THE VICINITY OF WREN AVENUE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **STREETS**

3RR- Moved by Aler, seconded by Reser V All Ayes
Passage-
Adoption-

R24-50 C. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BELLEFONTAINE JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT AN H2O OHIO GRANT THROUGH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE MYEERAH NATURE PRESERVE WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT. **SIDEWALKS, CURBS & PARKS**

Adoption- Moved by Davis, seconded by James V All Ayes

2. ORDINANCES FOR 2ND READING

3. ORDINANCES FOR 3RD READING

24-45 A. AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR PURPOSES OF FIRE DEPARTMENT REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND INCIDENTALS AND POLICE INVESTIGATIONS AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FUEL AND OIL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

Adoption-

Moved by Baker, seconded by Springs

V All Ayes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CLERK: none

for who they use

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: Mr. Davis handed out a copy of a letter received from Jessica Emly in support of downtown events. (copy att to clerks official minutes)

Mr. Springs asks for a moment to recognize former Mayor Lentz who passed away this morning.

Mrs. James reminds that she will be absent from the next meeting. She also thanks Chief Fissel for his service to our community.

President Wagner will be absent from the meeting on July 23rd. Also received correspondence from Jake Potter on June 14th concerning marijuana dispensaries in our town and his displeasure of the current moratorium. The clerk will be forwarding the correspondence to Council.

President Wagner asks for a brief moment of silence for former Mayor Lentz.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:58 moved by Fitzpatrick, seconded by Springs.

Bonnie Hosier, Clerk of Council

Zeb Wagner, President of Council