

**BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024
7:30 pm**

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

SUSPENSION READING OF MINUTES: Moved by Springs, seconded by Aler

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS: none

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

- Mayor -** Spent the last couple of weeks working with Service Safety Director Dodds implementing a plan for the city including many different aspects such as personnel and infrastructure. Council had previously approved money for this and we are moving forward meeting with department heads to plan out the future for our city for the next 15 years.
- S/SD -** We are engaged with the Ohio Plan through their arm of planning and training resources. Along with the Mayor, met with their executive director. As a starting point we will host a couple of one day think tank sessions with our leadership team, department heads and city council to facilitate where we currently are at and where we want to be. Then a follow up session including community stake holders to talk about external needs and desires for the city. Based on that they will provide reports and give us direction on where we can focus our money and energy for more significant planning. These services come at a discount as we are already members of their organization. The first meeting will be on June 4th at Camp Myeerah. More information to come.
Met with our partners of the Logan County Health Plan, our new health plan for city employees. Have received many positives from the employees. Also in the meeting were our partners from Hickory Medical, Mary Rutan, the insurance carrier and the underwriters from Minnesota to discuss how the plan is working.
- Law -** For tonight's agenda, legislation items 24-41 and 24-42, Council previously passed legislation authorizing administration to go out to bid. After getting in the process, further research and analysis unfortunately determined that we identified two providers that will be the sole providers for the particular services that we need at the wastewater treatment plant. We are introducing legislation this evening rather than going out to bid. We have identified the providers that can fix the equipment that we have. So we are asking for Council to entertain this legislation for us to directly contract with these providers which is allowable under Ohio law.
For the next meeting we will have two new grant applications for the police department. Chief Marlow is providing the necessary details.
- Auditor -** The annual audit is progressing more quickly than in the last 2 years. Hoping for finalization by the end of June.
Final warning for Council to file Ohio Ethics. Deadline is May 15th by midnight.
- Police Chief -** Not present
- Parks & Rec-** Not present
- Economic Dev-** Concerning the 3E signing, Bellefontaine has 124 kids making commitments with 36% committing to employment, 2% enlisted, and 60% enrolled. Overall for the county about 70% enrolled, 70% employed and 3% enlisted. Down a little from the employment side. More students heading to school. Questions answered.
- Judge Kellogg Martin-** Here on behalf of Family Court. Here to give an overview of a day in their court. Concerning marijuana dispensaries, both judges, herself and Natasha Kennedy, would be very opposed to this happening in our community. Reasons include a high rate of truancy connected to a high rate of THC

which is burdening the court's docket. If marijuana becomes more readily available it will have a negative impact on the system. Also the children testing positive for marijuana are the ones causing nightmare problems for school officials and problems in the classroom. Children with depression are self medicating with marijuana. There are many parents that are using with their children. Vaping is a major problem with cartridges that contain THC. It takes 45 days to keep a child in detention to get them freed from a substance which is a lot of cost to society. Both judges believe it is a gateway drug. Many who will not pay child support or hold a job are using marijuana. It is not fun to work in a court system that is supposed to be a beacon of hope in our justice system and smell this going through the halls of our court. Hope that we can do better for our children and let them get it somewhere else.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

- Finance –** Explained resolution and ordinances on the agenda.
- Rules -** Rules met in Council Chambers on May 2nd to entertain the request to repeal moratorium on marijuana dispensaries. The committee felt the moratorium should be left in place while the other cities are taking up the issue and see how it goes in other cities. Also to allow the Board of Zoning Appeals to weigh in as there are no zoning rules in effect.
- Safety -** No report
- Utilities -** No report
- Streets -** Mr. Dodds is following up on a concern on Reservoir Rd. repaving project.
- Sidewalks, Curbs & Parks -**No report
- Audit –** No report

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS: Howard Traul, 1524 Omaha Rd., concerned about an issue that could affect the youth of the city. There is a proposal to do away with the moratorium on dispensaries in town for a location at the 68 and 33 north interchanges at the old Homecoming Restaurant. He believes that the moratorium should be left in effect for numerous reasons including the location which is the entrance to the north end of our city which would be a bad impression for visitors to our city. It is a terrible example to our children and the youth of our city. It is a gateway drug and a killer to student motivation and desire for success. Our city and our county do not need more drugs. Don't let the smell of revenue fool you as you are in the process of increasing our city income tax. The general fund will receive a windfall because of the current hundreds of thousands of dollars that are appropriated from the general fund to the park fund are now being left in the general fund for expenditure on other city matters. Keep the moratorium in place and don't allow any legislation that would allow any marijuana dispensaries.

Tom Reynolds, 312 E. Auburn, here as a court appointed special advocate ad Litem. The heartbreak of drugs in families and children is passed down. Money goes for drugs vs for the kids. Police Department is already overtaxed with many drug problems. Asks that Council not pass any legislation that would allow a dispensary.

Kyle Munz, 104 Lincoln Ave. purchased a property that has a sewer main problem down the center of the road. To fix it he had to put in 85 feet of sewer main down Lincoln Ave. and put in a new manhole. Does not feel the sewer main should be his responsibility. He feels he should not have to pay for the main down the road.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. ORDINANCES FOR 1ST READING

- R24-39 A. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE SAFETY DIRECTOR OR POLICE CHIEF TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A SPARK GOOD LOCAL GRANT AWARD FROM WALMART FOR USE BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE DISASTER RELIEF AND RESPONSE PORTABLE SCENE LIGHTS. **FINANCE**

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

- 24-40 B. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO EXECUTE AN ADOPTION AGREEMENT WITH OHIO DEFERRED COMPENSATION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO OFFER ITS EMPLOYEES THE OHIO DEFERRED COMPENSATION ROTH 457(b) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

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

- 24-41 C. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SERVICE-SAFETY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH RDP TECHNOLOGIES, INC. FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE LIME FEED SCREW CONVEYOR, SLUDGE LIME MIXING AUGERS, CONTROL PANEL, LIME SILO DUST COLLECTOR, FILTER MEDIA, AND ASSOCIATED PARTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

3RR- Moved by Baker, seconded by Springs V All Ayes
Passage-
Adoption-

- 24-42 D. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ALFA LAVAL, INC. FOR THE RECONDITIONING OF THE BELT FILTER PRESS INCLUDING BELTS, ROLLERS, BEARINGS, WASHBOXES, HYDRAULICS, CONTROL PANEL AND ASSOCIATED PARTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

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

2. ORDINANCES FOR 2ND READING

- 24-36 A. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 192 INCOME TAX OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO FOR PURPOSES OF LEVYING AN INCREASE IN INCOME TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF 0.267 PERCENT IN SAID CITY FOR ADDITIONAL PARK AND RECREATION OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

3RR- Moved by Baker, seconded by Springs V All Ayes
Passage-
Adoption-

3. ORDINANCES FOR 3RD READING

- 24-35 A. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE SAFETY DIRECTOR TO DISPOSE OF A 1995 SMEAL LADDER TRUCK THROUGH GOVDEAL.COM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CLERK: none

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: none

President Wagner assigns the sewer main issue for Mr. Munz to Mr. Springs and the Utility Committee.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:57 pm moved by Aler, seconded by Fitzpatrick

Bonnie Hosier, Clerk of Council

Zeb Wagner, President of Council