

**BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023
7:30 pm**

CALL TO ORDER: Zeb Wagner
PLEDGE & INVOCATION:
ROLL CALL: James *First Chair*
Lile
Reser
Springs
Aler - absent
Baker
DeSomma *Minister*

Motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Aler moved by Springs, seconded by James V Ayes

SUSPENSION READING OF MINUTES: Moved by Springs, seconded by Reser V Ayes

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS: none

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mayor - Today Logan County Solid Waste District met for the quarterly meeting and approved a 5 year plan for recycling and handling of trash. The plan takes about a year to put into effect. Thanks City Council, Finance Committee, administrative team and Auditor for all the time put into the budget plan that includes staff 3% raise, insurance up by 8% and budget up by 4%. Attended on Friday, with Mr Dodds, a seminar in Columbus for Economic Development. Swearing in of new firefighter James Tyler Brown.

S/SD - Along with Mayor Stahler, Fire Chief and Police Chief have been participating in a series of meetings with the Logan County EMA Hazard Mitigation Plan update for the community. Demolitions for the land bank are under contract (13 in the city) and work has started and will continue in the coming weeks.

Law - No report

Auditor - The permanent appropriations budget is before council for first reading this evening

Police Chief - Not present

Fire Chief - Received word yesterday that the new ambulance will be here next week. Three Safer Grant firefighters started February 18, 19 and 20th. James Brown will be replacement for a resignation.

Engineer- No report

Parks & Rec- Not present

Economic Dev- Updates Council on Peak Fiber. Newford, Hilltop, Oakwood areas will be complete by the end of March. Whispering Pines will begin in April. Plans have started for the remainder of 2023. To date, 6 miles of fiber lines have been built and will be submitting, to the Engineer's office, 30 miles of build. This will make completion of 2400 homes with 26 of the 30 miles done this year. All of this is run through our Port Authority. Bellefontaine Logan County Finance and Development Authority is the owner of Peak Fiber which is a public entity managed by a board of half city appointed and half County Commissioner appointed. Thanks Council for the ongoing support. Questions answered.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance – Ordinances explained on the agenda.
Rules - Explained ordinance on the agenda.
Safety - Committee met February 23rd to discuss any potential concerns for the proposed 46 unit Metropolitan Housing Project on W. Chillicothe. The committee is not recommending any formal objections to the project.

- Utilities - No report
- Streets - Explained resolution on the agenda
- Sidewalks, Curbs & Parks -No report
- Audit – No report

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS: Chase Barrett, 410 N. Madriver, hear to ask Council support for a 420 Festival. Explained the positive health effects of marijuana, financial gains and tax revenues. SB 288 bill signed by Governor DeWine allows prosecutors to expunge lower level marijuana cases. Hands out copies of laws passed by DeWine. Law Director Stolly replies that it is still a schedule 1 narcotic at the state level and illegal. The city is obligated to enforce state laws and not in a position to grant an amnesty day. The appropriate time to ask Council would be after the state has made recreational marijuana legal in Ohio. As Law Director, advised Council they cannot support or grant an amnesty day and are obligated to enforce the law.

Jeremy LeVan, here for the hearing that has been postponed to March 14th. A representative from his company and the development company will be at the hearing in his place. The company that is in contract with are ready to get started and Mr. LeVan asks that council consider a first and final on the ordinance. *President Wagner replies that unfortunately will not be able to happen due to the absence of two members of council at the next meeting.*
 Handed out a preliminary lay out of the plans for the property which include single family housing, patio homes and a town house. There will be no apartments or rentals. There are no plans for low income housing. They will present a preliminary of the house plans at the hearing. Plans are to have all 70 acres done at once. The other subdivision at Maris Park is also moving along. Contracts are in place to start building there as well.
 Mayor Stahler adds that this (70 acre development) has already passed through Planning Commission.

Jeff Lamb, 1297 TR 181, here in regards to the above mentioned building project. Lived at his property for 30 years. As mentioned by Mr. LeVan, they will be building certain types of housing, but his concern is with the zoning change and the type of housing, like low income or rentals, that may be built. He is all for building homes but not for the lower side of what could come out of it. Asks that Council keep this in mind when they vote for the zoning just based on what the contractors say they are going to build. Also, the intersection of 181 and Ludlow is very dangerous. Asks if anyone has considered or looked at it for improvements with the increase of traffic that will result. Also expressed concern for the historical marker at that site.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. ORDINANCES FOR 1ST READING

23-07 A. AN ORDINANCE MAKING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO. **FINANCE**

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

23-08 B. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SERVICE SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR FIRE CHIEF TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT 2020 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FUNDING FOR A FIRE/RESCUE PUMPER TRUCK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

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

23-09 C. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL RULES REGARDING FACIAL COVERINGS AND RECORDING DEVICES AT COUNCIL MEETINGS AND DECLARING

AN EMERGENCY.

RULES

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

R23-10 D. A FINAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE TO PAY THE ESTIMATED COSTS AND EXPENSE ASSOCIATED WITH AN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PAVING PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE PROGRAM SERVICES. **STREETS**

Adoption- Moved by Reser, seconded by James V Ayes

2. ORDINANCES FOR 2ND READING

23-03 A. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CLERICAL WORKERS PAY SCALE TO REMOVE THE MUNICIPAL COURT CHIEF BAILIFF AND DEPUTY BAILIFF FROM SAID SCALE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

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

23-04 B. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT CHIEF BAILIFF POSITION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

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

23-05 C. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT DEPUTY BAILIFF POSITION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

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

3. ORDINANCES FOR 3RD READING

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CLERK: none

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: Mrs. James will be absent at the next meeting of March 14th. President Wagner adds that Mr. Aler will be absent from that meeting also and asks if anyone else will be absent to let him know ASAP. President Wagner reminds all that the ethics disclosures are due May 15th. President Wagner refers two issues to committee in light of the recent East Palestine train derailment/chemical spill. *Issues Utility Committee to look into our water source and secondary water source possibilities, or at the least, a plan of action if or when that should happen in our community.* *Issues Safety Committee to have a meeting to consider the safety issues, including Mr. Dodds, to discuss the EMA Hazard Mitigation Plan referenced in his earlier report to take steps to avoid catastrophes in the future.*

ADJOURNMENT – 8:15 pm moved by Lile, seconded by James

Bonnie Campbell, Clerk of Council

Zeb Wagner, President of Council