

**BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023  
7:30 pm**

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

**SUSPENSION READING OF MINUTES:  
CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS:  
ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

**Mayor -** Not present  
**S/SD -** Firefighter interviews were conducted last week. Civil Service met yesterday to certify a new list. Looking for the last candidate to fulfill the SAFER Grant.  
Logan County Landbank opened bids for the demolition program, funded through the state, of which the city has thirteen properties. They will meet next Tuesday to review the bids and make a recommendation. Currently have an opening at the wastewater sanitation department looking to fill.  
**Law -** Forecast for the next few days will be snowy, asks for patience for crews as they get streets cleared asap. Two resolutions on the agenda. Off to a slow start with legislation being presented. The Planning Commission met this evening and approved the annexation of real estate owned by Levan Investments located off of Ludlow Road. The zoning is set as R3, multi family/single residential. Next step will be for President Wagner to set a hearing for council, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, to consider setting zoning as part of the annexation.  
Concerning R23-01, part and parcel with the annexation, under our current community reinvestment area the newly annexed land is not automatically subject to the CRA. Must go through a process to identify lands that are currently being annexed to put under a CRA. This is our tax abatements on new and approved structures. This does not change the property taxes on existing improvements or the land.  
*President Wagner sets a hearing for establishing zoning for proposed annexation on February 28 at 7:00pm*  
**Auditor -** No report  
**Police Chief -** Class 11 of the citizens police academy starts next month with a full class of 21 local residents. Working through a group of candidates for position of police officer. Currently testing and will certify the list in February for eligibility and continue to hire as vacancies arise.  
Governor signed into law a new cell phone law for drivers that will be in effect in April.  
**Fire Chief -** No report  
**Engineer-** No report  
**Parks & Rec-** Not present  
**Economic Dev-** Not present

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Finance –** Explained resolution on the agenda. Finance meetings will be held at 7:00 pm instead of 6:30 pm depending on hearings.  
**Rules -** Rules Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 pm to discuss health based facial covering at meetings and recording of meetings by the public.  
**Safety -** No report  
**Utilities -** No report  
**Streets -** Explained resolution on the agenda.

**Sidewalks, Curbs & Parks** -No report  
**Audit** – No report

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**1. ORDINANCES FOR 1ST READING**

R23-01 A. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BELLEFONTAINE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA PROJECT APPLICATION OF BELLEFONTAINE HOSPITALITY LLC AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT WITH SAID APPLICANT AND DIRECTING THE HOUSING OFFICER AND CITY AUDITOR TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO EFFECTUATE THE TAX EXEMPTIONS GRANTED THEREIN.

**FINANCE**

Adoption- Moved by Baker, seconded by Springs

V Ayes, James-abstain  
re: involved as one of the investors

R23-02 B. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELLEONTAINE TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE PROGRAM SERVICES.

**STREET**

Adoption- Moved by Aler, seconded by Spring

V Ayes

**3. ORDINANCES FOR 3RD READING**

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS:** Diane Hager, 1105 Milligan Road, Bellefontaine, here to state reasons why she is against the drag float in the Christmas Parade. Asks that an amendment be made to City Ordinance No.11-77 which is planning and zoning.

*Chandler White, 65 E. Williams, Delaware, Ohio, here in support of the LBGTQ Community, The Olive Tree and Drag Queens as an art form.*

Sara Lewis, 766 E. Columbus Ave., Bellefontaine, here in support of the LBGTQ Community, The Olive Tree and Drag Queens in parades. Would like to see this Council and this city adopt a culture and a lifestyle of love.

*Ben Lewis, 524 Salsbury Dr., Powell, Ohio, here as Blonde Vanity, here in support of the LBGTQ Community and Drag as an art form. Thanks all for the acceptance and welcoming to this community.*

Samson Bates, 126 W. North Avenue, Apt. 72, Ada, Ohio, here as a proud transgender man and Bellefontaine native. Here to show concern about recent events of the drag queen in the Christmas parade and the extreme divide it has caused in the town with hatred and misinformation.

*Dillon Parks, 65 E. Williams, Delaware, Ohio, here in support of the Olive Tree and the LBGTQ Community.*

Brandy Bowers, 3505 CR 32 S, Bellefontaine, here in support of the LBGTQ Community, The Olive Tree and Drag Queens.

*Victoria Lennox, 556 E. High Ave. Apt. 2, Bellefontaine, here in support of the LBGTQ Community and Drag Queens as a form of art and entertainment. And against the hatred and bigotry.*

Langston Patch, 1917 Denver Dr., Columbus, Ohio, here as Maya Bizness in support of the LBGTQ Community and the art of Drag Queens.

*Logan Boggs, 500 Gunntown Rd., Apt 3D, Bellefontaine, here in support of the LBGTQ Community, The Olive Tree and Extending the Branch.*

Kelitha Hogue, 308 W. Sandusky, Bellefontaine, here is support of the LBGTQ Community and The Olive Tree with concerns of all the gay people who have left Bellefontaine because of the hatred and bigotry. Urges council not to make rules to prohibit dancing, etc. at events.

*Zachery Pope, 6023 Hampton Corner S, Hilliard, Ohio, here in support of Drag Queens as art and entertainment and the*

*LBGTQ Community.*

Julie McManis, 2368 CR 130, Bellefontaine, here is support of the LBGTQ Community, asks that Council not do anything that will make young people in our community feel like freaks, self harm or feel like they have to be something that they are not.

*Ishmail Cody Harville, 1659 E. Sycamore St., Columbus, Ohio, here as Reese S. Pieces, a Show Director at the Olive Tree, in support of the LBGTQ Community and Drag Queens being important and vital. She suggests that the city follow the slogan on their website "The City of Bellefontaine is a busy and beautiful small community that looks to combine the traditions of yesterday with the progress of today and tomorrow" As people are seeing a lot of the traditions of yesterday and not a lot of the progress of today and tomorrow, Council should take this to heart or take it down immediately. As elected leaders in this city you can stand up to support LBGTQ residents to feel just as supported as other residents or stand idly by as some residents prefer the city to stand still in time.*

Kaitlyn Roby, 816 Cooper, Bellefontaine, here as an educator to say that children are greatly underestimated. One of the biggest underestimates is the amount that they can love and understand. If we want to fight bigotry, the best way is to not appease parents that are pushing bigotry. You have kids that love, understand and are accepting, and parents who are fearful and basing it on something they don't understand. Urging Council not to do anything or put any kind of stipulation as to what can and cannot be in a parade.

*Chris Hildreth Blair, 1040 N. Main St., Bellefontaine, here in support of LBGTQ Community and Drag Queens as art and entertainment. Asks Council not to revert to the hatred that he grew up with in this community.*

Nevin Medinmalott, 175 Sailborne Place, Apt. B, Columbus, here to support LBGTQ Community, Drag Queens, Tyler Berry and the Olive Tree. Not trying to take away values or corrupt children, just trying to create places of safety and love for queer individuals who live in the community that other wise feel on the outside or told to hide their gayness.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM CLERK:** none

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL:** none

**ADJOURNMENT** – 8:31pm moved by Lile, seconded by DeSomma

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Bonnie Campbell, Clerk of Council

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Zeb Wagner, President of Council