

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

CITY OF BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10145

Held

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014

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The regular meeting of the Bowling Green City Council, held in the Council Chamber, 304 North Church Street, Bowling Green, Ohio was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Aspacher. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, Council Members Aspacher, Gavarone, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland and Zanfardino responded. Also present were Mayor Richard Edwards, Municipal Administrator John Fawcett, City Attorney Michael Marsh, Public Works Director Brian Craft, Utilities Director Brian O'Connell, Planning Director Heather Saylor, and Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Grigore.

Council Member Rowland moved, Zanfardino seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 21, 2014 as distributed. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Mayor Dick Edwards read and presented the following proclamations:

- Honoring Harold Brown – retiring after 42 years of service at the Sentinel Tribune;
- Proclaiming May as National Bicycle Month.

Mayor Edwards and Council President Aspacher both read statements for the record regarding the City's energy purchasing policy. A copy of both statements is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Municipal Administrator John Fawcett requested an executive session of City Council at the end of this evening's meeting to discuss labor negotiations.

Planning Director Heather Saylor thanked those who attended the Open House regarding the updates to the future land use section of the City's Master Plan and noted that the survey is still available to take on the City's website.

Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Grigore reported that the planned date for the pool opening for the season is May 24. Grigore also updated Council on the connector trail construction at the Black Swamp Preserve.

City Attorney Michael Marsh thanked the Kramer family for the land donated on the south side of town for a welcome sign.

Utilities Director Brian O'Connell reported to Council that the City received grant approval for the water plant improvement project.

Public Works Director Brian Craft updated Council on current and upcoming Public Works projects.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following new legislation was recommended by the Administration and presented to Council for introduction:

Council Member McOmber, for the Finance Committee, introduced an ordinance certifying unpaid cost of snow removal to the County Auditor for placement on the tax duplicate.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Member Gavarone reported that the Public Lands and Buildings Committee met earlier this evening to discuss plans for the former Ridge Street school property. Gavarone noted that plans to develop the park will proceed as funding becomes available.

LOBBY VISITATIONS

The following individuals addressed City Council regarding the City's energy policy as it related to its involvement in the Prairie State Energy Campus:

- Neocles Leontis – 119 N. Summit Street
- Jennifer Karches – 407 N. Main Street
- Vasiliki Leontis – 119 N. Summit Street

READING OF LEGISLATION

Clerk read Ordinance #8329 certifying unpaid cost of snow removal to the County Auditor for placement on the tax duplicate, for first reading.

Clerk read Resolution #3564 consenting to the transfer of the cable television franchise from Time Warner Cable, Inc. to Comcast Corporation, for second reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #8326 amending and adopting Section 150.16, Section 150.40(C)(3), (C)(7) and (E)(18) and Section 150.41(B) & (C) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, regarding site plan approval, for second reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #8327 authorizing the Utilities Director to accept utility easements for the property generally known as 999 S. Main Street, for second reading.

Council Member McOmber moved, Jeffers seconded, to move Council into Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. On roll call vote, Council Members Gavarone, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, and Aspacher voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried.

Council Member Jeffers moved, Gordon seconded, to move Council out of Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. On roll call vote, Council Members Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, Aspacher, and Gavarone voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried.

Council Member Rowland moved, Gavarone seconded, to adjourn. On unanimous voice vote, Council President Aspacher adjourned the May 5, 2014 regular meeting of the City Council at 9:01 p.m., subject to call.



Kay D. Scherreik, Clerk of Council



Michael Aspacher, President of Council

CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT – MAY 5, 2014

In recent months there has been much discussion related to the City's contract to purchase electricity from a recently built, coal-fired facility in Illinois known as Prairie State. Throughout the course of this discussion, the Board of Public Utilities, City Council and the Administration (primarily represented by Mayor Edwards and Utilities Director Brian O'Connell) have made considerable efforts to provide opportunity for public input on the matter, provide requested information and forthrightly answer questions directed to us. On April 28, 2014 the City Administration released a statement articulating the Administration's point of view on matters related to Prairie State. Tonight, City Council would like to affirm our support of this statement and also reiterate our support for the energy policy enacted by the Board of Public Utilities, and Mr. O'Connell.

It is our belief that the City's long term energy policy, intended to purchase energy from reliable sources at predictable prices, continues to serve the interests of both the Citizens of Bowling Green, and our business partners well. It is worth noting that the City's diverse energy portfolio does in fact contain energy derived from alternative sources such as wind and hydro. Council supports efforts to increase such holdings in the future as practical and affordable options become available.

It has been suggested that the City investigate options for withdrawing from our long-term contract to purchase electricity generated at Prairie State and also request that the Ohio Attorney General launch an investigation into the construction of Prairie State and related contracts. We respectfully reject these suggestions. We believe that the efforts of all involved would be best utilized to improve the efficiency of the Prairie State facility rather than placing the focus on expensive, protracted litigation with a very uncertain result.

When discussing the City's long term energy supply contracts, it must be noted that market conditions can change very quickly and influence the perception of these agreements. We believe that the current, forward thinking approach that attempts to minimize open market energy purchases provides the best protection against those market factors that are beyond our control.

We also affirm our commitment to our electric customers to continue to be mindful of the need to make prudent financial decisions. We appreciate the efforts of our Citizens who have taken the time to educate themselves on these matters, and we anticipate a continued constructive dialog.

Mayor's Report to City Council

May 5, 2014

This past Monday, April 28th, the City Administration under my direction released a statement in response to an inquiry from Tom Henry, the very able environmental reporter for the Toledo BLADE.

That statement attempted to address some of Mr. Henry's questions regarding the City's contract with AMP Ohio for energy related purchases, current and future, and about the City's involvement with the state-of-the-art coal generation plant in Southern Illinois, i.e., Prairie State.

I believe you received copies of the statement which was also shared with the members of the City's independent Board of Public Utilities chaired by William Culbertson.

As you know, the statement attempts to put into historical perspective the basic underpinnings of the decisions made in 2007 by the Board of Public Utilities and City Council with the full support of then Mayor John Quinn to enter into a long term power supply model, one that would provide stable, low cost and diversified energy for the City. The City's rates have been and will continue to be among the lowest in the region.

We all know that because of the so-called fracking technique the cost of natural gas is unusually low at present while in 2007 it was very costly and hard to obtain in huge volumes. To be sure, times have changed.

I really applaud the Board's approach in diversifying its energy program and its investment in hydro projects. Our unique wind turbines will be amortized in 2018 and thus making it possible to enhance the City's portfolio of renewable energy sources. I am hoping for the day when the City can invest in a solar project and when we can purchase more power from wind driven turbines.

Today it is no understatement to say that the world of energy is changing dramatically as we speak and I'm proud to state that the City of Bowling Green has been among the leading cities in Ohio in sustainability. But, to be sure, energy sustainability does come at a higher cost factor and cannot be accomplished with a simple flick of the switch.

While I understand and appreciate, as I know you do as well, those thoughtful and well intentioned voices of concern and despair, I am convinced that Bowling Green and its Board of Public Utilities has and will continue to proceed on a responsible pathway toward even greater degrees of energy sustainability that will benefit the citizens of BG, its industrial clients and indeed Bowling Green State University for years to come. Further as a City we cannot walk away from contractual, legally binding arrangements without doing irreparable harm to the City's outstanding bond rating and its overall financial structure. The City's bond finance contracts are always reviewed in depth by outside bond