

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of

Meeting

MUNICIPAL BUREAU OF RECORDS, FORM NO. 10148

Held

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2015

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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 Lori Tretter, City Attorney Michael Marsh, Public Works Director Brian Craft, Utilities Director Brian O'Connell, Planning Director Heather Saylor, and Parks and Recreation Director Kristin Otley.

Council Member Jeffers moved, Zanfardino seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 3, 2015 as distributed. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Mayor Dick Edwards reported that the official welcome for all incoming BGSU students will be held this Thursday evening at Doyt Stadium beginning at 9:30 p.m. He noted that the university anticipates more than 3,000 new students will be on hand for this occasion.

Mayor Edwards also reported that the 49th annual National Tractor Pulling Championships will be held this upcoming weekend and a crowd of more than 60,000 attendees is expected for this event.

The Mayor noted that he will again be going door-to-door with University President Mazey to student rental properties along E. Wooster Street and adjoin areas with a common city-university plea for good behavior and the importance of being good neighbors. Mayor Edwards indicated that he felt this practice brings about good results and hopes that the same holds true for this academic year.

The Mayor indicated that he and Municipal Administrator Tretter met last Friday with Council President Aspacher and Transportation & Safety Committee Chair John Zanfardino about how to best proceed with the implementation of Council's recently adopted complete streets resolution. It was decided that the first step will begin with the Administrative staff pulling together all of the necessary background information for presentation to the Committee. Mayor Edwards also noted that he suggested that committee members along with members of the City staff arrange a visit to Piqua, Ohio, one of the few smaller cities in Ohio to actually initiate and implement a complete streets program.

Mayor Edwards commented that Bowling Green has had a long and distinguished history as one of the few cities in OHio to be recognized for 35 years as a "Tree City USA" and has received the "New Growth Award" for 21 consecutive years making it one of the few cities in Ohio to meet the stringent requirements for planting new trees. Mayor Edwards said that in his view it is unfortunate when some members of the community question the need to cut down a diseased or damaged tree. Cutting down any tree is not a fun process for anyone involved. The Mayor reported that there are several locations in town where the tree removal process has been apparent and soon some additional trees will have to come down on West Wooster Street. He indicated that Municipal Administrator Tretter and Public Works Director Craft will explain in more detail what's involved and why the City Administration is asking for understanding.

Mayor Edwards also told Council that the Greenspace Task Force has been meeting regularly since its inception in May and have put together a report on its findings. Committee Chair, Eric Myers, plans to come before Council at the September 8 meeting to outline the report's contents. The Mayor indicated that after the report is heard, he anticipates that Public Lands and Buildings Committee Chair, Council Member Gavarone will schedule a public hearing to gain citizen input.

Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter recently shared that the City's K-9 unit, ARCI, had been assigned to Bowling Green and was being trained. She reported this evening that ARCI, and his handler, Patrolman Gordon Finger, are back in Bowling Green and that ARCI starts work this week.

Tretter also reported that population in town will increase dramatically over the weekend. The Police ask that all traveling in and around BG exercise patience. Simply put, with the traffic volumes that are anticipated with BGSU student move in and the tractor pull, it is anticipated that it will take longer to get where one needs to go. Shortcuts and short-temper lead to accidents which just makes things more difficult for all. Tretter indicated that the City is encouraging the use of designated routes to the Tractor Pull and BGSU move-in. Tretter reviewed road closures and temporary traffic patterns designed to move traffic more smoothly.

Tretter noted that August 23 is the annual Oak Grove Living History Day. The event starts at 2 pm. With the back drop of the community's beautiful and well maintained cemetery, local residents portray citizens interred in Wood County Cemeteries. The Wood County Historical Center and Museum coordinates the program.

Tretter continued her report noting that on July 6, when Council passed Resolution 3594 "expressing support of the complete streets initiative", it was noted by several Council Members that the more intense work of developing a policy, along with the implementation, was still ahead. In a recent meeting, as referenced by the Mayor, a "plan of action" was developed to guide the next steps. The Administration will be starting with a small, internal committee to start laying the groundwork and develop items for consideration. Tretter indicated that the committee will include Public Works Director Brian Craft, Planning Director Heather Saylor, City Engineer Jason Sisco and herself. Soon after the work begins, a joint work session is planned with the Transportation and Safety Committee of Council. The internal committee wants to make sure that the "deliverables" are in alignment with Council's expectations. From there, more intense work of formulating a recommendation and outlining impacts will begin, leading back to working with the Transportation and Safety Committee to discuss a proposed workable and effective complete streets program for Bowling Green.

On the topic of trees in the community, Tretter praised the efforts of the City's Arborist, David Bienemann. David is well known in our region and state, and even nationally, for his efforts. Because the work of the Arborist and his crew can be highly visible, it generates a lot of interest by the community. Tretter said that if you know Dave, you know that he believes strongly in public education—both informally standing in people's yards, on the phone, and in a more formal setting such as the regular seminars held by our Tree Commission. The fact is that since 2004, over 40 seminars on all sorts of tree-related topics have been held by the City's Arborist. Tretter indicated that she thinks it's important that citizens remember that management of the urban forest is critical for the safety and well being of the community. She also thinks that citizens need to remember that managing an urban forest involves more than just planting trees. Maintenance and sometimes removal of trees— for various reasons—is necessary. It is understood that removal of trees can be concerning to folks. But while a tree may look healthy when one drives by, that may not always be the case upon closer inspection and evaluation. Dave, his crew, our Tree Commission, and other staff are trained and sensitive to disease and other factors that may impact the health of a tree. Tretter noted that her point is to remind Council and citizens that the public task of managing the infrastructure can be challenging. She said that like others, she loves the City's tree lined streets, the character that the beautiful urban forest gives to the town, and the positive environmental impact of the trees. But, she indicated that she also likes feeling safe as she moves about town and likes walkable sidewalks—especially along busy corridors. She urged Council that as they talk to folks who may be disappointed or concerned about trees that are being removed, to please remind them that the City has a certified arborist who is available to answer questions and seminars that are very helpful.

Tretter requested that Council consider moving into executive session at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss an economic development item.

Planning Director Heather Saylor reported that the City will be sponsoring an event featuring a speaker from the Ohio Balanced Growth Program on Saturday, September 19, from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the Wood County Library. Saylor invited interested Council Members to attend.

Saylor also reported that the issuance of permits is currently running at 22% higher than last year and that there have been 17 single family housing starts so far this year compared to 13 in 2014.

Parks and Recreation Director Kristin Otley updated City Council on current programming and noted that the pool will now be open only on weekends through Labor Day. Otley also noted that the Community Center will be closed for annual maintenance the week of August 24.

City Attorney Michael Marsh had no report.

Utilities Director Brian O'Connell reported that the new water tower located on Newton Road is operational as of today. O'Connell noted that the water tower at Manville has been offline for several weeks and is slated for demolition in the near future. O'Connell also reported that he plans to meet with residents of Pheasant Farms on August 29 at the Simpson Building to discuss drainage issues in that area.

Public Works Director Brian Craft reported that a letter is being sent to residents along a portion of West Wooster Street that provides information regarding the removal of some large trees along that street. The letter explains that the tree removal has been prompted by the extensive work being done in the area by Columbia Gas and resulting disruptions in the public right-of-way. Craft noted that because the work in the area has been so extensive, the City reviewed the condition of the infrastructure in the corridor including the sidewalks and the health of the public trees. While Columbia Gas will replace sidewalks and curbs displaced from the work performed by them within the next month, the City has additionally decided to replace other sidewalks in need of repair. Craft indicated that between the Columbia Gas replacements and other areas slated for replacement, almost the entire length of public sidewalk on the north side of West Wooster, from the City parking lot to Haskins Road will be replaced with new 5-foot sidewalks that meet current ADA specifications and guidelines. Craft also reported that 15 or 16 trees will be removed along that portion of right-of-way because they are either diseased or there are root structure concerns about the tree. Craft said that they will replant trees and work to recreate the tree canopy in the area.

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 a resolution approving the report of the Assessment Equalization Board on objections concerning the estimated assessments for the Plan of Services to be provided by the Bowling Green Central Business Special Improvement District, Inc.

Council Member McOmber, for the Finance Committee, introduced an ordinance providing supplemental appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015.

Council Member McOmber, for the Finance Committee, introduced an ordinance determining to proceed with the Plan of Services of the expanded Bowling Green Central Business Special Improvement District, Inc., and providing for the levy of assessments therefore, and declaring an emergency.

Council Member Jeffers, for the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee, introduced an ordinance amending the Zoning District Map of the City of Bowling Green for the property generally known as 307 East Wooster Street from B-2 General Commercial to B-5 Transitional Central Business District zoning.

Council Member Jeffers, for the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee, introduced an ordinance amending the Zoning District Map of the City of Bowling Green for the property generally known as 415 East Wooster Street from B-2 General Commercial to B-5 Transitional Central Business District zoning.

Council Member Jeffers, for the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee, introduced an ordinance vacating so much of a certain north/south alley located south of West Evers Avenue between Fairview Avenue and North Grove Street.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Member Jeffers commented that a public hearing was held for Ordinance #8439. Jeffers noted that they heard from Planning Director Heather Saylor regarding the rezoning of this property and that no detrimental information was heard at that time. The issue will be voted upon later in the meeting.

Council Member Gordon noted that a Community Improvement Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the City's housing stock and external maintenance issue.

LOBBY VISITATIONS

There were no lobby visitations.

READING OF LEGISLATION

Clerk read Resolution #3600 approving the report of the Assessment Equalization Board on objections concerning the estimated assessments for the Plan of Services to be provided by the Bowling Green Central Business Special Improvement District, Inc., for first reading.

Council Member McOmber moved, Gavarone seconded, to suspend the rules and give Resolution #3600 its second and third reading. On roll call vote, Council Members Gavarone, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, and Aspacher voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and rules suspended.

Clerk read Resolution #3600 for second and third reading by number and title only.

Council Member McOmber moved, Gavarone seconded, to adopt Resolution #3600. On roll call vote, Council Members Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, Aspacher, and Gavarone voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Resolution #3600 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8446 providing supplemental appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015, for first reading.

Council Member McOmber moved, Rowland seconded, to suspend the rules and give Ordinance #8446 its second and third reading. On roll call vote, Council Members Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gavarone, and Gordon voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and rules suspended.

Clerk read Ordinance #8446 for second and third reading by number and title only.

Council Member McOmber moved, Rowland seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8446. On roll call vote, Council Members McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gavarone, Gordon, and Jeffers voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8446 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8447 determining to proceed with the Plan of Services of the Bowling Green Central Business Special Improvement District, Inc., and providing for the levy of assessments therefore, and declaring an emergency, for first reading.

Council Member McOmber moved, Jeffers seconded, to suspend the rules and give Ordinance #8447 its second and third reading. On roll call vote, Council Members Rowland, Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gavarone, Gordon, Jeffers, and McOmber voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and rules suspended.

Clerk read Ordinance #8447 for second and third reading by number and title only.

Council Member McOmber moved, Zanfardino seconded, to adopt the emergency clause for Ordinance #8447. On roll call vote, Council Members Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gavarone, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, and Rowland voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and the emergency clause adopted.

Council Member McOmber moved, Jeffers seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8447. On roll call vote, Council Members Aspacher, Gavarone, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, and Zanfardino voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8447 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8448 amending the Zoning District Map of the City of Bowling Green for the property generally known as 307 East Wooster Street from B-2 General Commercial to B-5 Transitional Central Business District zoning, for first reading.

Council Member Jeffers announced that a public hearing will be held regarding Ordinance #8448 on Monday, September 21, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Clerk read Ordinance #8449 amending the Zoning District Map of the City of Bowling Green for the property generally known as 415 East Wooster Street from B-2 General Commercial to B-5 Transitional Central Business District zoning, for first reading.

Council Member Jeffers announced that a public hearing will be held regarding Ordinance #8449 on Monday, September 21, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Clerk read Ordinance #8450 vacating so much of a certain north/south alley located south of West Evers Avenue between Fairview Avenue and North Grove Street, for first reading.

Council Member Jeffers announced that a public hearing will be held regarding Ordinance #8450 on Monday, September 21, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Clerk read Resolution #3598 authorizing the Mayor of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, to file an application and execute a contract upon grant application approval under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant: EAB Restoration Planting Program as authorized by the USDA Forest Service, for second reading.

Clerk read Resolution #3599 in support of WBGU-TV, for second reading.

Council Member Rowland moved, Jeffers seconded, to suspend the rules and give Resolution #3599 its second and third reading. On roll call vote, Council Members Gavarone, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, and Aspacher voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and rules suspended.

Clerk read Resolution #3599 for second and third reading by number and title only.

Council Member Rowland moved, Gavarone seconded, to adopt Resolution #3599. On roll call vote, Council Members Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, Aspacher, and Gavarone voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Resolution #3599 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8445 authorizing the Utilities Director to enter into a contract or contracts with United Precast, LLC, without competitive bidding, for repairs to the Colony Lane Pump Station, for second reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #8442 authorizing the Municipal Administrator to enter into a Commercial Credit Card Agreement with Huntington National Bank, for third reading.

Council Member McOmber moved, Gordon seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8442. On roll call vote, Council Members Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gavarone, and Gordon voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8442 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8443 authorizing the Utilities Director to execute an agreement between the City of Bowling Green and American Municipal Power, Inc. for the AMP Solar Project – Phase II for a maximum of 10.55 MW AC capacity, a Solar Project Lease Agreement to construct a 19.8 MW AC solar generation facility on City owned property and authorizing an Interconnection Agreement and to take other actions in connection therewith, for third reading.

Council Member Aspacher moved, Jeffers seconded, to table Ordinance #8443 indefinitely. On roll call vote, Council Members Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gavarone, and Gordon voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8443 tabled indefinitely.

Council Member Jeffers moved, Zanfardino seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8439 amending the Zoning District Map of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, for the property generally known as 530 East Wooster Street and 111-115 Railroad Street from B-2 General Commercial to B-5 Transitional Central Business District zoning classification. On roll call vote, Council Members McOmber, Rowland, Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gavarone, Gordon, and Jeffers voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8439 adopted.

Council Member Jeffers moved, Zanfardino seconded to table Ordinance #8440 assenting to the detachment of property owned by the Northwest Ohio Tractor Pullers Association from the City of Bowling Green to Plain Township until September 8, 2015, pending the outcome of the public hearing scheduled by the Planning Commission. On roll call vote, Council Members Rowland, Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gavarone, Gordon, Jeffers, and McOmber voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8440 tabled until September 8, 2015.

Council Member Rowland moved, Gavarone seconded, to move Council into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. for the purpose of discussing an economic development issue. On roll call vote, Council Members Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gavarone, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, and Rowland voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried.

Council Member Zanfardino moved, Gavarone seconded, to move Council out of Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. On roll call vote, Council Members Aspacher, Gavarone, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, and Zanfardino voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried.

Council Member Rowland moved, Gordon seconded, to adjourn. On unanimous voice vote, Council President Aspacher adjourned the August 17, 2015 regular meeting of the City Council at 8:37 p.m., subject to call.



Kay D. Scherreik, Clerk of Council



Michael Aspacher, President of Council