

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 107148

Held

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017

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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, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Seeliger 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 Rowland moved, Zanfardino seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 6, 2017 as distributed. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk Kay Scherreik noted for the record that copies of the Budget Summary Report for the month of January 2017 (revised) and February 2017 were distributed to Council prior to this evening's meeting.

LOBBY VISITATIONS

Council President Aspacher noted that there has been a change made to Council's agenda by moving up the Lobby Visitations portion of the meeting to the beginning. Aspacher explained that those wishing to speak are now asked to sign in with the Clerk of Council prior to the meeting which will help the Clerk be more accurate with names and addresses of those who speak. Aspacher also noted that by moving public comments to the beginning of the meeting, it will give City officials the opportunity to address comments and concerns during their official report if necessary.

Mayor Dick Edwards introduced representatives of the Human Relations Commission, Mary Jane Saunders, Margaret Montague, Morgan Hollensworth, and Emily Monago, who presented the quarterly Honor Roll Award to the "The Common Good", an organization that has helped make Bowling Green a more welcoming and inclusive community.

Wendy Chambers, Bowling Green Convention & Visitors Bureau, presented to Council the CVB's annual report and gave highlights of the accomplishments of the bureau. Chambers also thanked the City for their continued support.

David Phleger, 325 N. Prospect Street, expressed his concern about cars being parked on lawns in the community. He indicated that there is not a method to address the problem when it occurs on the weekend since the code enforcement officer only works during the week. Phleger asked the City to consider moving enforcement of this issue to the Police Division for more consistent and timely response to complaints.

Gwen Andrix, 480 Lehman, addressed City Council regarding the proposed "welcoming" resolution on tonight's agenda. Andrix indicated that she was speaking as a transgender individual and that one of her concerns about the resolution is that it does not include the LGBT community. She also indicated that there seem to be growing efforts across the nation to limit inclusiveness for the LGBT communities and she is feeling less safe. She requested that Council add wording to the resolution to be inclusive of the LGBT community.

Carmen Oemig Dworsky, 767 Longford Drive, also expressed her support for the "welcoming" resolution, but felt that it could be expanded to add the LGBT community and also persons with disabilities.

Emily Monago, 914 Lafayette Blvd., spoke on behalf of the Human Relations Commission, indicating that the Commission wholeheartedly supports making the language as inclusive as possible.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Mayor Dick Edwards indicated that he was pleased that City Council is considering a resolution recommended by the Human Relations Commission which proclaims Bowling Green as a welcoming, safe and inclusive community.

Mayor Edwards reminded interested individuals that the deadline to RSVP for the Interfaith Breakfast being held on Wednesday, April 5, is Friday, March 24. Edwards noted that the breakfast will be served from 7:15-7:45 a.m. with the program beginning at 8:00 a.m.

The Mayor noted that the Wooster Green Steering Committee will be meeting in the Council Chamber on Thursday, March 23, at 4:00 p.m. and will be joined by members of the Design Committee headed by Lori Young and Lloyd Triggs. Mayor Edwards noted that Dick Newlove has agreed to serve as an honorary co-chair along with Nadine Edwards and Council President Aspacher will also be serving as a non-voting member. Also serving will be Parks & Recreation Board President Jeff Crawford and Sharon Hanna will chair the Fundraising Committee.

Mayor Edwards also noted that he is proceeding with his own research into some of the points of concern about the proposed Nexus pipeline with regard to its proximity to the Water Treatment Plant. He indicated that he has distributed to Council some detailed background information as a follow up to his statement on February 21 regarding the matter and will continue to share more information as it becomes available.

Council Member Gordon thanked the Mayor for his leadership and for inquiring from the relevant parties regarding the risks and/or potential risks of the Nexus pipeline project. Gordon also thanked the Mayor for positive feedback on his suggestion of a public forum on the issue with geologic experts aimed at reaching a consensus about the possibility of potential dangers of the pipeline so that better decisions can be made. Mayor Edwards responded that he would proceed on that basis looking at the science and the facts.

Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter had no report.

Planning Director Heather Saylor had no report.

Parks and Recreation Director Kristin Otley updated Council on upcoming Parks & Recreation programming noting that the Summer brochure of activities will be available soon.

City Attorney Michael Marsh had no report.

Utilities Director Brian O'Connell had no report.

Public Works Director Brian Craft had no report.

NEW LEGISLATION

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

Council Member McOmer, 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, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017.

Council Member McOmer, for the Finance Committee, introduced an ordinance authorizing the Utilities Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts and/or participate in State of Ohio purchasing programs for the purchase of vehicles and equipment as well as the trade-in, transfer or sale of vehicles and equipment being replaced and/or no longer needed for municipal purposes.

Council Member McOmber, for the Finance Committee, introduced an ordinance amending and adopting Sections 35.03, 35.04 and 35.05 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, relating to utility funds.

Council Member Zanfardino, for the Committee-of-the-Whole, introduced a resolution proclaiming Bowling Green as a welcoming, safe and inclusive community: a call for diversity, human rights, social opportunities, and economic development.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Member McOmber announced that the Finance Committee will meet on Monday, April 3, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber to discuss revenue enhancements for the General Fund.

READING OF LEGISLATION

Clerk read Resolution #3662 proclaiming Bowling Green as a welcoming, safe and inclusive community: a call for diversity, human rights, social opportunities, and economic development, for first reading.

Council Member Zanfardino moved, Rowland seconded, to suspend the rules and give Resolution #3662 its second and third reading. On roll call vote, Council Members Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Seeliger, Zanfardino, and Aspacher voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and rules suspended.

Clerk read Resolution #3662 for second and third reading by number and title only.

Council Member Zanfardino moved, Jeffers seconded, to adopt Resolution #3662. Council Member McOmber asked what Council intended to do about the comments that were made earlier this evening to expand the wording of the resolution to include the LGBG community and the disabled. Council Member Gordon commented that he feels there has been some confusion about this resolution noting that it was his understanding that it was particularly focused on the immigrant community and was designed to put the City on the path to a Welcome Bowling Green initiative. He said that he didn't want some groups to think that some marginalized communities were left out of the resolution. He indicated that he is not opposed to adding additional language, but wanted to make the clarification of the original intent.

Council Member Jeffers noted that Gordon had a good point and indicated that some Council Members are concerned with national initiatives that involve deportation and there has been some discussion of sanctuary campuses and related issues. Jeffers indicated that this resolution is not dealing with that directly, but it is some of the impetus behind it. He initially thought of it as applying to the immigrant community, but after speaking with members of the Human Relations Commission has no problem with changing the language to be more inclusive. Jeffers indicated that some people in the community don't like Council passing too many of these types of resolutions, but he feels that as Council tries to plan for a better community and attract younger residents, the feeling is that we want all kinds of people to feel welcome in Bowling Green.

Council Member Rowland indicated that it was her impression after talking to members of the Human Relations Commission and La Conexion that this resolution was aimed at those immigrants who feared deportation. She also indicated that if there is a feeling that additional language is needed to include the LGBT community and persons with disabilities, other communities have written their welcoming resolutions to include those groups. Rowland said that she would rather Council make the appropriate changes now rather than have to take up this issue again in 6 months because it was not inclusive enough, but does not want to insinuate that the Human Relations Commission did not do a thorough job in developing this resolution.

Council Member McOmber commented that he is not comfortable with the resolution as it stands at this moment. He also indicated that if you err in this situation then it is better to err on the side of being overly inclusive. He noted that he does not have the particular wording in mind at this point, but feels that the LGBT community and persons with disabilities should be added. He noted that he does not support it with the current language.

Council Member Seeliger noted that he agrees with Council Member McOmber and feels that the City already exemplifies what the resolution states. Seeliger strongly commended the Human Relations Commission and stands behind the proposed resolution. However, he expressed concern that the recent resolutions and reactions to the national climate may be misinterpreted as problems we have in Bowling Green. Seeliger stated that there are many communities trying to become as inclusive as Bowling Green and that passage of these types of resolutions should just be further endorsement of that.

There was some discussion regarding procedure and it was decided that the motion to adopt would be withdrawn and the resolution tabled until the next meeting where revised language would be introduced.

Council Member Zanfardino withdrew his motion to adopt and moved to table Resolution #3662 until April 3, 2017. Council Member Jeffers seconded the motion. On roll call vote, Council Members Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Seeliger, Zanfardino, Aspacher, and Gordon voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Resolution #3662 tabled until April 3, 2017.

Clerk read Ordinance #8571 providing supplemental appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017, for first reading.

Council Member McOmber moved, Seeliger seconded, to suspend the rules and give Ordinance #8571 its second and third reading. On roll call vote, Council Members McOmber, Rowland, Seeliger, Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gordon, and Jeffers voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and rules suspended.

Clerk read Ordinance #8571 for second and third reading by number and title only.

Council Member McOmber moved, Rowland seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8571. On roll call vote, Council Members Rowland, Seeliger, Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gordon, Jeffers, and McOmber voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8571 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8572 authorizing the Utilities Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts and/or participate in State of Ohio purchasing programs for the purchase of vehicles and equipment as well as the trade-in, transfer or sale of vehicles and equipment being replaced and/or no longer needed for municipal purposes, for first reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #8573 amending and adopting Sections 35.03, 35.04 and 35.05 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, relating to utility funds, for first reading.

Clerk read Resolution #3661 expressing support of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) efforts to establish U.S. Bicycle Routes, for second reading.

Council Member Zanfardino moved, McOmber seconded, to suspend the rules and give Resolution #3661 its third reading. On roll call vote, Council Members Seeliger, Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, and Rowland voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and rules suspended.

Clerk read Resolution #3661 for third reading by number and title only.

Council Member Zanfardino moved, Rowland seconded, to adopt Resolution #3661. On roll call vote, Council Members Zanfardino, Aspacher, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, and Seeliger voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Resolution #3661 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8570 amending and adopting Section 35.70 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, regarding City Fees and Fees Charged for Services, for second reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #8568 amending and adopting Section 33.18 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, relative to salaried employees not subject to overtime pay, for third reading.

Council Member McOmber moved, Jeffers seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8568. On roll call vote, Council Members Aspacher, Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Seeliger and Zanfardino voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8568 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8569 authorizing the Municipal Administrator and the Utilities Director to seek qualifications and/or advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts for design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and other services relating to improvements for State Route 25/64 pavement rehabilitation and utility improvements, for third reading.

Council Member McOmber moved, Rowland seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8569. On roll call vote, Council Members Gordon, Jeffers, McOmber, Rowland, Seeliger, Zanfardino, and Aspacher voted yes. Council President Aspacher declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8569 adopted.

Council Member Zanfardino moved, Seeliger seconded, to adjourn. On unanimous voice vote, Council President Aspacher adjourned the March 20, 2017 regular meeting of the City Council at 8:5 p.m., subject to call.



Kay D. Scherreik, Clerk of Council

Michael Aspacher, President of Council