

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

Minutes of

Meeting

DWAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019

20

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 Acting Council President Jeffers. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, Council Members Herald, Hollenbaugh, Jeffers, Robinette, and Zanfardino were present. Council Member Rowland was not present. Also present were Acting Mayor Michael Aspacher, Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter, City Attorney Michael Marsh, Utilities Director Brian O'Connell, and Planning Director Heather Saylor. Public Works Director Brian Craft and Parks and Recreation Director Kristin Otley were not present.

Council Member Zanfardino moved, Robinette seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 1, 2019 as distributed. On unanimous voice vote, Acting Council President Jeffers declared motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk also noted for the record that copies of the Budget Summary Report for the months of February and March 2019 were distributed to Council prior to this evening's meeting.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS – ACTING MAYOR ASPACHER

Acting Mayor Aspacher presented a proclamation to Emily Dunipace of the Not In Our Town organization recognizing its sixth anniversary of existence. Aspacher noted that the organization began in BG on April 17, 2013.

LOBBY VISITATIONS

Acting Council President Jeffers noted that several people have signed up to speak this evening during Lobby Visitations and asked each person to keep their remarks to 3-5 minutes.

Beatriz Maya, 809 N. Wintergarden, addressed City Council on behalf of La Conexion regarding the recent racist attack at Waffle House two weeks ago. Maya indicated that there were three recommendations she would like to present that were a result of community meetings held in the last two weeks. The first recommendation is to acknowledge that racism does exist in the community and to work towards increasing awareness. Secondly, it was suggested that City Council explore the possibility of adopting an ordinance requiring businesses to adopt a zero tolerance and anti-racist policies. She indicated that this would include training for employees to respond to incidents involving racist hate. Businesses completing the training would be given a "Welcome City" decals to display at the business. Thirdly, Maya stated that it was requested that a task forces and rapid response teams should be formed to help with response to these types of incidents.

Sylvia Chandler, 540 Wallace, asked Council to seriously consider the recommendations that have resulted from the community discussions. Chandler indicated that training of staff in how to respond to these types of incidents is something that should be undertaken. She was reminded of a time when she was in a restaurant and felt threatened as a result of speaking up regarding another patron. Chandler noted that the community needs to have something in place that says people of color can come in a sit down and not have to worry that the staff does not have the proper training to handle these racist situations.

Linda Lander, 1067 Carol Road, spoke regarding training and education indicating that the focus should not just be on hate crimes, but also on other forms of racism and harassment. Lander also discussed the gathering of statistics on local hate crimes from the University and the City schools. She indicated that training can help create a positive and inclusive environment in a business or in the schools.

Janet Parks, 810 Sharon Street, discussed conducting workshops or training on how to recognize the more subtle acts of racism, such as biased language or cultural symbols. Parks also noted the by-stander training would be great because there are times when people want to help, but they don't know how. Parks noted that community-wide training sessions could be held and conducted by law enforcement and other community partners. BG has the potential of being a leader in this area.

Susan Pena, 938 Manitoba Drive, noted that the group wishes to recognize the ongoing efforts for the work that has already been done. She recognized groups such as the Human Relations Commission, Welcome BG Initiative, Not In Our Town and La Conexion. Pena indicated that they are looking to City Council for its leadership and that more resources need to be committed to this cause; they are looking to City Council to help take it to the next level. She indicated that they want to reach a wider audience. They also recognize that it's not just the residents of BG that are setting the climate of the community, so how do we address those individuals as well. Pena indicated that ideas include working with community-wide events like the Black Swamp Arts Festival, Art Walk and Firefly Nights to work their message visibly into those events thereby reaching a wider audience.

Karla Davis-McGowan, 810 N. Christopher Drive, stated that her sole reason for attending this evening's meeting is to show support for the two victims who were recently attacked and to be assured that this will not happen to her family and friends or anyone else in BG. Davis-McGowan indicated that while she does blame the perpetrators for the assault, she does feel that some accountability does rest with the Waffle House. She requested that the Waffle House staff receive training in handling these types of situations and that other businesses should be offered and encouraged to have the same training.

Christina Yaniga, a Council Member from the Village of Pemberville, indicated that she has been keep pace with the recent event and paying close attention to it. She said that as she has watched things unfold, she can't help but notice what others have noticed, that the people perpetrating the crimes have come from communities outside of Bowling Green, smaller communities like hers. She indicated that she feels the interplay between Bowling Green and the smaller communities around it bears more attention.

Emily Dunipace, 415 W. Wooster Street, stated that she is a co-chair of the Not In Our Town (NIOT) organization which is celebrating its 6th anniversary of existence. Dunipace thanked City Council, the Mayor, the Administration and the Police Division for their ongoing support of NIOT. Dunipace also announced two upcoming community events that will be held to celebrate the anniversary. The first is the anniversary celebration which will be held on Thursday, April 25, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wood County Library. The second event is a community dinner and opportunity for dialogue on the subject of the opioid crisis on Sunday, April 28, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church. Reservations are requested for the April 28 event.

Madi Stump, 724 N. Enterprise Apt. 34, announced two upcoming events. On Sunday, April 28, the group will be at the Community Earth Day event hosting a "make your own reusable bag" workshop. Also, on May 7 from 4-7:30 p.m. at Grounds For Thought another reusable bag workshop will be held.

Colleen Boff, 859 Walnut Street, Perrysburg, noted that Perrysburg held its first forum on racial issues last week. Boff indicated that she is attending tonight's meeting to learn because BG is leading the way on this issue and she's grateful for the insights and the work that has been done thus far.

Connor Goodpaster, 221 Leroy Avenue, gave his support to La Conexion's initiative. He indicated that they have outlined a strategy for the long term. Goodpaster also stated that dealing with issues of hatred and racism doesn't happen quickly and that it's going to take coordination between City Council, the schools and the community. Goodpaster also brought up the arrest of a former BGSU student in Saudi Arabia and asked the public for help reaching out to government officials in an effort to secure his release.

Joe DeMare, 517 S. Main Street, co-chair of the Wood County Green Party, stated that the Green Party is in full support of La Conexion's suggestions. He also suggested that if the victims of the Waffle House incident have incurred medical expenses, that the City consider stepping forward to help them financially.

Acting Council President Bruce Jeffers stated that the Welcome Bowling Green initiative began several years ago when national immigration policies and political rhetoric were getting ugly. City Council, the Mayor, the Human Relations Commission, La Conexion, and NIOT have been working on specific actions to pursue. On the advice of other organizations who have already begun welcoming initiatives, such as Welcome Toledo/Lucas County and Global Detroit, the task force thought it best to start with a plan to connect needy local employers with highly capable immigrant workers, to supplement the local labor force. It was believed that this is a win/win approach. Jeffers indicated that the task force is still hoping to combine efforts with Wood County and BGSU in the near future. It has been a slow process. But now, with this recent, racially motivated attack, it is clear that creating a truly welcoming culture is not an automatic thing. He is reminded that not everything about life in Bowling Green is wonderful for everyone who lives or visits here. As one of the leaders involved, he realizes how some of the statements made are inadequate when acts of hatred and violence occur. People that feel vulnerable on a continuing basis are not encouraged by saying things like "hateful speech and actions do not represent us as a community," because Bowling Green does include people who allow themselves to walk a path of hate, ignorance, intimidation, and sometimes overt violence. Jeffers acknowledged Bowling Green has not been transformed into a perfect place. The work continues. He assured those who spoke this evening that all of their comments will be taken into consideration.

Council Member Zanfardino thanked Jeffers for his excellent remarks. Zanfardino stated that a lot has been said tonight and there is a lot to process going forward. Zanfardino committed to meeting individually with as many of those who spoke as possible. He acknowledged that there is work to be done. He stated that he doesn't pretend to think that because the perpetrators were from out of town that this is not a local issue. Racism exists everywhere in our country. Zanfardino thanked those who spoke and said that there is more work to be done.

Council Member Hollenbaugh thanked everyone who spoke this evening and indicated that he noticed a reoccurring theme. Hollenbaugh went on to say that there are people in our community that have values that don't represent the majority of us. Hollenbaugh indicated that one of the perpetrators of this racist act was a former student of his and was in his government class. Hollenbaugh said that he understands the desire to reach out and educate, and also feels the sting of when that is inadequate.

Council Member Robinette also expressed his thanks for those who spoke this evening. Robinette stated that he is proud of Bowling Green. As mentioned earlier, other communities, such as Perrysburg, are following the lead of Bowling Green with community-based solutions to help solve these problems going forward. Robinette noted that he serves on the Business Council of the Chamber of Commerce. That Council is meeting tomorrow and this issue is on the agenda and what role the Chamber should be taking regarding it.

Council Member Herald thanked those who spoke this evening and for their well-thought out ideas. Herald expressed his desire for them to feel encouraged because the track record of City Council, both past and present, has been one of steady, innovative progress. Actions have been taken to move things forward such as anti-discrimination ordinances, Not in Our Town initiative, the Human Relations Commission, as well as various resolutions that have been adopted. Herald summarized that Council does listen, they have acted, and will continue to do so in the future.

Acting Mayor Aspacher expressed his thanks to the speakers this evening saying that it is heartening to see so many people present this evening. Aspacher stated that it is clear that this is a community problem that requires a community solution. He said that he is pleased to stand with Council, Mayor Edwards and the City Administration and commit to working on these issues. Aspacher reported that he met last week with Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter and Police Chief Tony Hetrick. At that meeting he learned that there is a potential to expand the Police Division's Liquor Establishment Education Training (LEET) to included businesses that are open late or overnight businesses even if they do not serve alcohol. The LEET training included violence mitigation techniques that may be valuable in situations such as what occurred at Waffle

House. Aspacher indicated that the Police Division is working on expanding this program to make it more widely available in the near future.

NEW LEGISLATION

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

Council Member Robinette, for the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee, introduced an ordinance amending and adopting Section 151.45(D) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, regarding streets and sidewalks.

Council Member Herald, for the Public Utilities Committee, introduced an ordinance authorizing the Utilities Director to apply for a loan and execute an agreement with the Ohio EPA/Ohio Water Development Authority for water pollution control loan fund funding for the design, equipment and construction of the aeration and biosolids improvement project at the Water Pollution Control facility, and declaring an emergency.

Acting Council President Jeffers, 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, 2019 and ending December 31, 2019.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Acting Mayor Aspacher had no report.

Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter reported that the City of Bowling Green is currently conducting a fair housing study, known as the "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)." The AI enables the City as a Community Development Block Grant recipient to "affirmatively further fair housing" as prescribed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The goals of the study are to identify whether barriers to fair housing choice exist locally in the rental and real estate markets as well as the mortgage lending, insurance, and appraisal industries. Further, the study examines private and public policies and practices that could, intentionally or inadvertently, lead to housing discrimination. The AI process includes soliciting the opinions of persons involved in the housing industry, including renters and homeowners. For those who prefer not taking an online survey, need clarification, seek more information about Fair Housing laws or wish to provide added input, two forums will be held. The dates of the forums are April 16, 2019 from 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, and April 24, 2019 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Tretter announced that the Bicycle Safety Commission is seeking nominations for the 19th annual Bicycle Spokesperson of the Year. The award will be presented to the nominee who best exemplifies the spirit of bicycling through involvement in bicycling, bicycle safety or bicycle-related activities. Nominees must reside in Bowling Green. Tretter noted that nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2019 and may be accessed from the Bicycle Safety Commission's webpage.

Tretter reported that the City of Bowling Green has entered into a partnership with Wood County for a free community notification system – CodeRED. This system will eventually take the place of the Nixle alert system currently being used. CodeRED provides the City with the ability to notify residents in the event of emergency situations or critical information such as water boil advisories, snow emergencies, or large scale electrical outages. Tretter explained that in order to receive these notifications, residents need to sign up for this free service. A link is posted on the City's website. There they will find helpful facts and information as well as the opt-in link for residents to register. Residents are also encouraged to download the free mobile app as well. Personal information will be controlled by CodeRED and will not be released unless compelled to do so by a court of sufficient jurisdiction. Citizens can opt to receive the type of notification of their choice – voice, text, and/or email. This includes a notification for the visually impaired.

Planning Director Heather Saylor had no report.

Parks and Recreation Director Kristin Otley was not present.

City Attorney Michael Marsh had no report.

Utilities Director Brian O'Connell announced that the annual Consumer Confidence Report regarding the City's water quality will now be published electronically and available on the City's website.

Public Works Director Brian Craft was not present.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Council committee reports.

READING OF LEGISLATION

Clerk read Ordinance #8768 providing supplemental appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2019, for first reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #8769 amending and adopting Section 151.45(D) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, regarding streets and sidewalks, for first reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #8770 authorizing the Utilities Director to apply for a loan and execute an agreement with the Ohio EPA/Ohio Water Development Authority for water pollution control loan fund funding for the design, equipment and construction of the aeration and biosolids improvement project at the Water Pollution Control facility, and declaring an emergency, for first reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #8766 authorizing the Utilities Director to enter into an agreement with the Manchester Group, LLC for utility service line protection program, for second reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #8767 accepting a utility easement from the Village of Haskins, for second reading.

Clerk read Resolution #3729 to recognize and celebrate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, for third reading.

Council Member Hollenbaugh moved, Herald seconded, to adopt Resolution #3729. On roll call vote, Council Members Herald, Hollenbaugh, Jeffers, Robinette, and Zanfardino voted yes. Acting Council President Jeffers declared motion carried, and Resolution #3729 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8759 certifying unpaid cost of snow removal to the County Auditor for placement on the tax duplicate, for third reading.

Acting Council President Jeffers moved, Herald seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8759. On roll call vote, Council Members Hollenbaugh, Jeffers, Robinette, Zanfardino, and Herald voted yes. Acting Council President Jeffers declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8759 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8762 authorizing participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2019, and declaring an emergency, for third reading.

Acting Council President Jeffers moved, Herald seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8762. On roll call vote, Council Members Jeffers, Robinette, Zanfardino, Herald, and Hollenbaugh voted yes. Acting Council President Jeffers declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8762 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8763 to provide for the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$1,010,000 of notes in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of paying costs of improving the City's park and recreation facilities by constructing, furnishing and equipping a new city park community building, and including landscaping, paving an entry

drive and parking lot and constructing a patio, together with necessary and incidental appurtenances and such other costs of those improvements as are permitted by Revised Code Section 133.15 to be funded from the proceeds of securities, and declaring an emergency, for third reading.

Acting Council President Jeffers moved, Hollenbaugh seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8763. On roll call vote, Council Members Robinette, Zanfardino, Herald, Hollenbaugh, and Jeffers voted yes. Acting Council President Jeffers declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8763 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8764 to provide for the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$890,000 of notes in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of paying costs of acquiring real estate for City purposes, and declaring an emergency, for third reading.

Acting Council President Jeffers moved, Zanfardino seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8764. On roll call vote, Council Members Zanfardino, Herald, Hollenbaugh, Jeffers, and Robinette voted yes. Acting Council President Jeffers declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8764 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #8765 authorizing the purchase of certain real estate and authorizing the Mayor and the Municipal Administrator to complete the purchase of said properties in substantial accordance with the contract exhibits attached, and authorizing the Municipal Administrator to request proposals for the sale of certain of said property not necessary for municipal purposes, and authorizing the execution of all documents necessary to complete said acquisitions by the Mayor and/or Municipal Administrator, for third reading.

Acting Council President Jeffers moved, Hollenbaugh seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8765. On roll call vote, Council Members Herald, Hollenbaugh, Jeffers, Robinette, and Zanfardino voted yes. Acting Council President Jeffers declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8765 adopted.

Council Member Herald thanked the Administration and others involved who worked steadfastly to bring this property purchase to fruition. Acting President Jeffers noted that this is something that is needed to keep the downtown moving forward and also thanked those involved in getting it done.

Council Member Hollenbaugh reminded citizens that the next Community Improvement Committee meeting regarding single use plastic bags is scheduled for May 6 at 6:00 p.m. Zanfardino noted that he spoke with Hollenbaugh and it was decided that there will be 15 minutes set aside at that meeting for additional public comments because there are students who are working on papers on this issue.

Council Member Herald commended Acting Council President Jeffers for the good job he did conducting this evening's meeting and moved to excuse Council Member Rowland from this evening's meeting. Council Member Zanfardino seconded the motion. On unanimous voice vote, Acting Council President Jeffers declared motion carried.

Council Member Zanfardino moved, Herald seconded, to adjourn. On unanimous voice vote, Acting Council President Jeffers adjourned the April 15, 2019 regular meeting of the City Council at 8:28 p.m., subject to call.


Kay D. Scherreik, Clerk of Council


Bruce Jeffers Acting President of Council