

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-6034 FORM NO. 10148

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020

Held

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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 Hollenbaugh. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, Council Members Herald, Hollenbaugh, and Robinette were present. Council Members Leontis, Phipps, Rowland, and Zanfardino attended via teleconferencing. Also present were Mayor Mike Aspacher, Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter, and 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 were not present.

Council Member Robinette requested that the paragraph #11 on page two be amended add the word "personal" before the word letter and add the following two sentences: The letter was not introduced for action by the full Council. There was no discussion and no was vote taken. Council Member Herald moved, Robinette seconded, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held August 3, 2020 as amended. On unanimous voice vote, Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried and the minutes amended as requested.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk of Council Kay Scherreik presented the appointment of Brian Swope to the Wood County Planning Commission for a term expiring August 17, 2022 as submitted by Mayor Aspacher for confirmation by City Council. Council Member Rowland moved, Robinette seconded, to confirm the appointment as requested by the Mayor. On unanimous voice vote, Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried.

LOBBY VISITATIONS

There were no lobby visitations.

NEW LEGISLATION

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

Council Member Robinette, for the Finance Committee, introduced a resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

Council Member Rowland, for the Parks and Recreation Committee, introduced a resolution authorizing the City of Bowling Green to participate in the Local Park Improvement Grant Program and to file an application and accept grant funding upon grant application approval.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Mayor Mike Aspacher read a statement regarding the return of the BGSU students relating to the current COVID-19 virus situation. A copy of the statement is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Council Member Herald asked if he and BGSU President Rogers were planning to visit students in surrounding neighborhoods as they have done in the past as he feels that it does have its benefits in communicating with the students. Mayor Aspacher indicated that he reached out to President Rogers today and that they are planning to do the visits this Friday afternoon. He indicated that they will adhere to social distance guidelines and will be wearing masks.

Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter reported that the roadwork at the intersection of Maple & Wooster Streets is nearing completion and the intersection should be reopened tomorrow.

Council Member Herald commended Tretter and Public Works Director Brian Craft for the excellent work on the resurfacing of Flanders Avenue. Herald indicated that he has received positive feedback from residents on that project.

City Attorney Michael Marsh had no report.

Planning Director Heather Saylor, Parks and Recreation Director Kristin Otley, Utilities Director Brian O'Connell, and Public Works Director Brian Craft were not present.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Council committee reports.

READING OF LEGISLATION

Clerk read Resolution #3774 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor, for first reading.

Clerk read Resolution #3775 authorizing the City of Bowling Green to participate in the Local Park Improvement Grant Program and to file an application and accept grant funding upon grant application approval, for first reading.

There was no legislation for second reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #8864 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, for third reading.

Council Member Robinette moved, Herald seconded, to adopt the emergency clause for Ordinance #8864. On roll call vote, Council Members Hollenbaugh, Leontis, Phipps, Robinette, Rowland, Zarfardino, and Herald voted yes. Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried, and emergency clause adopted.

Council Member Robinette moved, Herald seconded, to adopt Ordinance #8864. On roll call vote, Council Members Leontis, Phipps, Robinette, Rowland, Zarfardino, Herald, and Hollenbaugh voted yes. Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried, and Ordinance #8864 adopted.

Council Member Leontis commented regarding the letter referred to earlier in the meeting regarding rapid testing for COVID-19. Leontis noted that his original intent was to bring this before Council as a resolution, but as recommended by Council President Hollenbaugh he brought it forward as a letter to state and local government representatives. He further noted that the letter was circulated to all Council Members in advance of the meeting. Leontis thanked the Clerk of Council for help in distributing to Senators and representatives. Leontis stated that the availability of rapid testing is the key to coming out of this pandemic because there is no guarantee when a vaccine will be ready. He urged those Council Members who did not sign the letter to write a letter that they are comfortable with to their representatives regarding the urgency of funding the rapid testing. He noted that there is a bill in the House that has this funding included, but the Senate version does not. He encouraged writing to the Ohio's U. S. Senators.

Council President Hollenbaugh thanked Leontis for putting the letter together. He indicated that as a public school teacher who is back in the classroom, he understands the importance of being able to rapidly test students to effectively hold public school.

Council Member Herald moved, Robinette seconded, to adjourn. On unanimous voice vote, Council President Hollenbaugh adjourned the August 17, 2020 regular meeting of the City Council at 7:15 p.m., subject to call.


Kay D. Scherrek, Clerk of Council


Mark Hollenbaugh, President of Council



MAYOR'S OFFICE
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

August 17, 2020
Contact: Joe Fawcett 419-354-6204

Mayor Aspacher Statement: BGSU Students Returning

BOWLING GREEN — As we near the time when BGSU students will return to our community, it is important that our entire community consider how we can work cooperatively to optimize the health and safety of all those living, working, studying, and visiting Bowling Green. To that end, citizens have reached out to me to ask about community plans for the increasing population associated with the BGSU return to campus. Communicating about the start of fall semester is a regular activity for the City and the University and, in any other year, we would be having conversations about traffic flow during move-in, off-campus student conduct, how to educate students about their responsibilities while living within the community, and other routine items. As we are all aware, though, 2020 is anything but routine. As we face the fall of 2020, it is more important than ever that we take a community approach to the months ahead and recognize each of our roles and responsibilities as members of the Bowling Green Community.

Working directly with President Rogers and other BGSU administrators, our conversations about the fall have mostly centered on the coronavirus and how we, as a combined university-city community, can help educate returning students of their responsibilities in helping to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. President Rogers and I have also met with landlords and downtown bar/restaurant owners about this important topic and discussed their roles and responsibilities to the community.

The City will approach this issue in two significant ways: we will communicate and educate returning students and we will enforce the health orders directed by the State of Ohio. The communication and educational aspect of this has already begun with a joint letter from President Rogers and myself going out to off-campus tenants. In this letter, we spelled out that students have both the power and the responsibility to adhere to the health orders and provisions within their leases that limit the size of any gathering. Students were also reminded that enforcement of applicable laws and the health orders will occur through law enforcement means as well as the BGSU student code of conduct. BGSU has employed a Chief Health Officer and is working on ways to reinforce and educate health guidelines through the semester.

While communicating, educating, and enforcing health and safety with students both on and off campus is an important focus right now, we also ask that all members of the Bowling Green community prioritize and adhere to health orders. In essence, we are entering into a social contract as a community. The actions of one can impact the health of others. We must hold ourselves and our community to the highest of standards and be actively aware and practice the health guidelines within the community.

The City of Bowling Green is proud to be the home of Bowling Green State University. There is great importance to all of us in approaching the coming months with common goals. There is a weighty responsibility for all of us in the times ahead and I implore each of us to take seriously the challenges and opportunities to make health-minded decisions. As Mayor, I will continue to work cooperatively with BGSU as we traverse these ever-changing and difficult times.

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