

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Bellbrook City Council Meeting

August 26, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Schweller called the Regular Meeting of the Bellbrook City Council to order at 7:00pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Schweller led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mr. Logan Ashley

Mrs. Katherine Cyphers

Mr. Forrest Greenwood

Mr. Brady Harding

Mr. Ernie Havens

Mayor Mike Schweller

ABSENT

Mr. T.J. Hoke

Motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Hoke.

Motion made by Mr. Ashley, Seconded by Mr. Greenwood.

Voting Yea: Mr. Ashley, Mrs. Cyphers, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harding, Mr. Havens, Mayor Schweller

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the August 12, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting minutes

Mayor Schweller asked if anyone had comments or corrections to the minutes of the August 12, 2024 meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were declared to be approved.

5. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL GUEST

A. Posthumous Mayoral Proclamation for Nick Edwards.

B. 2024 Beautification Committee Award Presentation

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Denny Bennett 2211 Shadowood Cir thanked staff and council for making downtown Bellbrook look good. He also made comments about the truck route and large trucks going through downtown. He noted it is common to have mulch and dirt dropped on the road. He is in favor of removing the truck route. He then commented about backyard chickens noting there is currently an ordinance prohibiting them and does not know why there is a survey.

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Lindsey lives downtown. She is a naturalist and teacher and spoke about the backyard chicken survey. She stated she is passionate about being connected to nature and chickens are one way to be connected. She encouraged council to do research and speak to specialists.

Meredith Brinegar 2221 Ivy Crest. She noted she is neutral about chickens and is happy the discussion is going. She came to speak about the truck route ordinance and noted she has listened to all points so far. She noted she has witnessed large trucks manage tight turns downtown nervously. She is concerned about safety of pedestrians as well as damage to curbs and roadway. She noted the truck businesses have grown and there are more trucks. She has heard from friends that cannot have their street facing windows open due to noise and dust. She is in favor of re-routing trucks from downtown.

Ian Farlier spoke about the truck route issue and is concerned it would increase traffic even more on Wilmington where there is a concern about upcoming development.

Jenn LeClaire 3408 Pavillion spoke about the truck route ordinance. She commented being in Bellbrook is like playing a movie in her head seeing kids walking to school, people having lunch, people crossing crosswalks, etc. She noted the citizens want a safe and vibrant downtown and the City has gathered a lot of information from the residents. She is in favor of rerouting trucks from Downtown.

David Buccalo 126 Lower Hillside spoke about having chickens and noted he raised chickens previously and it was not difficult. He added if people want a dog they have one, if they don't, they don't. He added he has noticed many in the community are interested in chickens and it is an emotional issue. He added the former Xenia Mayor is a good resource and encouraged Council to speak to her.

7. CITIZENS REGISTERED TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

8. PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

None

9. INTRODUCTIONS OF ORDINANCES

None

10. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution No. 2024-R-21 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND CREDIT CARD PROCESSING AND CONVENIENCE FEES FOR UTILITY BILLING (Cyphers)

Mrs. Cyphers read the Resolution.

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Mr. Schommer explained the purpose of this resolution is to authorize a policy change for the fees associated with utility bill credit card payments. He noted there are significant funds paid each year to cover the cost of the convenience, many of which are not Bellbrook residents. He recommends this change to provide more equal benefit to the taxpayer.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-R-21

Motion made by Mrs. Cyphers, Seconded by Mr. Greenwood.

Voting Yea: Mr. Ashley, Mrs. Cyphers, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harding, Mr. Havens, Mayor Schweller

B. Resolution No. 2024-R-22 AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS WITHIN VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE CITY OF BELLBROOK (Greenwood)

Mr. Greenwood read the resolution.

Mr Schommer explained this resolution will allow the transfer of funds held from performance bonds primarily for water utility inspections into the appropriate fund as opposed to remaining carried over in the performance bond fund. He noted this is the appropriate accounting and use of these funds and recommends the Resolution be considered for adoption.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-R-22

Motion made by Mr. Greenwood, Seconded by Mr. Havens.

Voting Yea: Mr. Ashley, Mrs. Cyphers, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harding, Mr. Havens, Mayor Schweller

11. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 2024-O-11 will be scheduled for additional discussion at the next Regular Council Meeting.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Schommer mentioned the progress on the Main and Franklin project just waiting on some landscaping and crosswalk markings and the installation of push to cross rapid flashing beacons with signage of the crosswalks.

Also, mentioned touching on the 2 surveys that are closed and following up on the information and evaluating results and moving forward.

Mr. Greenwood mentioned on social media how there are a lot of questions on the different types of crosswalks and advised residents to contact Mr. Schommer of their questions or concerns.

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Mr. Harding asked what the cost of putting flashing lights at the crosswalk at Dot's. Mr. Schommer said the city is looking into the possibilities of a Safety Funding that is available through ODOT and if the style can be used in the close proximity of the traffic light at Little Sugarcreek Rd.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Safety Committee

Mr. Ashley gave an update that the Stop Sticks are in. Stated this doesn't change the city's pursuit policy but allows the city to medicate situations that do come into the city from other cities.

B. Service Committee

Mr. Greenwood mentioned that salt prices are coming in and appear to be lower this year.

C. Finance/Audit Committee

Notes

D. Community Affairs Committee

Mr. Havens mentioned over the next 6 months there will be volunteer and board commissions positions opening.

15. CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood stated he attended a school board meeting, the school board requested a meeting with council, Sugarcreek Township, Sugarcreek PD, Bellbrook PD to touch base on some safety issues.

Also, the Chamber of Commerce is looking for a new Executive Director. Mentioned for everyone to have a safe and happy Labor Day Weekend.

Mr. Harding mentioned the studies by The Springs of Centerville project.

Mr. Havens mentioned negative feedback on the curbs at N. Main / Walnut St. and East St. / Walnut St. and concerns of trailers / trucks making the turns. Also, pedestrian safety. He also mentioned the Beautification winners and how impressed he was with the winner's homes.

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Mayor Schweller congratulated the Beautification winner's. Also, thanked the audience for recognizing the emphasizes the council has placed on the improvements of the downtown and making it a more walkable town.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business coming before the Council, Mayor Schweller declared the meeting adjourned at 8:01pm

Michael Schweller, Mayor

Robert Schommer, Clerk of Council