

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Bellbrook City Council Meeting

May 8, 2023

## **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

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

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Schweller led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL:**

### **PRESENT**

Mr. Forrest Greenwood

Mr. Ernie Havens

Mr. T.J. Hoke

Mrs. Elaine Middlestetter

Mayor Mike Schweller

### **ABSENT**

Mrs. Katherine Cyphers

Mayor Schweller asked for a Motion to excuse Mrs. Cypher's absence.

Motion made by Mrs. Middlestetter, Seconded by Mr. Hoke.

Voting Yea: Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harding, Mr. Havens, Mr. Hoke, Mrs. Middlestetter, Mayor Schweller.

Motion Carries

## **ALSO PRESENT:**

Rob Schommer, City Manager

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Schweller asked if anyone had comments or corrections to the minutes of the April 24, 2023, meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were declared to be approved.

## **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

None

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mr. David Buccalo: 126 Lower Hillside Dr. mentioned his great neighbors and the great town of Bellbrook. Mr. Buccalo spoke on the Old Village and the tearing down of buildings within it, noting that no building should be torn down, as there is always a future use. He cited the example of Sugarcreek

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Township declaring the old Township Hall building unfit and wanting to tear it down, and now it is becoming a new brewery.

## **PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES:**

None

## **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

None

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Schommer provided updates on the city building inspection services. As previously mentioned, the responsibility does fall on the city. After review, two firms can provide the services in place of Greene County; however at this time he is recommending Bellbrook remain with Greene County due to some noted improvements in service. There are improvements in the process of permitting providing for return of permits within 14 days as well as other improvements. He notes the performance will be monitored, that it is the City's choice and responsibility to have building inspections.

Mayor Schweller stated he liked the approach and was glad to see the county being more responsive.

Mr. Greenwood asked what kind of comprehensive changes have been made. Mr. Schommer noted the intake, plan review and adjudication process have all been modified to be focused on approval for the applicant.

Mr. Havens noted a concern with a business recently opening having difficulty with Greene County in comparison to the same process in Montgomery County. He noted the business manager was fearful of retaliation in permit denials if he were to complain about the process. Mr. Havens noted Greene County had their chance for many years and recommends the City still move to another vendor for building inspection services.

Mr. Hoke stated the importance of data is key. Asked if we could get some data within the 3-month window to bring back to the council.

Mayor Schweller thanked Mr. Schommer for the update.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

None

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## **CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

Mr. Schommer provided updates and information on a variety of topics to include:

- Initial report submission for the Age-Friendly Livable Communities Grant
- Scope of work has been signed for LJB Engineering for the Downtown improvement project
- Lower Hillside Drainage Improvement project is complete; however some re-work of low spots will be conducted.

Mr. Schommer also noted he is not fully comfortable with how the Outdoor Warning Siren project turned out, that the topography of the City has created some unexpected issues in the carrying of the sound. He noted the contractor indicated if the City was not happy, they were not happy and will be working with us to resolve any concerns.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **SAFETY:**

Mr. Hoke spoke about the Bellbrook Police Department and their work with the Sugarcreek Township Police on the MILO stimulator and firearms trainer. He noted Officer Waller is progressing through his field training and Karen Moore is still in the hiring process.

He reported the Fire Department had several members attend the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial and our own Lt. Leach's wife was memorialized for her line of duty death.

The Drone pilot training for 3 employees (40 hours of certification course) to become drone pilots has been completed and the unit will be placed in service.

### **SERVICE:**

Mr. Greenwood provided an update for the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission meeting, with most of the discussion being about PFAS and the City of Dayton and WPAFB settlement.

### **FINANCE/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS:**

None

### **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:**

None

## **CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:**

Mr. Hoke spoke on the SRO appreciating the City for providing the SRO and the school board for partnering for the program.

Mr. Harding spoke on the new businesses in Bellbrook being invited to speak and give more visibility to the businesses at Council meetings. He also noted a group he met with who provides murals noting it would be a great opportunity for a location on a building downtown.

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Mr. Havens provided updates on the concerts in the parks and the alcohol permitting process by the Parks Board. He appreciated the progress being made however, due to high fees and insurance looks like no organization will be able to use the process and bring alcohol sales in the park for the concerts in 2023.

Mrs. Middlestetter stated the garden club will be beautifying the city in the next few weeks with flowers.

Mr. Greenwood stated the Library Committee, and the City Manager will attend a meeting with Greene Giving, to try to rejuvenate our Winters Library and look at options for the addition to the Library.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Hearing no further business coming before the Council, Mayor Schweller declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

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Forrest Greenwood, Deputy-Mayor

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Robert Schommer, Clerk of Council