

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Bellbrook City Council Meeting

July 24, 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

Mrs. Katherine Cyphers

Mr. Forrest Greenwood

Mr. Brady Harding

Mr. Ernie Havens

Mr. T.J. Hoke

Mrs. Elaine Middlestetter

Mayor Mike Schweller

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Rob Schommer, City Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Schweller asked if anyone had comments or corrections to the minutes of the July 10, 2023, meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were declared to be approved.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

None

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INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 2023-O-3: Amending Ordinance 2022-O-10 by making supplemental appropriations for expenses of the City of Bellbrook for the period beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023, and declaring an emergency (Cyphers)

Mayor Schweller asked Mr. Schommer to provide some background.

Mr. Schommer spoke on the collective bargaining agreements, wage adjustments, and insurance costs.

Mayor Schweller asked the council if anyone had any questions regarding Ordinance 2023-O-3. None

Mayor Schweller asked for a Motion for the approval and adoption of Ordinance 2023-O-3.

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

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

Motion Carries

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2023-R-17: Approving the collective bargaining agreements for Police Officers and Sergeants with the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc for the time-period, August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2026 (Hoke)

Mayor Schweller asked Mr. Schommer to go over the highlights.

Mr. Schommer explained most of the contract remains unchanged regarding non-financial sections, that most changes are wages for the next three years. He also noted there was a significant change in the Injury leave section creating more definition and structure.

Mayor Schweller thanked Mr. Schommer and the police for working on the contract in-house.

Mayor Schweller asked if there were any questions from the council.

Mr. Hoke asked if there is a calculation of total funding lines increases for the police fund. Mr. Schommer pointed out the Police Fund increases in the Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance.

Mr. Greenwood thanked Mr. Schommer for working through this contract.

Mayor Schweller asked for a Motion for the adoption of Resolution 2023-R-17.

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

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

Motion Carries

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Resolution 2023-R-18: Authorizing transfers between various funds of the City of Bellbrook (Havens)

Mayor Schweller asked Mr. Schommer if this was part of the bargaining agreement.

Mr. Schommer replied this is actually the annual budgeted He explained it is not an increase of the overall budget like the Supplemental Appropriation, rather the actual transfer of cash between funds to meet the appropriation.

Mayor Schweller asked if there were any questions regarding Resolution 2023-R-18. None

Mayor Schweller asked for a Motion for the adoption of Resolution 2023-R-18.

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

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

Motion Carries

Resolution 2023-R-19: Authorizing the City Manager to adjust the pay scales of employee positions not covered by a collective bargaining agreement (Greenwood)

Mayor Schweller asked Mr. Schommer if this was providing the same type of increases for our employees not covered by the collective bargaining agreement that were afforded to the police department. Mr. Schommer stated yes, that is correct.

Mayor Schweller asked if there are any questions or comments on Resolution 2023-R-19. None

Mayor Schweller asked for a Motion for the adoption of Resolution 2023-R-19.

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

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

Motion Carries

Resolution 2023-R-20: Authorizing the City Manager to expend funds to cover the cost of various goods and services ordered for city operations and to make payment on invoices with a then and now certificate (Harding)

Mayor Schweller asked Mr. Schommer to explain the “now and then” process.

Mr. Schommer explained, if there were goods or services ordered by the city and the invoice came prior to the purchase order date, then we certify that both then we had the funds to cover the service and now we have the funds to cover the service. He noted for this specific Then and Now, it covers services provided but never invoiced for work done within the water well monitoring system.

Mayor Schweller asked if there were any questions regarding Resolution 2023-R-20. None

Mayor Schweller asked for a Motion for the adoption of Resolution 2023-R-20.

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

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

Motion Carries

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Schommer spoke on Station 22 and the internet issues due to down trees growing into the lines. He noted there will be additional work to inspect and remedy any additional problems.

Mr. Schommer also gave an update on the Downtown Streetscape project design progress and noted the next meeting will bring the final design sheets so the project can go to bid.

Mayor Schweller asked if there were any questions for the City Manager.

Mr. Greenwood mentioned concerned citizens with the bridge work and the traffic when school starts. He suggested closing truck traffic on Main Street to help reduce issues. He also mentioned opening gates in the Highview Terrace development for buses only during school. Mr. Schommer noted staff is working with the school for additional traffic control and based on a previous legal opinion the City could in fact limit truck traffic on Main Street. He added he will follow up with the Law Director to see what process needs to be followed if Council wants to move forward with limiting truck traffic on Main Street.

Mr. Hoke mentioned concerns from citizens with traffic for school and sports events. He asked to show the citizens we have tried all things possible and showing the schedule for the projects downtown.

Mr. Havens mentioned the signs placed before the project, suggesting seeking an alternate route.

Mayor Schweller asked if there were any other questions for the City Manager.

Mr. Hoke asked about 4189 West Franklin and the tree that has fallen on the house. Any updates on this property. Mr. Schommer replied the owner is deceased and it is in the care of the children care. They are working on getting this taken care of through an insurance claim and finding a contractor to remove the tree.

Mayor Schweller asked if there were any other questions on the City Manager report.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SAFETY:

Mr. Hoke spoke about the fire department to include:

- Crews worked with the park district to provide safety talks to their Summer Camps at Magee Park.
- Touch - a – truck event had a great turn out. He noted if anyone missed out on the touch a-truck, residents could stop by the fire station and ask for a tour.

Mr. Hoke spoke about the police department to include:

- Officer Bennington has completed her School Resource certification training and will be ready for start of school
- Crews still working with Enterprise Fleet to finalize builds for SUV and trucks for the up fit and lease program.
- Memorandum of understanding was completed for the police department to participate on the Greene County Swat Team.
- Chief Carmen stated touch -a- truck was a great event for the police department as well.

SERVICE:

Mr. Greenwood asked about the paving bids from the County engineer. Mr. Schommer stated they have been asked for several times by several people, and there is now a concern about getting paving done this year. He noted he continues to follow up regularly and has been told they are done, they just haven't been released.

FINANCE/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS:

None

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Middlestetter asked about the Museum and hours. She suggested getting hours updated on the website.

CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mrs. Cyphers: None

Mr. Harding: Mentioned we are trying to get citizens to avoid downtown, but we still want to encourage everyone to support the businesses downtown.

Mr. Havens noted he agreed with Mr. Hardin; Support downtown businesses.

He also asked Mr. Schommer about the Citizens Academy. Mr. Schommer noted there is still plenty of spots open and it Starts September 5, 2023. Hopes citizens take advantage of it.

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Mr. Hoke mentioned an event for Halloween in the park October 14, 2023. He noted it is hoped the event becomes an annual tradition.

Mrs. Middlestetter also encouraged supporting downtown local businesses. She also commended the police officers and sergeants for working with the city on the union agreement.

Mr. Greenwood mentioned enjoying Bellbrook and visiting lemonade stands over the past couple of weeks.

Mayor Schweller thanked Loius the camera man, and the viewing audience and in person. Asked if anyone had any other business to bring before council this evening. None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business coming before the Council, Mayor Schweller declared the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

Michael Schweller, Mayor

Robert Schommer, Clerk of Council