

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Bellbrook City Council Meeting

November 27, 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

ALSO PRESENT:

Rob Schommer, City Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Schweller asked if anyone had comments or corrections to the minutes of the November 13, 2023, meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were declared to be approved.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Schweller announced a recognition of the retirement of Officer Jackie Jones after 34 years with the City of Bellbrook.

Chief Carmin gave a presentation and an award to Officer Jones. The council thanked Officer Jackie Jones for her 34 years of service.

Mayor Schweller introduced our new City Prosecutor, Mark Webb. Mr. Webb provided details on his years of service and what his staff has to offer the city.

Mayor Schweller and Mr. Schommer welcomed Mr. Mark Webb.

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Mr. Havens mentioned the council looks forward to working with Mr. Webb and his team.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None

PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 2023-O-6: An Ordinance approving the appropriations for expenses of the City of Bellbrook for the period beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2024. (Cyphers)

Mr. Schommer gave a presentation about the 2024 Annual Proposed Budget to the council.

- Highlights on the 2024 expense budget
- Budgetary goals
- Individual funds by departments
- Revenue budget
- Budget by category
- Expenses by fund
- Capital Improvements by fund
- Capital Expenditures by fund
- Personnel Costs by fund and departments
- Budget Elements (Department/fund details)
- Water fund (revenue vs usage)
- Property Tax

Mr. Schommer also provided details on navigating the new Financial Transparency Center tool available on the city website. He launched and introduced the tool and provided additional budget details and a demonstration of how to use the tool.

Mr. Schommer gave overview information and had department heads give details for their respective department budgets.

Police Chief Carmin thanked the council for another year of support for the Police Department. Chief provided updates on the Police Department and budget changes for 2024 noting:

- property and liability insurance increase
- technology maintenance fees for IT services re-allocated and increased
- MARCS fees increased (radio maintenance) software updates
- Flock Cameras (Investigating Tool)
- Ammunition and training
- Protective equipment (bullet proof vests)

Fire Chief Bizzarro thanked the council for their support and provided details on the Fire Department budget changes

- Dress uniform funds requested

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- Drone training program (pilots license cost)
- Property and liability insurance increase
- MARCS fees increase
- IT Maintenance re-allocation and increase
- Training with Lexipol (online) trainings in house to decrease fees
- Occupational Cancer concerns
- Hardware and software
- Turn out gear
- Dues and membership fees increase

Mr. Ryan Pasley with street, water, and waste collection.

- Water fund increase (generator and elevator maintenance)
- GIS (meter reading software)
- Analytical cost increase
- Fiber line to the wells
- street paving

Mayor Schweller thanked everyone for the Budget updates.

Mr. Schommer mentioned changes to Community Development and Administrative budgets.

Mr. Schommer provided details on Capital Investments for 2024 including the following items:

- street paving funds
- fire hydrants
- storm water maintenance
- fiber line installation to Well Field
- Main and Franklin Street improvement

Mayor Schweller thanked staff and Mr. Schommer on getting the Budget passed before the end of year. Also mentioned the New Financial Transparency Center with Clear Gov is amazing and gave credit on the details to Mr. Schommer.

The Council thanked Mr. Schommer for his hard work and providing the city with these great tools.

Mr. Schommer mentioned the small amount of debt The City of Bellbrook carries. (Ohio Public Works Commission Loans, Upper Hillside Water Replacement, and the water treatment plant improvement. Annual payments are being made at 0% interest.

Mayor Schweller mentioned very few cities operate with as little debt as The City of Bellbrook.

Mayor Schweller asked if anyone in the audience cares to speak in favor of or opposition to the budget presentation Ordinance 2023-O-6. Hearing none, Mayor Schweller declared the public hearing closed.

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2023-O-6.

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

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Voting Yea: Mrs. Cyphers, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harding, Mr. Havens, Mr. T.J. Hoke, Mrs. Middlestetter, Mayor Schweller.
Motion Carries

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 2023-O-7: Amending Article 18- General provisions of the Bellbrook Zoning Code (Middlestetter)

Mrs. Middlestetter read the Ordinance.

Mr. Schommer provided a brief description of the proposed amendment to the zoning code.

The council discussed light trespass violations with Mr. Foster.

Mr. Foster stated he would prefer more education from a legal perspective about specific enforcement and measurement of lighting violations.

Mayor Schweller noted more discussion can occur at the Public Hearing December 11, 2023.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance 2023-O-7.

Motion made by Mrs. Middlestetter, Seconded by Mrs. Cyphers.

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

Motion Carries

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2023-R-32: Imposing a temporary moratorium of one hundred and eighty (180) days on the issuance and processing of any permits allowing adult use cannabis operators within the City of Bellbrook (Havens)

Mayor Schweller noted this is a 180-day moratorium on the issuance of permits for any adult use cannabis operations in the city.

Mr. Schommer explained with the passage of the new law it has risen to some concerns reflected by Council. The moratorium prohibits any of the retail establishments in the city having the opportunity to be selected and solicit for a license to distribute cannabis for sale in the city. The moratorium allows local control and it's written in the law that allows us to either limit or prohibit the issuance of licenses locally. December 7, 2023, the law is in effect.

Mayor Schweller asked if this has been through legal review. Mr. Schommer replied, yes. This matches the type of regulation this city has regarding licensing and retail sales to safeguard the interest of the community.

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Motion to Adopt Resolution 2023-R-32.

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

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

Motion Carries

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Schommer mentioned work by staff to prepare for the 2024 Budget Presentation tonight.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SAFETY: Mr. T.J. Hoke met in person with Chief Bizzaro, Chief Carmin, and Captain Lane to go over safety committee issues. Looking forward to Flock Cameras. He spoke on Crime Reports in the New World reporting system for different schedules of reports including the weekly blotter.

SERVICE: Mr. Greenwood mentioned two water wells are down for cleaning. He noted the Service department does a lot of maintenance to prevent issues, and the department is getting ready for the winter weather.

FINANCE/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS:

None

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Middlestetter mentioned needing applicants for the Museum Board. She also reminded everyone of the December 9, 2023, Christmas in the Park event.

CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mrs. Cyphers: None

Mr. Harding: Congrats to Jackie Jones on her retirement. Reminder to shop local for the Holidays.

Mr. Havens: None

Mr. Hoke: Welcome to our New Prosecutor Mark Webb.

Mrs. Middlestetter: Welcome to our New Prosecutor Mark Webb.

Mr. Greenwood: Welcome to Mark Webb taking the Prosecutor position.

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Mentioned the service department has been working hard to light up downtown. Looks great!

Mayor Schweller thanked Mark Webb for coming and thanked The Optimist Club for lighting the tree in Bellbrook Park.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business coming before the Council, Mayor Schweller declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Michael Schweller, Mayor

Robert Schommer, Clerk of Council