

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Bellbrook City Council Meeting

January 9, 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
Mrs. Elaine Middlestetter
Mayor Mike Schweller

ABSENT:

Mr. T.J. Hoke

Motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Hoke.

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

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

Motion Carries

ALSO PRESENT:

Rob Schommer, City Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

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PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES:

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Schweller introduced Council Committee and associated organization delegate assignment.

Mayor Schweller asked if anyone wished to make any changes to those committee's assignments as a chairperson or as a committee member.

Mr. Havens replied on T.J. Hoke's behalf about his desire to return as Chair of the Safety Committee.

Mr. Schommer noted a swap of Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Hoke on the Safety and Finance Committees respectively would allow each member to remain on just two committees and not affect any other assignments is the desire was to keep all else the same.

Mayor Schweller approved that change with no other suggestions or concerns from Council.

Mr. Schommer announced the revised 2023 committee assignments as follows:

Finance and Audit: Mrs. Cyphers (Chair), Mr. Havens, and Mr. Greenwood.

Safety: Mr. Hoke (Chair), Mrs. Middlestetter, and Mrs. Cyphers.

Community Affairs: Mrs. Middlestetter (Chair), Mr. Harding, and Mr. Havens.

Service: Mr. Greenwood (Chair), Mr. Harding, and Mr. Hoke.

Mayor Schweller stated to Council, if you want to attend another Committee Meeting, it will become a public meeting.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Schommer discussed the emergency dispatch public safety answering point agreement that we currently have, serviced by Greene Central out of Xenia. Proposal for a multi-year agreement with an

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increase to our fees. He noted pricing details on the services provided at the Center. In the year 2023 there will be a slight increase in prices and then it would go down year after year with efforts put towards moving to a county wide board and not just Xenia being the main coordinator. The goal is to have the entire county as one entity.

Mayor Schweller thanked Mr. Schommer for putting this agreement together. It will be a savings for our citizens.

Mr. Schommer spoke on the downtown Street Scape projects noting the bids start around May. In addition, the resurfacing and intersection improvements will bid in Spring for a hopeful summer project start.

Mr. Schommer noted fiscal year 2022 is closed and completely balanced, which now triggers the 2022 Audit process. Documents and reports are being put together to begin developing the 2022 Financial Statement, followed up by the independent audit.

Mr. Schommer announced the City is in consultation with Julian and Grube for development of the proper uniform guidance procedures for accounting and fiscal practices. The policies are expected to be finalized and ready for authentication and approval by Spring.

Mr. Schommer also noted the City is consulting with Lexipol on the review and updating of the City Personnel Manual, to make sure all merit and personnel related policies are based on up to date modern, legal and professional standards.

Mayor Schweller asked if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the city manager report.

Mr. Havens inquired about the re-paving on Franklin and Main streets, asking if there a common problem under the road that can be fixed before paving to avoid having to dig it up for future repairs. Mr. Schommer replied water mains run under the roadway and an inspection of all valves and maintenance items are being done to see if there are any preventive maintenance issues needed; however, it is hard to predict main breaks.

Mr. Havens noted he hopes the policy updates for the City do not get over complicated or unnecessary. Mr Schommer stated his philosophy is generalize if you can, specialize if you must regarding policy development.

Mr. Havens also asked about the hiring of three police officers and the budget going into a negative status. He asked is delaying the hiring would help the budget shortfall. Mr. Schommer replied he wasn't sure how we could without a significant reduction in the services that we are providing. He noted the positions are funded within the 2023 budget, and we need to plan for 2024 where either reductions in service or addressing revenue needs to be decided by the community.

Mr. Harding asked if we have any updates on the Museum and the timeline of the construction progress. Mr. Schommer stated there are no updates at this time. It is looking great and coming together.

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Mr. Greenwood asked about the GIS website and taxes, noting he found some inaccurate information on the website. Mr. Schommer replied to contact the Auditors office if any info on the GIS website is incorrect.

Mr. Schommer spoke on the consideration and finalization of the CIC appointments for council and asked that to be considered for the next meeting.

Mayor Schweller thanked Mr. Schommer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SAFETY:

Mr. Greenwood noted he was proud of the movement to get a full time School Resource Officer in the schools for the 2023-2024 year which will make a safer environment. He also noted due to the inability to get police cars, the Police and Fire Chiefs are working to transfer an underused fire staff vehicle for use by the police department. He appreciated the departments and all staff working together to get the job done.

SERVICE:

Mr. Greenwood noted the new backhoe has arrived and the old one will be soon sold on govDeals.

FINANCE/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS:

None

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

None

CITY OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Mr. Harding sending his condolences to Lt. Jay Leach. Also, asked Mr. Schommer about animals crossing the roadway and warning signs placement. Mr. Schommer noted he would work with Mr. Harding and any concerned residents to address any issues.

Mr. Havens thanked Mr. Schommer for negotiating for dispatch services.

Mrs. Middlestetter thanked Mr. Schommer for negotiating for dispatch and offered condolences to Lt. Leach.

Mr. Greenwood spoke on the Bellbrook Library and the expansion, that he, Mrs. Middlestetter and the library staff will continue to meet to see what possibilities there are based on what the needs are.

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Mayor Schweller offered condolences and is sending prayers to Lt. Jay Leach. He also thanked Rumpke for keeping the information flowing regarding for trash pickups, and confirmed the City crediting residents for the unanticipated delay in pickup due to weather and the holiday was the right thing to do. He agrees that the residents deserve to get the services they agree to pay for and supports actions to keep the best value in services for the community.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business coming before the Council, Mayor Schweller declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

Michael Schweller, Mayor

Robert Schommer, Clerk of Council