



## City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

6:00 PM

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**1) Call to Order**

President Markham called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**2) Roll Call of Members**

Council Members in Attendance: Sam Marcellino, Lori Ann Feibel, Jennifer Robinson, Troy Markham, Monique Lampke, Jessica Saad, Matt Klingler

Council Members Absent: None

Council President Markham made a note that Item 5 on the Agenda lists Adjourn, and this is in error. The actual adjournment should be number 24 on the agenda.

**3) Pledge of Allegiance**

**4) Presentations/Special Guests**

A) Proclamation for Margaret and Jeff Harriman

Mayor Kessler presented a proclamation to Maggie and Jeff Harriman for their service to the Bexley Community Gardens. Maggie spoke about the donation of food from the gardens and how this is something she's very proud of. Maggie also thanked Mayor Kessler, Mr. Price, and the gardeners and volunteers of the Bexley Community Gardens.

B) Introduction of Tracie Baum of the Bexley Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Baum introduced herself and spoke briefly of her background and her history both in Bexley and as a Capital University Alum. She also spoke about the Chamber and its purpose in the community. Ms. Baum then presented some upcoming programs with the Chamber.

**5) Adjourn**

This adjourn item is in error as noted by President Markham.

**6) Public Comments (Speaker Slip Required)**

No public comment at this time.

**7) President's Report**

Mr. Markham spoke about how great it was to see such a strong attendance at the Senior Center grand opening, which he thinks is a reflection of the community's excitement about this facility.

Mr. Markham also spoke regarding his recent meeting with newly elected school board member, Victoria Powers. Ms. Powers reported a potential upcoming expansion of athletic facilities through a partnership with JCC. Ms. Powers also expressed her gratitude for use of City Council Chambers. Ms. Powers also reported her thoughts on the benefits and wisdom of having a City Attorney.

**8) City Attorney Report**

Mr. Fishel reported that a tentative agreement has been reached with the dispatcher's and animal control officer's union and he will report back when this is approved.

Mr. Fishel also reported that House Bill 51 has been signed allowing for Zoom meeting attendance at public meetings through June 30, 2022.

**9) Auditor's Report**

Mr. McPeck reported he is working on items to discuss at next week's strategy meeting. He invited any Council member who has items they'd like to see the Auditor's Officer's office work on to reach out to him.

Mr. Klingler is also working on a one-page, snapshot document to help quickly and clearly relay a summary of the City's finances.

**10) Administrative Update:**

A) Service Department Update - Andy Bashore

Mr. Bashore has no additions to his written report.

Ms. Feibel thanked Mr. Bashore and the Service Department for all they do and stated that the scope of the Service Department's work on winter storm clean up doesn't end with the removal of snow and that she's aware of follow up work to repair potholes and road damage that resulted from the storm. Ms. Saad asked about the extra artist bike rack, which did arrive yesterday. Ms. Saad also expressed her gratitude for the work the Service Department does, especially during snowstorms. Mr. Kessler asked about the notice received from Columbia Gas on a project on Astor and College and asked about when this would be occurring and Mr. Bashore answered this.

B) Police Department Update - Interim Chief Gough

Chief Gough has nothing additional to add to his written report, but did highlight challenges with catalytic converter theft, which is a nationwide issue that is impacting Bexley as well. Mayor Kessler asked if there was any advice that could be provided about this, and Chief Gough recommended parking near as much lighting as possible. Ms. Feibel also offered her thanks to the officers who recently removed weapons and illegal substances from the streets through a routine traffic stop.

C) Recreation and Parks Update - Mike Price

Mr. Price had no updates on his written report but would like to provide an update on the Commonwealth Park project. Hearing no questions on his report, Mr. Price provided an update on the Commonwealth West athletic field project. Mr. Kessler and Mr. Klingler asked questions regarding timing and funds, which Mr. Price answered, including Ryan DeMay, a consultant from FieldSource in the response. Mr. Marcellino then asked questions regarding different components of the project, including restrooms, which Mr. DeMay and Mr. Kessler answered. Ms. Lampke asked questions about the pricing of the bids and whether this could be a cost savings to do them at the same time. Mr. DeMay reported his opinion that this would provide a savings of probably low five figures, around \$10,000. Ms. Saad asked a follow-up question based on Ms. Lampke's question, and Mr. DeMay further clarified that there's a good potential construction pricing could go down in the future which is another potential benefit of splitting the projects up. Ms. Feibel asked a follow up question regarding the cost of missed programming and whether that played a factor in the project decisions, which Mr. Price answered. Mr. Fishel then asked Mr. Price to follow up with him on this contract for review.

D) Finance Department Update - Beecher Hale

Mr. Hale provided highlights of his written report.

E) Mayor's Update

Mr. Kessler provided some updates on a couple of items that are not listed on his report, including information on some recent developments regarding electrical aggregation. He also reported that the Drexel Avenue plan has been revised and will be provided to residents for input soon.

Mr. Kessler then highlighted the section regarding the evolving situation with COVID and the mask mandate. Mr. Kessler spoke to the importance of being able to act quickly through the masking executive order, but stated that the current downward trend in cases, hospitalizations and deaths underscores the reality that this measure is no longer necessary now in the way it was in September. Mr. Kessler then provided an overview of an updated Executive Order and a proposed ordinance to address this evolving situation. Mr. Kessler asked for any feedback on the mask mandate and ordinance.

Ms. Robinson thanked Mayor Kessler for his report, and spoke about the challenges of finding the right path and expressed her gratitude for the language specific to areas where people are gathering for long periods of time.

Ms. Saad asked for clarification about Section 2, which Mr. Kessler provided. Ms. Saad asked Mr. Fishel about the legal need for this language, and Mr. Fishel reported that while it isn't legally required, he does feel is legally wise to include.

Ms. Feibel expressed her support for the removal of the mask mandate and stated that she feels it's time, but did ask about whether nearby cities would be following suit soon, which Mr. Kessler answered.

Ms. Saad asked about the timing and expressed her appreciation for the Mayor's transparency with this situation.

Ms. Lampke expressed her support for this action for two reasons: based on her takeaway from

the Covid Task Force meeting that we are moving in the right direction and that we're also entering a warmer season. Ms. Lampke also urged Council members to be willing to put a mask mandate in place if necessary in the future.

Mr. Marcellino expressed his gratitude for the Council members for being leaders in this situation and for taking action that helped his family feel safe. He also acknowledged that this is a fluid situation and urged Council members to keep an eye on the situation, and also stated he agrees it's time to move forward.

Mr. Markham spoke about the balance of power and responsibility that comes with an Executive Order and briefly discussed some of the conversation in City leadership that surrounded that action and stated that he feels this robust debate was important. Mr. Markham also expressed his appreciation for Mr. Kessler's prudence and accountability for these decisions and also stated that he feels good about where we're going and feels good about the success of the end of this executive order.

Mr. Kessler stated that he would be making these changes and that we'll be looking at the related ordinances later tonight in the first readings.

Mr. Kessler also highlighted other items in his report including a sustainability update and an update on the police chief search, and the storm sewer update related to recent heavy rain. A few Council members asked questions and provided comments.

Mr. Kessler concluded with brief coverage of his photos and related events.

**11) Consent Agenda: (No Speaker Slip Required)**

A) Meeting Minutes - 02/08/22 City Council Meeting

Mr. Fishel read the item on the Consent Agenda and Mr. Fishel asked for questions. Hearing none, Mr. Markham asked for action on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Feibel moved to adopt the items on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Lampke seconded.

All in Favor: Sam Marcellino, Jennifer Robinson, Lori Ann Feibel, Troy Markham, Matt Klingler, Monique Lampke, and Jessica Saad

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**12) Ordinances/Resolutions with visiting presenters**

**13) Third Readings: (No Speaker Slip Required)**

**14) Second Readings: (Speaker Slip Required)**

A) Ordinance 3-22 to appropriate \$2700 from the Friends of Jeffrey Preschool Fund to pay preschool related expenses in 2022. (Introduced by Monique Lampke on February 8, 2022)

Mr. Fishel read this ordinance and Ms. Lampke provided some additional information. Mr.

Markham asked if Ms. Lampke would like to move that item to the Consent Agenda, which, hearing no comments, she agreed to.

**15) First Readings: (Speaker Slip Required)**

- A) Ordinance 6-22 to re appropriate \$236,298.33 from the South Drexel Avenue and Grandon Avenue Project Fund to pay the City's matching share on this project introduced by Monique Lampke.

Mr. Fishel read Ordinance 6-22 and Ms. Lample provided additional information.

- B) Ordinance 5-22 to protect the rights of individuals to wear Face Coverings in Places of Public Accommodation introduced by Sam Marcellino.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Mr. Marcellino reminded Council Members that this ordinances is the same as mentioned during Mr. Kessler's report.

- C) Ordinance 4-22 to certify special assessments for the repair of sidewalks where the work was not done by the owner after being ordered by the City in accordance with Bexley Code Section 1490.15(b)(4)A or Bexley Code Section 1492.04(b)(1) and it was necessary to do the work and assess the owner; to assess the owner of properties with unpaid alarm fees in accordance with Bexley Code Section 643.03; to certify a special assessment in accordance with Bexley Code Section 1490.18 (Environmental Contamination); and to certify special assessments for code violation abatements where work was not done by the owner after being ordered by the City in accordance with Bexley Code Section 1490 and it was necessary to do the work and assess the owner introduced by Monique Lampke.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke invited Mr. Kessler to provide some additional input and background, which he did. Hearing no questions, Mr. Markham continued.

**16) Tabled Ordinances:**

- A) Ordinance 41-21 accepting the proposed donation of the Columbia Place private street in the Columbia Place subdivision by the City of Bexley for a public street. (Introduced by Jessica Saad September 28, 2021)
- B) Ordinance 24-21 (Tabled), to award the Bexley Electricity Aggregation Program contract to AEP Energy, based upon the terms and conditions provided for in their RFP, as modified by the Board of Control, introduced by Mr. Sharp. (Introduced on May 25, 2021)
- C) Ordinance 12-21 (Tabled), to adopt and approve the City of Bexley Electric Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance, and to declare an emergency, introduced by Mr. Sharp (introduced on March 9, 2021).

No action on tabled ordinances this evening.

**17) Recreation and Parks Committee - Jessica Saad, Chair**

Ms. Saad provided an update that Bexley Education Foundation's BRAVO Event will be March 26 at 5pm at St. Charles.

**18) Strategic Committee - Jen Robinson, Chair**

Ms. Robinson reminded Council Members of the presentation for the Saunders Group and Ralph Andersen groups and the upcoming Council Retreat she's been working on.

**19) Service and Environmental Committee - Lori Ann Feibel, Chair**

Ms. Feibel reported on the recent Tree and Gardens Commission meeting and some work they're doing and also reported that Elizabeth Ellman is doing some great work getting ready for Earth Month.

**20) Finance Committee - Monique Lampke, Chair**

Ms. Lampke invited Council Members to attend an upcoming City Council event. Ms. Lampke also reported about the successful pet food drive for the Bexley Police Academy Alumni.

**21) Safety and Health Committee - Sam Marcellino, Chair**

Mr. Marcellino reminded Council that the Bexley Citizen's Police Academy is accepting applicants and you can email Sergeant Overly at [doveryl@bexley.org](mailto:doveryl@bexley.org) for more information. Mr. Marcellino also reminded everyone of tomorrow's Police Chief search workshop.

**22) Zoning and Development Committee - Matt Klingler, Chair**

Mr. Klingler had nothing to report.

**23) Public Comments (No Speaker Slip Required)**

No public comments at this time.

**24) Adjourn**

Matt Klingler moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Robinson seconded.

All in Favor: Sam Marcellino, Jennifer Robinson, Lori Ann Feibel, Troy Markham, Matt Klingler, Monique Lampke, and Jessica Saad

Motion passed 7-0.

Council President Troy Markham adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.