



City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

6:00 PM

1) Call to Order

Council President Markham called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm with words of acknowledgement on the difficult situation continuing to develop in the Ukraine.

2) Roll Call of Members

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

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Presentations/Special Guests

None.

5) Public Comments (Speaker Slip Required)

No public comment at this time.

6) President's Report

Mr. Markham stated how pleasant it is to see everyone's faces without masks and also spoke about how fun and unique the Jeffrey Woods festival is and expressed his thanks to the Mayor and the Recreation Department for their work on that. Mr. Markham also thanked Ms. Robinson for her work on the Council retreat along with Mr. McPeck, Mr. Kessler, and Ms. Ellman who all contributed to the success of the retreat.

7) City Attorney Report

Mr. Fishel spoke about a piece of legislation working it's way through the statehouse right now which would significantly limit local municipalities from restricting or prohibiting Air BNB activity. He will keep Council up to date on this as it develops.

8) Auditor's Report

Mr. McPeck provided an update on the cadence of how financial information will be reported each month and also reported that he met with the City's financial investors this week and is gaining familiarity with that aspect of his role.

9) Administrative Update:

A) Service Department Update - Andy Bashore

Mr. Bashore had no additions to his report. Mr. Markham asked if there would be any additions to the sidewalk project this year and Mr. Bashore reported that it should be finished this year.

B) Police Department Update - Interim Chief Gough

Chief Gough doesn't have any additions to his written report. Mr. Markham praised the police department's work on the pet food and supplies drive. Ms. Lampke asked for clarification on the new prosecutor for the City and Chief Gough spoke about the positive impact of our new prosecutor. Ms. Robinson, Ms. Lampke, and Ms. Saad acknowledged some of the positive developments here as well.

Ms. Feibel expressed concerns over attrition reported at Columbus Police Department, and stated she feels Council will need to be very aware and careful to support our officers.

Mr. Fishel, with President Markham's permission, spoke briefly about the process of criminal charges and prosecution in the City of Bexley, clarifying which cases are heard by Mayor's Court versus Municipal Court. The Mayor then added additional comments regarding the Victim Advocate program. Chief Gough closed with comments praising the work of the officers.

C) Recreation and Parks Update - Mike Price

Mr. Price has nothing to add to his written report. Mr. Kessler commended Ms. Greiner on her long service to Bexley and urged Council members to come to the Open House for Ms. Greiner's retirement. Mayor Kessler also extended his thanks for Mr. Price's department for their hard work on the Jeffrey Woods Festival. Mr. Price specifically acknowledged Ron Gould's hard work for the Jeffrey Woods Festival.

D) Finance Department Update - Beecher Hale

Mr. Hale had no other additions to his written report but did ask Council to consider the suspension and adoption of ordinance 6-22 to reappropriate funds.

E) Mayor's Update

Mr. Kessler summarized the highlights of his report, speaking to some upcoming events and also sharing his gratitude for the one-on-one officer meetings he's been having. Mr. Kessler also reported a recent update from the COGO bikes program, which recently reported a significant fee increase for the service. Columbus will be subsidizing the cost of the COGO bike program and has approached Bexley about sharing their portion of this cost, which would be more than \$45,000. Ms. Saad asked if they track ridership by station, to see if bikes leave or arrive in Bexley from other areas. Mr. Kessler answered this and provided some additional information.

Mr. Kessler then spoke about the South Drexel Avenue project and addressed the part-time Finance and Personnel Coordinator position which they are proposing and feel would be a cost neutral solution to address some of the onsite Finance Department need and to create better redundancy and job separation. Mr. Fishel spoke about his agreement with the need for this position and expressed his opinion that the position should be full time.

i) Feet on the Street Presentaiton

Mr. Kessler then invited Ms. Ellman to speak regarding the Feet on the Street program, which addresses recycling contamination and provides training and support with the goal of reducing contamination through a tagging system and educational materials. Ms. Feibel asked for details on the costs when the grant is included, which Ms. Ellman and Mr. Kessler addressed. Mr. Kessler stated that he has been convinced of the merits of a program like this in Bexley. Ms. Lampke asked about tagging system and the potential for an increase in recyclables behind thrown away with regular trash and Mr. McPeck expressed concerns over the punitive nature of this program. Ms. Saad commended Ms. Ellman for bringing this program before Council, and asked if we could have a presentation more specific to Bexley, and expressed other concerns. Mr. Marcellino asked if there was an opportunity to elect a portion of the City, rather than the City as a whole, which Ms. Ellman answered. Ms. Feibel expressed her support for the program and feels that if we're going to recycle, we should do it correctly. Mr. Markham asked for clarification on the level of contamination that would institute a tag or rejection and expressed concern about punitive action. Ms. Robinson agreed with Ms. Feibel's support but also expressed her concerns that are similar to others expressed regarding punitive measures.

10) Consent Agenda: (No Speaker Slip Required)

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

B) 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)

Ms. Lampke moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Klingler seconded.

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

Opposed: None

Motion Passed 7-0

11) Third Readings: (No Speaker Slip Required)

None.

12) Second 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 on February 22, 2022.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke reminded Council that Mr. Hale requested that this be opened for Suspension and Adoption. Mr. Kessler provided some additional background on this funding.

Ms. Lampke moved to suspend the three reading requirement for Ordinance 6-22.

Ms. Feibel seconded.

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

Opposed: None

Motion Passed 7-0

Ms. Lampke moved to adopt Ordinance 6-22.

Ms. Robinson seconded.

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

Opposed: None

Motion Passed 7-0

- B) Ordinance 5-22 to protect the rights of individuals to wear Face Coverings in Places of Public Accommodation introduced by Sam Marcellino on February 22, 2022.

Mr. Fishel read this ordinance and Mr. Marcellino explained that this ordinance is in place to protect those who elect to wear masks. Ms. Saad expressed opposition to this ordinance as she doesn't feel this will be necessary in Bexley. Mr. Marcellino replied, reiterating his belief that a proactive approach is best for Council in this situation. Ms. Lampke asked if there has been any feedback from businesses about this ordinance and Ms. Saad asked Council to review the penalties clause. Mr. Kessler clarified that this would be a code enforcement issue, not police enforcement as it is not a criminal offense. Ms. Saad restated her belief that the ordinance is unnecessary. Hearing no further questions, Mr. Markham moved to the next item on the agenda.

- 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 on February 22, 2022.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke and Mr. Kessler provided some additional information and answered questions.

13) First Readings: (Speaker Slip Required)

- A) Ordinance 7-21 to amend 618.22 (Disposal of Animal Fecal Matter Required), to eliminate the requirement to carry equipment. Introduced by Troy Markham.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Mr. Markham provided some additional information on the background and reasoning for this ordinance, which is primarily to clean up the ordinance. Ms. Lampke asked how the fecal matter will be picked up without an item. Mr. Markham responded to this stating that even responsible pet owners could run out of bags and would still comply with the law if they needed to return to the site. Ms. Lampke and Mr. Marcellino added some thoughts on small edits to the language of this ordinance.

- B) Resolution 1-22, confirming the Mayor's appointments of members to the Architectural Review Board; the Citizens Review Board; the Recreation Board; and the Board of Zoning

Appeals and Planning, introduced by Jen Robinson on March 8, 2022

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Robinson provided a brief overview of the purpose of this resolution. Mr. Kessler provided some additional information on the ordinance and a brief overview of each of each appointee. Ms. Robinson clarified that these appointees will be visiting Council for introductions in the coming meetings.

14) 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)

No action at this time.

- B) 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).

Ms. Feibel moved to take ordinance 12-21 off the table for discussion.

Mr. Klingler seconded.

Motion passed by voice vote 7-0.

Ms. Feibel stated that while we had expected to discuss this, the world energy market is in crisis currently, but urged Council to hold the document she sent and be prepared to revisit this. Mr. Kessler then provided more background on the aggregation program proposal and stated reasoning for Council to consider approval of this ordinance now, which will allow Council to decide and vote on any future steps as the energy market settles and clearer rates are available.

Ms. Feibel moved to approve Ordinance 12-21

Ms. Robinson seconded.

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

Opposed: None

Motion Passed 7-0

Mr. Kessler then provided a brief update on the aggregation status.

- C) 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)

No action at this time.

15) Zoning and Development Committee - Matt Klingler, Chair

Mr. Klingler reported there is an ARB meeting this Thursday.

16) Recreation and Parks Committee - Jessica Saad, Chair

Ms. Saad reminded Bexley Seniors that they can apply for senior center membership for only \$25 online or by calling Parks and Recreation. Ms. Saad also reported on behalf of Bryan Drewry regarding a BMPA sponsored art auction being held both online and in person at Bexley Public Library.

17) Strategic Committee - Jen Robinson, Chair

Ms. Robinson has no report today.

18) Service and Environmental Committee - Lori Ann Feibel, Chair

Ms. Feibel has nothing to report on the Service and Environmental Committee, but did briefly speak about the progress of the Celebrations and Events Committee and also about a program tomorrow night about Bexley's Miss America.

19) Finance Committee - Monique Lampke, Chair

Ms. Lampke spoke thanked Members of Council and the Mayor for coming to the Chamber of Commerce event last week. Ms. Lampke also complimented Ms. Robinson on the Council retreat. Ms. Lampke also shared that the Bexley Women's Club is working with the City to organize a donation drive to benefit victims in the Ukraine and this will be shared soon. Ms. Lampke also acknowledged International Women's Day and expressed her gratitude for working with three other amazing women on Council.

20) Safety and Health Committee - Sam Marcellino, Chair

Mr. Marcellino has nothing to report on Safety or Health, but extended congratulations to the Bexley High School Cheer team on their state championship.

Mr. Klingler then also mentioned that Bexley Bravo invitations have been sent.

21) Public Comments (No Speaker Slip Required)

No Comment at this Time.

22) Adjourn

Mr. Klingler moved to adjourn.

Ms. Saad seconded.

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

Opposed: None

Motion Passed 7-0

Mr. Markham adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.