



City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

1) Call to Order

President Markham called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

2) Roll Call of Members

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

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Presentations/Special Guests

a) Maggie Smith, Poet

Ms. Smith briefly presented on writing and living in Bexley and Mr. Markham and Mr. Kessler spoke in praise of her work and in gratitude of her attending.

b) Ashleigh Harvey, Madison Lampke, Nikolas Robinson, City Interns

Ms. Harvey presented briefly on her work for the City's Sustainability Department.

Ms. Lampke spoke briefly about her work at the City.

Mr. Robinson spoke briefly about his work at the City.

Several Council members and Mr. Kessler commented on the positive experience these interns gained and expressed appreciation for their time and effort.

5) Ordinances with Special Guests

- a) **Resolution 5-23** confirming the Mayor's appointments to the Architectural Review Board; the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning; the Recreation and Parks Board; and the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee; introduced by Jen Robinson on August 15, 2023. This is the second reading.

- a. **Ashley Harvey**, candidate for Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
- b. **Matt Eshelbrenner**, candidate for Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning

Ms. Harvey was here earlier and spoke about Sustainability at that time.

Mr. Eshelbrenner spoke about his background and his reasons for interest in BZAP. Ms. Saad and Mr. Kessler spoke in praise of Mr. Eshelbrenner and in gratitude for his willingness to serve.

- b) **Ordinance 28-23** to amend Chapter 1456.01, Registration Required and to provide standards of care for the areas surrounding trees in the tree lawn; introduced by Lori Ann Feibel on August 15, 2023.

- a. **Jim Wilson**, Tree and Public Garden Commission

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Mr. Wilson spoke on behalf of the Tree and Public Gardens Commission about the dangers of over-mulching trees and spoke in support of this ordinance. Mr. Kessler added some additional details on this. Ms. Feibel also shared that a Scout seeking Eagle Scout distinction is planning to create and distribute a memo. A few Council members asked additional questions.

Mr. Wilson sat down and then Mr. Kessler spoke about some of the proposed changes. Mr. Fishel also provided some detail about some of these changes and highlighted the addition of registering mosquito control contractors. Ms. Feibel spoke more about this portion of the ordinance. Mr. Markham asked about the presence of informational signs on insect-controlled lawns and whether this is required by law.

Ms. Lampke and Mr. Marcellino expressed concern about the portion regarding mosquito-control contractors. Ms. Saad and Mr. Klingler asked clarifying questions. Mr. Kessler asked whether City Council wanted him to split the ordinances, and general consensus was in agreement to split out this portion of the ordinance in the next meeting.

6) Public Comments (Speaker Slip Required)

None.

7) President's Report

None.

8) City Attorney Report

None.

9) Auditor's Report

Mr. McPeek clarified that he recently audited some larger expenses and found all to be in proper order.

10) Administrative Update

a) Service Department Update – Andy Bashore

Mr. Bashore had no additions. Ms. Lampke commended Andy on his service on a recent alley light issue. Mr. Marcellino also commended Andy on prompt service and asked if we are having an increase in complaints on alley lighting with the new lighting, which Andy answered. Mr. Kessler also highlighted the many wind storms we've experienced recently and some of the delay we've experienced with aesthetic tree trimming on City tree that's related to this influx of storm damage. Mr. Klingler asked about which streets are getting sewer line, which Mr. Bashore answered.

b) Recreation Department Update – Mike Price

Mr. Price had no additions to his report, and Mr. Kessler complimented him on the success of Splish Splash & Dash. Ms. Lampke did ask Mr. Price to clarify whether he had interest in having Council suspend and adopt Ordinance 25-23 and Mr. Price confirmed that this is his request.

c) Finance Department Update – Beecher Hale

Mr. Hale had no additions to his written report. Ms. Feibel asked about the potential of catch up occurring later this year, which Mr. Hale answered. Mr. McPeek thanked Mr. Hale for some recent additions to the report.

d) Police Department Update – Chief Gary D. Lewis, Jr.

Chief Lewis provided some information regarding some of the fund ordinances that have been brought to Council in recent hours.

Ms. Lampke mentioned that the Chief will speak at an upcoming event regarding some of the great things he's accomplished in his first year. Mr. Markham asked about feedback or success measurements on the business checks, which Chief Lewis provided.

e) Mayor's Update

Mr. Kessler spoke briefly about the highlights of his report and spoke about recent updates about the development at Trinity Apartments. Mr. Markham asked Mr. Fishel to weigh in on what information should be shared and any thoughts on communication, which Mr. Fishel provided.

Mr. Kessler also shared about plans for the Birch Walk and asked Council to consider the pros and cons of closing down Columbia between Commonwealth North and South. Council discussed this with Mr. Kessler for several minutes. Mr. Marcellino asked about temporary closures for events, which Mr. Kessler confirmed is already part of the existing plan. Mr. Marcellino asked about food trucks, which Mr. Kessler answered because we need more details for planning. Ms. Robinson asked how often cars use this thoroughfare. Ms. Feibel spoke in favor of the idea of closing it for safety reasons. Ms. Saad then asked if we would take that back to the public. Mr. Kessler clarified that he is just asking if Council is willing to consider the question, and Ms. Saad stated that she'd prefer to bring this back to the public for input. Mr. Klingler asked a question about funding, which Mr. Kessler answered, stating he would need to revisit the budget for more detail. Ms. Lampke asked about an older Commonwealth working group and asked for more information first. Ms. Saad asked an additional question about parking spaces, which Mr. Kessler needs to double check. Mr. Markham spoke about the older Commonwealth working group and spoke in support of considering the idea due to the cost savings and safety factors. Mr. Marcellino expressed a concern about delay to emergency response vehicles. Mr. Klingler asked if Mr. Kessler had approached the architects and his expressed his support in presenting this to the public for more information.

11) Consent Agenda (No Speaker Slip Required)

a) Meeting Minutes from August 15, 2023

Mr. Fishel read the item on the agenda.

Mr. Markham moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Klingler seconded.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

12) Third Readings (No Speaker Slip Required)

None.

13) Second Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

- a) **Ordinance 23-23** to appropriate \$10,000 from the water fund and \$10,000 from the sewer fund to pay overtime for the remainder of 2023; introduced by Monique Lampke on August 15, 2023.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke invited Mr. McPeck to provide some additional information, which Mr. McPeck did. Mr. McPeck also provided some information regarding budget issues and potential process improvements for the future.

Ms. Lampke asked to add this to the Consent Agenda.

- b) **Ordinance 24-23** to appropriate \$15,906 from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund (Fund 18) and to appropriate \$21,425 from the DUI Enforcement and Education Fund (Fund 24); introduced by Monique Lampke on August 15, 2023.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke provided some brief information about this, referring to Chief Lewis's conversation about this.

Ms. Lampke moved to suspend the Three Reading Rule.

Mr. Markham seconded.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

Ms. Lampke moved to adopt Ordinance 24-23.

Ms. Saad seconded.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

- c) **Ordinance 25-23** to appropriate \$35,000 to the Senior Program Professionals Account (01-355-51135) to cover the additional costs associated with an increase in programming; introduced by Monique Lampke on August 15, 2023.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke provided some detail including earlier conversation with Mr. Price about this ordinance.

Ms. Lampke moved to suspend the Three Reading Rule.

Ms. Saad seconded.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

Ms. Lampke moved to adopt Ordinance 25-23.

Mr. Klingler seconded.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

- d) **Ordinance 27-23** to amend Chapter 452.06, “Unattended Vehicles: duty to lock ignition, remove key, set brake, etc.” in order to modernize provisions of this section and to expand restrictions on idling for the protection of both the health of citizens and the environment, and to add Section 618.25, Animals in Unattended Motor Vehicles, in order to protect the health and welfare of animals in unattended vehicles; introduced by Lori Ann Feibel on August 15, 2023.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Feibel spoke about this ordinance and some of its benefits and provided some details about the importance of this ordinance before highlighting some of the proposed amendments to the ordinance that will hopefully resonate better with Council and address some members concerns. Mr. Kessler highlighted some of the proposed amendments to this ordinance. Mr. Marcellino expressed an interest in having time with this ordinance and still expressed concerns with the enforcement and associated charges. Ms. Lampke also asked about separating this portion from the dogs in cars and would like a bit more time. Mr. Klingler thanked Ms. Feibel for the amendments but expressed his concerns with enforcement and mentioned instances when enforcement would be difficult. Ms. Feibel spoke again in support of the ordinance and Ms. Saad asked Ms. Feibel to forward some of her research. Mr. Markham spoke about the recommendation to let this move to three readings and then considering tabling. Mr. Markham also spoke about separating this from the dogs in cars portion of the ordinance. Mr. Marcellino expressed his desire to table the ordinance now to provide himself more time and Council members discussed options for approach that would permit this additional time.

Ms. Feibel moved to table Ordinance 27-23.

Mr. Klingler seconded.

After brief continued discussion amount Council members regarding the process for this ordinance given the concerns discussed, Ms. Feibel withdrew the motion.

Mr. Kessler addressed some of the questions that were posed throughout the discussion of this ordinance. Council then opted to move on without tabling the ordinance but with the statement that this ordinance is anticipated to be tabled after the third reading.

Resolution 4-23 to authorize the Mayor to seek financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding of various capital infrastructure improvement projects; introduced by Monique Lampke on August 15, 2023.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke invited Mr. Kessler to provide some background. Mr. Kessler will invite the City Engineer to present on this at the next Council meeting.

14) First Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

- a) **Ordinance 29-23** to enter into an agreement with St. Charles Preparatory Academy to provide a Bexley police officer to work as a school resource officer to St. Charles for the 2023-2024 school year; introduced by Sam Marcellino on August 22, 2023.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Mr. Marcellino provided some background and Mr. Fishel provided some information on the language which will keep this provide the ability for the Mayor to continue to approve consistent. Council members discussed some small language changes.

Mr. Marcellino moved to suspend the Three Reading Rule.

Ms. Feibel seconded.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

Mr. Marcellino moved to adopt Ordinance 29-23.

Mr. Klingler seconded.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

- b) **Ordinance 30-23** to amend section 618.16 of the Bexley Codified Ordinances to authorize the Animal Control Officer to designate an animal as dangerous or vicious pending the review and adjudication by the Bexley Mayor's Court of any criminal charges filed pursuant to the codified ordinances, introduced by Sam Marcellino on August 22, 2023.

Mr. Marcellino moved to amend the agenda to remove Ordinance 30-23 to do some additional work.

Mr. Markham seconded.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

- c) **Ordinance 31-23** to establish the Bexley Senior Services Fund to receive donations to be used for senior services for Bexley's resident senior citizens introduced by Monique Lampke on August 22, 2023.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke spoke briefly on this ordinance.

15) Tabled Ordinances

- a) **Ordinance 19-23** declaring the improvements to the former Trinity Seminary apartments site to be a public purpose; declaring such improvements to be exempt from real property taxation; requiring the owners thereof to make service payments in lieu of taxes; designating the public infrastructure improvements to be made that will directly benefit the real property; establishing a public improvement tax increment equivalent fund for the deposit of service payments; authorizing a revenue sharing agreement with the Bexley City School District; and authorizing a tax increment financing and redevelopment agreement with the developer of the site introduced by Matt Klingler on June 27, 2023.

No movement on tabled ordinances.

16) Finance Committee – Monique Lampke, Chair

Ms. Lampke spoke about the budget season coming up. She did ask for a schedule of the budget meeting for Council. Council decided on Tuesday, September 26 at 5:00 pm will be this meeting for the 2024 budget planning.

17) Safety and Health Committee – Sam Marcellino, Chair

No report.

18) Strategic Committee – Jen Robinson, Chair

Ms. Robinson spoke about upcoming steps in the strategic plan process.

19) Zoning and Development Committee – Matt Klingler, Chair

Mr. Klingler spoke about good work happening in the Land Use Strategy 2.0 meetings and also spoke about other upcoming meetings.

20) Service and Environmental Committee – Lori Ann Feibel, Chair

Ms. Feibel invited everyone to Smoke & Fire Festival this Saturday.

21) Recreation and Parks Committee – Jessica Saad, Chair

Ms. Saad spoke about the upcoming Recreation Board Meeting and reminded everyone of the Community Campout on September 8 and 9.

22) Public Comments (No Speaker Slip Required)

None.

Mr. Fishel complimented the hard work of Council members.

24) Adjourn

Ms. Feibel moved.

Ms. Lampke seconded.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

City Council Policy for Public Comments:

Public Comments:

For the purpose of receiving the orderly comments from all speakers desiring to address City business before Council, adopts the following policy:

- Any speaker addressing Council shall complete a Speaker Slip to be turned in prior to the start of the meeting.
- Any speakers who have public comments at the end of the meeting do not have to have a Speaker Slip but they do still need to provide their name and address.
- Please note that all public comments should pertain to City of Bexley business only.
- All reasonable comments must be made within a maximum of three (3) minutes when addressing City Council.
- Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of remarks is not permitted.
- Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order.
- If the subject of the comment is not on the Council Agenda, the public may discuss the City issue during the Public Comments portion of the meeting. If the subject of the comment is on the Council Agenda, the public may discuss the issue at the time the issue is addressed during the Council meeting.
- Violation of this policy may result in termination of the speaker's comments and/or removal from the meeting.
- President of Council reserves the right to limit the length and scope of all Public Comments.

Presentations and Guests:

While we are grateful to have you attend a City Council meeting. Please be sure to keep your presentation to a maximum of five (5) minutes in order to keep the meeting moving in an efficient and productive manner. Thank you for your understanding.

City Council Policy for Correspondence:

All correspondence addressed to City Council or requested to be distributed to City Council by the named sender is a matter of public record and will be placed on the City of Bexley Website (www.bexley.org) at Public Documents/City Council/Council Correspondence. If the subject of the correspondence is not on the Council Agenda, but pertains City business, the sender may discuss the issue during Public Comments. If the subject of the correspondence is on the Council Agenda, the sender may discuss the issue at the time the issue is addressed during the Council meeting.