



City Council Retreat Minutes
Tuesday, May 7, 2024 – 8:30 am

Council Members in Attendance: Danny Hurley, Sam Marcellino, Jess Saad, Monique Lampke, Troy Markham, Lori Ann Feibel, Alex Silverman

Others in Attendance: Mayor Ben Kessler, City Auditor Matt McPeck

1. Welcome and Agenda Overview

Mr. Hurley welcomed everyone at 8:40 am and welcomed everyone, thanking them for committing their morning. Ms. Lampke added that retreats of the past have been valuable and productive and expressed her excitement to be here. Mr. Hurley then briefly reviewed the agenda and his hopes for the morning's meeting.

2. Council Structure and Process

Committee At Large Structure:

Mr. Hurley spoke about his understanding of Council Committees and committee hearings or meetings, and asked experienced Council Members to weigh in for some clarification. Mr. Markham shared about the history of committees and shared that generally, committee hearings or meetings aren't common. Mr. Hurley restated his understanding of Mr. Markham's words and asked if a hearing or meeting might be used in the event of a very specific and in depth conversation specific to an issue and multiple Council members agreed this would be appropriate in certain circumstances.

Resolutions and Statements of Support:

Mr. Hurley spoke about resolution and his perception, gained through working towards presenting a resolution, that City Council members felt uncomfortable supporting resolutions on matters that didn't pertain specifically to Bexley and/or resolutions without actionable steps. Mr. Marcellino added that he is personally opposed to resolutions that make supportive statements without having clear, actionable steps and Ms. Feibel and Mr. Markham shared about the importance of seeking feedback and working with other Council members on legislation before introducing it.

Council members then asked about the difference between resolutions and ordinances. Generally speaking, though there have been variations, resolutions are formal Council actions, often authorizing the mayor to do something, but are not codified into law like ordinances. T

Council members discussed a recent resolution regarding an international matter that was passed in another municipality, despite having no tangible impact or authority in

the matter. Mr. Hurley shared that in the resolution he'd drafted, he recognized it might not directly impact the heightened suicide rates in transgender teens. Council members continued to discuss this matter for some time, touching on alternatives for actionable steps that don't require a resolution and whether or not Council should have a role in different community issues along with an expression of the importance of making a tangible impact. Council continued to discuss this matter for some time, touching on potential pitfalls of introducing resolutions that can highlight or increase divisiveness and the importance of working out issues ahead of a first reading. The Mayor also discussed the upcoming Bexley Pride Walk and shared the idea of Council shirts for that.

Mr. Hurley skipped down to City Council's Role in Development at Mr. Marcellino's request.

Communications and Social Media:

Mr. Hurley returned to this section after the Executive Session and shared that he had the idea of a Council column in the Bexley Blast and other potential opportunities for communications. Multiple Council members discussed this for awhile, discussing the potential risks of social media and of any one Council member's words on social media speaking for all of Council. Council Members and Mayor Kessler also discussed the resource of the City's Communications Department, which can help to create information on issues of substantial interest. City Council Members then discussed the difference between individual social media accounts versus an official Council or individual Council member social media account, weighing the pros and cons. Council members discussed a committee to discuss this, and Mr. Marcellino volunteered to work on a Council Communications Committee to create a policy for this and Mr. Silverman shared interest in this as well.

3. City Council's Role in Development

Ferndale/Mayfield

Mayor Kessler shared about the history of the Ferndale/Mayfield area and the studies that have been completed thus far, including legislation, along with next steps which include applying for funding for a grant to fund a full study on the entire area to determine a best path for remediation. Council members and Mayor Kessler spoke about ownership and recent activity in the area. Mr. McPeck asked what success would look like which Mayor Kessler shared would be no residents living in unsafe conditions and spoke about some possibilities for what that might entail.

2200 Main Street

Mayor Kessler also spoke about the proposed 2200 Main Street Development which is still contingent on ARB approval, but is close. Mayor Kessler also spoke about demolition and cautioned on being measured with City updates and involvement as this is a private project and our role is really just to ensure they are complying with law, but multiple Council members still expressed their opinion that updates are important due to the high community interest.

Other Development Considerations

Mayor Kessler also shared a brief update on other developments, including the current lack of activity on former proposed apartment complexes on Livingston and/or Cassady, and shared what next steps would need to occur and what role the referendum could play, stating that currently there are a lot of unknowns. Mayor Kessler also shared about several other potential and/or proposed developments throughout the City.

Executive Session

Mr. Hurley moved to enter executive session to consider the purchase of real property as outlined in 223.03 of Bexley Code.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

All in Favor: Danny Hurley, Sam Marcellino, Jess Saad, Monique Lampke, Troy Markham, Lori Ann Feibel, Alex Silverman

Motion Passed.

Mr. Hurley moved to exit executive session.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

All in Favor: Danny Hurley, Sam Marcellino, Jess Saad, Monique Lampke, Troy Markham, Lori Ann Feibel, Alex Silverman

Motion Passed.

Council then returned to a discussion on Communications.

4. Council Member Priorities Discussion

Council Members then went through their personal areas of interest with Mr. Hurley sharing interest in work on safety involving biking and helmet use with Mr. Silverman discussing helmet requirements and safety surrounding electronic scooters and e-bikes. Ms. Lampke discussed interest in supporting the summer food program, refillable water stations, and a financial strategic plan. Mr. Silverman spoke about student pedestrian safety, and ordinances to incentivize use of electric lawn/landscape equipment. Ms. Saad spoke about summer lunches, water filling stations, Capital University opportunities, and potential legislation on code enforcement involving use of alleys, and golf cart safety, and a potential youth council to explore local government ordinance work. Mr. Markham spoke about election signage guidelines and potential language surrounding this and Council pay. Ms. Feibel spoke about continuing to support Recreation and also the CIC and work on the Southwest portion of Bexley to improve this area, and also spoke about the importance of housing and the importance of continuing to support environmental issues. Mr. Marcellino spoke about a prioritization of some zoning matters. Mayor Kessler then shared about different legislative priorities for either him or his staff including EV parking meters, Parks and Recs rules, the noise ordinance, pedestrian strike ordinances, single use plastic changes, water line replacement, and water/sewer infrastructure, Tree Commission role and responsibility clarification, zoning approval process review, among other items.

5. Adjourn

The retreat adjourned after a brief wrap up and thank you.