



City Council Minutes
Tuesday, February 11, 2025

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lampke called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

2. Roll Call of Members

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

Ms. Lampke moved to excuse Mr. Markham's absence.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Special Guests:

a.) Dr. Jason Fine (Superintendent, Bexley City Schools) and Kyle Smith (Treasurer, Bexley City Schools)

Dr. Fine thanked the City for allowing the schools to use Council chambers. Dr. Fine also spoke about the mission of the schools and spoke about the facility update process and steps to expect next. Dr. Fine then welcomed Mr. Smith to speak about the financial stewardship of the district.

Mr. Marcellino asked during which phase of the facilities update project the Board of Education will make decisions on who gets taxed and when, which Mr. Smith answered. He also asked about the Board of Education's temperature regarding the potential of including a school resource officer in the future and Dr. Fine shared that he would defer to the Board on this matter. Mr. Marcellino also asked about the potential impact of the recent federal orders regarding DEI on the school, which Dr. Fine answered. Mr. Silverman asked about how a potential withholding of federal funds would impact the schools and Mr. Smith provided some

information on this. Ms. Saad thanked them both for being there and encouraged Dr. Fine and the Board of Education to continue considering the issue of the School Resource Officer, sharing about the positive impact Officer Grimes has had at St. Charles.

5. Ordinances with Visiting Presenters: John Theibert & Jay Sells of Aspen Energy

- a) **Ordinance 05-25** to approve the supplier for the City of Bexley Electric Aggregation Program, introduced by Jess Saad on January 28, 2025. This is the Second Reading of this Ordinance.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Saad and Mayor Kessler invited John Thiebert of Aspen Energy to share some updates on the Bexley Aggregation Program and the current energy market. Mr. Thiebert shared the attached slide presentation with Council regarding the existing aggregation program, the volatility of the electrical market and what Council's options are from here. Several Council members asked questions, which Mr. Thiebert and Mayor Kessler answered.

6. Public Comments regarding items not on the Agenda (Speaker Slip Required)

Ms. Lampke reminded everyone of the public speaking policy.

Mr. Constance Lewis of 663 Euclaire Ave urged Council to take care to use their microphones when speaking so that those who are listening virtually are able to hear.

7. President's Report

Ms. Lampke spoke about an upcoming documentary called 6888 being shown soon for Black History Month about a battalion comprised of Black women in World War II, and encouraged other to join her.

8. City Attorney Report

Mr. Fishel shared about a couple of pieces of state legislation that could have impact on Bexley, reminding everyone that these are not yet passed, but should be monitored. House Bill 26 would require local law enforcement to participate in federal immigration enforcement activity. He also shared about a bill being considered to modify the marijuana referendum, with the goal of redistributing the tax money that is currently designated to go to local municipalities with dispensaries. This bill also includes language to provide a sales tax exemption to a number of non-shotgun firearms.

9. Auditor Report

Mr. McPeck shared an update on investments and resulting interest income.

10. Administrative Update

a) Mayor's Update

Mayor Kessler shared his appreciation for Mr. McPeck and then covered some of the highlights from his report. He reminded everyone of the maple tree tapping event at Jeffrey Woods on Saturday and complimented Ms. Meyer on her recent speaking event at the Bexley Chamber breakfast. He also thanked Mr. Marcellino for continuing to pursue a solution for unusually high water bills, speaking about the water bill relief program he is working on rolling out this year.

b) Police Department, Gary D. Lewis

Chief Lewis offered to answer any questions. Ms. Saad spoke about the teen driver program and complimented this idea, which Chief Lewis shared more detail on. Mr. Silverman asked if there was a cost, which he answered, sharing that the program is free. Mr. Marcellino asked if the Chief received any calls on drones, which Chief Lewis shared is infrequent.

c) Recreation Department, Mike Price

Mr. Price shared some of the new changes planned for Jeffrey Woods Festival, which will now incorporate some Earth and Arbor Day events and activities. Mr. Hurley asked about the upcoming departure of Coach Chris, which Mr. Price spoke about, agreeing that he'll be very difficult to replace. Mr. Hurley asked if we could do anything to honor him, which Mr. Price confirmed is in the works.

d) Building Department, Matt Klingler

Mr. Klingler doesn't have any thing to add to his written report, but Mayor Kessler shared that he's been impressed by the systems and efforts to tackle backlogs that Mr. Klingler has done. Mr. Marcellino asked about streamlining Code Violations and how that's going, which Mr. Klingler answered. Ms. Saad asked about the new landscape reviewer which is a replacement for Elena who is focused more on project design now.

11. Consent Agenda (No Speaker Slip Required)

a) Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2025

Mr. Fishel read the item on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Lampke moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

12. Third Readings (No Speaker Slip Required)

- a) **Ordinance 01-25** to Approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between AFSCME, Ohio Council 8, Local 3838 and the City of Bexley, introduced by Jess Saad on January 14, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Saad provided some background on this ordinance.

Ms. Saad moved to adopt Ordinance 01-25.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

Mr. Austin Fairbanks who lives on Allegheny Avenue encouraged Council to reject this AFSCME agreement, sharing a variety of concerns, including the opinion that merit-based factors should be included in contract language.

Ms. Lampke thanked Mr. Fairbanks for his comments and asked Mr. McPeck to call the vote.

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

Motion Passed 6-0.

- b) **Ordinance 02-25** to certify special assessments to certify special assessments for the various sites where the work was not done property 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, introduced by Jess Saad on January 14, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Saad shared that we need to check a few things and requested to table this ordinance. Prior to this. Ms. Lampke invited anyone who wanted to speak on this to approach.

Ms. Lewis of 663 Euclaire Avenue shared her support for this ordinance but expressed disappointment that a particular property was not included in this effort and asked what can be done on non-compliant properties. Mayor Kessler shared an update from a recent meeting about the property in question.

Mayor Kessler also urged Mr. Fairbanks to reach out to him directly with any questions.

Ms. Saad moved to table Ordinance 02-25.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

- c) **Ordinance 04-25** to appropriate \$1,100,000 from the General Fund to effectuate the previously authorized transfer to the Capital Fund (\$500,000) and Water Fund (\$600,000); to appropriate \$8,500 from the General Fund to the Police Department account within the General Fund for Public Records Training and Management; and to appropriate and authorize the transfer of \$37,500 from the General Fund to the Water Fund for the Ohio EPA Lead Service Line Mapping Grant, introduced by Jess Saad on January 14, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Saad provided some background and also shared the proposed amended ordinance attached.

Ms. Saad moved to amend Ordinance 04-25 as shown.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion Passed 6-0.

Ms. Saad moved to approve Amended Ordinance 04-25.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion Passed 6-0.

13. Second Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

- a) **Ordinance 06-25** to create the Bexley Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement loan program, introduced by Jess Saad on January 28, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Saad provided some background and rationale for this ordinance and Mayor Kessler shared that a more thorough presentation and information would be forthcoming next week. Mr. Marcellino shared that he'd like more time with this ordinance and won't be ready to vote on Ordinance 06-25 next week. Mr. Hurley asked a question which Mayor Kessler answered.

14. First Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

No first readings.

15. Tabled Ordinances

- a) **Ordinance 42-24** to grant area variances, with conditions, from the minimum lot requirements to the property located at 700 Grandon Avenue zoned R-6 residential in order to allow that single lot to be split and to form two new lots that would not meet existing R-6 minimum lot requirements, and to grant additional variances to the applicable R-6 development standards for minimum yard requirements, introduced by Sam Marcellino on November 19, 2024.

Mr. Marcellino moved to remove Ordinance 42-24 from the table.

Mr. Hurley seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Marcellino discussed the background and history of this ordinance and referenced the Findings of Fact prepared by City Attorney, Mr. Fishel.

Mr. Marcellino moved to amend to incorporate the Findings of Fact as an attachment.

Mr. Hurley seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Marcellino moved to approve amended Ordinance 49-24.

Mr. Hurley seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

16. Public Comments (Speaker Slip Required)

None.

17. Safety Committee – Troy Markham, Chair

Mr. Markham is not present.

18. Service and Environmental Committee – Alex Silverman, Chair

Mr. Silverman spoke about the Communications Subcommittee for Council and shared about the document that's been shared with Council. Ms. Feibel also shared about the new document and the plan for Communications/

19. Finance Committee – Jessica Saad, Chair

a.) Motion to approve Then and Now invoices

Ms. Saad moved to approve the payment of invoices as attached.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

20. Strategic and Health Committee – Danny Hurley, Chair

Mr. Hurley shared about the upcoming City Council retreat.

21. Recreation and Parks Committee – Lori Ann Feibel, Chair

Ms. Feibel shared about the recent Recreation Department activity and successes.

22. Zoning and Development Committee – Sam Marcellino, Chair

Mr. Marcellino shared about upcoming meetings.

23. Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, of section [121.22](#) of the Revised Code.

Ms. Lampke moved to enter Executive Session for the reason listed.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:03 pm.

Ms. Lampke moved to exit Executive Session.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Council exited Executive Session at 8:17 pm

24. Adjourn

Ms. Lampke moved to adjourn.

Ms. Feibel seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Minutes Approved: Feb 25, 2025

Monique Lampke
Monique Lampke, President of Council

Matt McPeck
Matt McPeck, Clerk of Council