



City Council Minutes
Tuesday, January 28, 2025

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lampke called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Roll Call of Members

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Special Guests:

a.) Chief Gary D. Lewis - Swearing In Ceremony for Sergeant Johnson

Chief Lewis and Mayor Kessler congratulated Sergeant Johnson on his recent promotion and spoke of his work for the City.

b.) Citizen Review Board - Review of Report

Mayor Kessler introduced Ms. Hunt and Mr. Nathans and Ms. Hunt provided some background and history of the Citizen Review Board along with some of the work done this year. Mr. Nathans also spoke about the commitment of Bexley's government to integrity and transparency.

Ms. Saad asked to review the Citizen Review Board report for 2024, which Mayor Kessler displayed on screen. Mr. Hurley asked for some clarification on the process, and Mr. Markham thanked them for their service, speaking about the importance of this role.

5. Hearing on 700 Grandon Avenue Lot Split Request

- 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. **This Ordinance is currently tabled.**

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

Mr. Hurley seconded.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Marcellino spoke briefly about the background of the ordinance and invited the homeowner or representative of the homeowner to speak about the property. A representative for the homeowners spoke about the proposed project.

Mr. Marcellino then reminded Council of the specific scope of Council's authority and decision.

Mr. Silverman asked some clarification on the history of zoning in the area and splitting of lots, which was answered. Hearing no other questions, Mr. Marcellino invited members of the public to comment or question. Hearing no comments, Mr. Marcellino didn't feel he had more to discuss at this point. After ensuring tabling until the following meeting wouldn't cause the homeowner any difficulty or undue delay, shared that he felt tabling was prudent and his preference.

Mr. Marcellino moved to table Ordinance 42-24.

Mr. Hurley seconded.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

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

Ms. Virginia (Ginger) Tornes of 99 Preston Road approached the podium.

Ms. Lampke shared about the policy for public speaking.

Ms. Tornes spoke in opposition to the City of Columbus's plans to widen the Cassady and Fifth Avenue intersection just north of Bexley due to safety and traffic concerns, urging Council and Mayor Kessler to reach out to Columbus in opposition.

Mr. Carl Holtman of 2729 Columbus Avenue also spoke in concern with the proposed Cassady and Fifth Avenue widening, expressing specific concerns relating to the increase of pedestrian traffic along that intersection that will be likely due to the new athletic grounds property.

Ms. Lampke invited Mayor Kessler to speak or respond later and Mayor Kessler briefly spoke, thanking them for their comments and agreeing to pass these concerns along. He shared that while the City will work closely with Columbus, the decisions are ultimately under Columbus's purview.

7. President's Report

Ms. Lampke spoke about the Ohio Ethics Commission filing deadline. She also reminded everyone of the upcoming Texas Hold'Em poker tournament. She also shared about a recent event where she was able to meet with some of the honorees for the Black History Month street banners.

8. City Attorney Report

Mr. Fishel spoke about AT&T's withdrawal of a recent move to shift financial responsibility for line movement to local governments. Mr. Fishel also reported that the flavored tobacco ban has been appealed to a higher court so he'll work to keep Council apprised as this develops.

9. Auditor Report

Mr. McPeck provided a brief update on a theft from a former employee, sharing that the matter is still being pursued, and also providing detail on an upcoming RFP publication.

10. Administrative Update

a) Mayor's Update

Mayor Kessler welcomed Natalie Mullin and spoke about some of the highlights of his update, including complimenting Mr. Bashore and City Engineer Dave Koch on his work on the application to the speed limit reduction application for South Drexel Avenue. He also spoke about the galvanized line replacement loan program and the right of way planning for Livingston Avenue along with plans for a Slow Down Bexley program. He also spoke about some proposed work on a new Senior Center, which would double the space. Mr. Silverman asked about the Slow Down Bexley program, which Mayor Kessler shared additional detail on.

b) Development Department, Megan Meyer

Ms. Meyer spoke about the newest Bexley Times newsletter and some of the highlights of her update.

c) Service Department, Andy Bashore

Mayor Kessler inadvertently skipped Mr. Bashore, but returned to him at the end of the Administrative Updates.

Mr. Bashore did not have any additions. Mr. Markham spoke about the new sidewalks on Charles and the use and great value they add to the community, thanking Mr. Bashore for his work. Ms. Saad thanked the staff for their work near Katalina's, noting the addition of bike racks around the community. Mr. Silverman thanked Mr. Bashore for his work on snow and asked a question

d) Finance Department, Karrie Martin

Ms. Martin didn't have a report but did invite any questions. Mr. Hurley asked about the recent temporary freeze on federal grant funds and any exposure the City has, which Mayor Kessler addressed.

- e) Recreation Department, Natalie Mullin

Ms. Mullin spoke about some of the highlights of the report, including the profit of the Recreation Fund, rebounding from pre-Covid numbers. Ms. Feibel complimented Mr. Price and Ms. Mullin and the Recreation Team on their great work. Mr. Silverman also extended his thanks, complimenting a staff member. Ms. Saad spoke, complimenting the ice rink and the work on that. Ms. Lampke complimented the Rec Department and spoke about her family's experience years ago with Natalie.

11. Consent Agenda (No Speaker Slip Required)

- a) Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2025

Ms. Lampke moved to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

12. Third Readings (No Speaker Slip Required)

None.

13. Second Readings (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 Ordinance 01-25 and Ms. Saad spoke about the background briefly.

- 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 provided some background and rationale behind this ordinance.

- 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 to this ordinance, sharing about some proposed amendments that are needed, inviting Mayor Kessler to share a little more detail, which he did.

14. First Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

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

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Saad provided some background information and Ms. Saad invited Mayor Kessler to share some additional information, which he did, also sharing that Aspen Energy will likely present on a market update at the next meeting.

- b) **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. Mayor Kessler also provided some additional information. Mr. Marcellino asked a question about the loan repayment term of ten years and expressed concerns and a desire to shorten this term. Ms. Feibel asked about the additional work involved for staff in administering this program, which Mayor Kessler will keep in mind, though it is difficult to determine the potential use of the program, which is voluntary.

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.

No further action from earlier discussion.

16. Public Comments (Speaker Slip Required)

No public comments.

17. Safety Committee – Troy Markham, Chair

Mr. Markham that Ms. Brandt is the newest addition to the Library Board of Trustees

18. Service and Environmental Committee – Alex Silverman, Chair

Mr. Silverman shared about some mosquito study and natural pollinator programs.

19. Finance Committee – Jessica Saad, Chair

Ms. Saad spoke about the CIC meeting this morning and complimented the great work done by the Bexley Library at literacy night. Ms. Saad spoke about the upcoming Bravo program with a biergarten theme.

20. Strategic and Health Committee – Danny Hurley, Chair

Mr. Hurley spoke about Board of Health brainstorming about how else the Board of Health can support the City and spoke about the recent CIC meeting, along with a report on the BZAP meeting. He will be sending a Doodle Poll out about the retreat.

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

Ms. Feibel spoke about the upcoming BCF Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.

22. Zoning and Development Committee – Sam Marcellino, Chair

Mr. Marcellino did speak briefly about the BZAP meeting and thanked Mr. Hurley for attending and also complimented the Boards for their work on these matters. Mr. Fishel reminded Council members not to engage in any depth on discussions regarding projects being considered by BZAP or ARB.

23. Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G)(1) of section [121.22](#) of the Revised Code.

Ms. Lampke moved to enter executive session for the reason listed above.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passd 7-0.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:01 pm and Ms. Lampke reminded Council that Ms. Saad has another engagement and will likely depart before the end of Executive Session.

Ms. Lampke moved to exit executive session.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passd 6-0.

Council exited Executive Session at 8:18 pm.

24. Adjourn

Ms. Lampke moved to adjourn.

Ms. Feibel seconded adjourn.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVED: _____

Monique Lampke, President of Council

Matt McPeck, Clerk of Council

COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENTS POLICY

For the purpose of receiving comments from all speakers desiring to offer comments at City Council meetings, Council adopts the following policy:

- Speaker Slips are not required if you wish to comment on the Consent Agenda, at the Third Reading, or on a motion to adopt. Speaker Slips are required at all other times.
- If a Speaker Slip is Required, any speaker wishing to address Council shall complete a Speaker Slip and turn it in to the Clerk of Council or the City's Executive Assistant prior to the start of the meeting or during the designated agenda item requesting Speaker Slips be turned in. Such Speaker Slip must include the speaker's legal name, address, email address and phone number.
- All speakers must share their legal name/address when offering public comments.
- All public comments should be directed to City Council and should pertain to City of Bexley business only and where applicable, to the relevant Ordinance/Resolution.
- Comments must be made within a maximum of five (5) minutes (this limitation is the same rule that applies to City Council members per 220.01 (rule 13)).
- Please avoid offering points of view that have already been addressed by other speakers, if possible.
- Undue interruption or other interference with the order of business is not permitted.
- Comments that are abusive, disparaging, threatening, intimidating and/or are personal attacks are always out of order.
- Violation of this policy may result in termination of the speaker's comments and/or removal from the meeting.
- Council President reserves the right to limit the length/scope of Public Comments.
- You are also encouraged to email City Council Members(citycouncil@bexley.org) if you'd prefer.

Presentations and Guests:

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.