



City Council Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

1. Call to Order

Mr. Fishel called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Roll Call of Members

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

Ms. Feibel moved to elect Jess Saad President Pro Tem.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Saad shared that Mr. Markham would be a few minutes late.

Ms. Saad moved to excuse Ms. Lampke.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Special Guests

a. Senator Hearcel Craig

Senator Craig expressed his appreciation for Bexley and complimented the Mayor and Council for their work and service to the community.

b. Jeff Speck, Speck Dempsey

Mr. Speck introduced himself and shared about his plans for a walkability study and invited Council to speak about things they'd like to see reviewed. Ms. Saad

requested attention to the implementation of bike lanes and Mr. Marcellino mentioned interest in addressing maintaining walkability as development continues.

5. Ordinances with Visiting Presenters

- a. **Resolution 02-25** to support the LinkUS Bus Rapid Transit route on Main Street, including the planned median station on Main Street west of Pleasant Ridge Avenue, introduced by Monique Lampke on April 8, 2025.
 - i. COTA presenting on LinkUS update

Mr. Fishel read the Resolution and Mr. Silverman shared some of the background of this ordinance and then invited Mayor Kessler to share more about the history of this initiative, which he did, speaking about the historical underinvestment in public transportation in our region, and COTA's efforts to address this through LinkUs. Mayor Kessler also spoke at a high level about the outreach that's been done thus far. Mayor Kessler then invited Megan Meyer to speak about the LinkUs initiative. Ms. Meyer spoke about the history of Bexley's involvement with LinkUs and results of a recent community survey, which indicated a majority of respondents in support of a LinkUs station in Bexley. Ms. Meyer then shared about the more specific concerns mentioned by survey respondents. Mr. Hurley asked about some of the tallied information from the survey, which Ms. Meyer answered. Mr. Marcellino also requested that the survey be left open for an additional week, which Mayor Kessler and Ms. Meyer agreed to do.

Mr. Markham arrived at 6:35 pm.

Patrick Harris of COTA introduced himself and shared about COTA's leadership team and some of the history of the organization and project. He also shared that Central Ohio is the only region of our population size that lacks a rapid public transit option. He also spoke about the population growth and the congestion that will result. He then invited Kim Sharp, also with COTA, to speak about the project. Ms. Sharp spoke about the average American "acceptable" walk time of ten minutes, which was used when planning spacing of LinkUs stations. She then spoke about the station impact on parking spaces, provided detail on travel times, and other information.

Mayor Kessler shared some of the rationale for the Pleasant Ridge location. Mr. Marcellino asked about the location west of Bexley being at Nelson Road not Alum Creek, which Ms. Sharp confirmed is accurate and had changed from earlier plans. Mr. Marcellino also asked about aesthetic changes to make it fit in the community, which Ms. Sharp confirmed they are willing to work with Bexley on. Mr. Marcellino spoke about his perspective change and

that while he started as a no, he is seeing things differently as he considers the failure of planning in other growing cities and his belief that this is an opportunity for our children and transportation down the line. Mr. Hurley asked how things are going with LinkUs planning in Reynoldsburg and Whitehall and Mr. Hurley asked what would happen if we did not have a stop in Bexley, and Ms. Sharp shared that this would result in a gap in the system, spanning from James to Nelson Roads. Mr. Silverman shared his support for a BRT and for having a stop in Bexley and shared his opinion that the Pleasant Ridge stop is likely the best option for a station from what he's seen. He asked about the strategy for alleviating the potential for the local line and the BRT line coinciding, which Ms. Sharp spoke to. He also asked about the potential for BRT to stop and Ms. Sharp did share that the average stop is 16 seconds.

Ms. Kathy Schroer of Christ Lutheran Church shared her concerns with the location of the BRT station at Pleasant Ridge Avenue, expressing concerns about safety for preschool children and concerns with the Christ Lutheran lot being used for an unofficial Park and Ride.

Ms. Sapienza spoke in support of BRT but in opposition to the station location at Pleasant Ridge and Main, sharing concerns with safety especially related to the location of the stop.

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

None.

7. President's Report

Ms. Saad shared a message from President Lampke inviting everyone to join her and Councilman Marcellino at the BMPA Circle of Excellence event.

8. City Attorney Report

None.

9. Auditor Report

Mr. McPeck complimented Karrie on her work and recent successful audit. He also spoke about the fire contract credits.

10. Administrative Update

a. Mayor's Update

Mayor Kessler shared briefly on some of the highlights of his report. Ms. Saad asked about the yellow ribbons, and Mayor Kessler confirmed that these indicated our landmark trees.

- b. Finance Department, Karrie Martin

Ms. Martin shared some of the highlights of her report, hearing no questions.

- c. Development & Administration Department, Megan Meyer

Ms. Meyer shared about her recent temporary move to COHatch

- d. Service Department, Andy Bashore

Mr. Bashore shared that it's a busy time and while he doesn't have anything to add, would be happy to address questions. Mayor Kessler did compliment Mr. Bashore and his team for their installation of adirondeck seating areas funding by the Bexley Community Foundation.

11. Consent Agenda (No Speaker Slip Required)

- a. Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2025

Ms. Saad moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

12. Third Readings (No Speaker Slip Required)

13. Second Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

- a. **Ordinance 11-25** amending the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area in a specified portion of the Main Street District and enacting regulations and declaring an emergency, introduced by Monique Lampke on April 8, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Feibel shared some of the background of the DORA in Bexley along with some of the purpose for these changes. A hearing may be needed and Marc will circle back with more details on publication requirements once he researches.

14. First Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

None.

15. Tabled Ordinances

- a. **Resolution 01-25** to support the ongoing investment in the repair and replacement of sewer infrastructure, and to support the planned refresh of the

City's sewer study and sewer plan, introduced by Jess Saad on February 25, 2025.

No action.

16. Public Comments (Speaker Slip Required)

No action.

17. Safety Committee – Troy Markham, Chair

Mr. Markham said Happy Earth Day from the City of Bexley with no plastic bags and our curbside food waste recycling program.

18. Service and Environmental Committee – Alex Silverman, Chair

Mr. Silverman also wished everyone a Happy Earth Day and shared about the Green Bexley Cleanup and DEA Takeback Day and complimented the Green Bexley team.

19. Finance Committee – Jessica Saad, Chair

Ms. Saad spoke about the Women's Health Fair and the mobile mammogram unit coming to Bexley Public Library, sharing that the Bexley Community Foundation has offered a grant to cover uninsured individuals.

20. Strategic and Health Committee – Danny Hurley, Chair

Mr. Hurley shared about some robust conversation at the Board of Health regarding injury and illness prevention and some communication strategies and some conversations about dog attacks.

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

Ms. Feibel complimented the Recreation Department on the Egg Dash.

22. Zoning and Development Committee – Sam Marcellino, Chair

Mr. Marcellino spoke again about the potential for a Montrose station and the factor the school may have played there, which Mayor Kessler and Ms. Meyer spoke to.

23. Adjourn

Ms. Saad moved to adjourn

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Saad adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.