



City Council Minutes

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lampke called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. Roll Call of Members

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Special Guests

a. Tommy Maley and Darcy Schrimpf with DARN

Mayor Kessler read the proclamation honoring Mr. Maley on the occasion of his 30th birthday.

b. Rebecca Ness with Habitat Triangle & Native Plant

Ms. Ness introduced herself and spoke about the Bexley Habitat Triangle and its purpose and history. She then shared the scope of the project and the goal to create a cohesive, connected natural habitat to support pollinators. Ms. Saad complimented Ms. Ness on the work she's doing and her success with seeking a grant. Ms. Lampke complimented her work and spoke about the incredibly successful native plant giveaway. Ms. Feibel also added her compliments to Ms. Ness for her efforts. Mr. Marcellino also complimented her work. Mr. Silverman asked about the mosquito pilot project, and Ms. Ness shared some information about the next phase of this effort. Mayor Kessler also complimented Ms. Ness on her passion and efforts.

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

Ms. Lampke shared a reminder on public comments. No speakers came forward at this time.

6. President's Report

Ms. Lampke shared about the Love Your Alley Habitat Triangle and spoke about Ms. Saad's successful Women's Health and Wellness Fair and congratulated Mayor Kessler on being named the Friend of the Bexley Minority Parent Alliance for 2025.

7. City Attorney Report

Mr. Fishel congratulated Ms. Vawter on her recent Edgar win. He also spoke about a recent letter received from the Attorney General regarding our single plastic bags ban, which will continue to be enforced in Bexley. Mr. Fishel did note that this matter is being reviewed by a court, so he'll keep Council informed. Mr. Fishel also spoke about opioid manufacturers and spoke about a resolution being presented at the Ohio Statehouse to propose a ballot issue that would eliminate municipal power to restrict or regulate hunting, fishing, and gathering. Mr. Hurley also asked about a potential property tax elimination bill, which Mr. Fishel spoke briefly about.

8. Auditor Report

Mr. McPeck is not present.

9. Administrative Update

a. Mayor's Update

Mayor Kessler shared some of the highlights of his report. Mr. Hurley asked a question about pending legislation at the Statehouse, which Mayor Kessler answered.

b. Police Department, Gary D. Lewis, Jr.

Chief Lewis did add to his report that Officer Shawver and Pia will be involved in an upcoming NATO event, and also highlighted the upcoming retirees cookout. Mr. Hurley complimented the Cops and Kids event that his sons loved. Ms. Lampke thanked the chief for his report, and asked a question about the stats at the end, which Chief Lewis answered.

c. Building Department, Matt Klingler

Mr. Klingler shared some of the highlights of his report.

10. Consent Agenda (No Speaker Slip Required)

a. Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2025

Ms. Lampke moved to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

11. Third Readings (No Speaker Slip Required)

- 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.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke shared her appreciation for the Mayor's efforts on this matter, speaking to his creation of a working group with Council members to ensure that Council could be involved and provide input. She also spoke about the community survey that Council requested. She also shared her intent to request to table this Resolution to give Council time to digest and consider public input. She also shared that she is still undecided on the matter.

Mayor Kessler shared the top three concerns reflected in the survey and in other feedback he's receive which are congestion, parking, and safety. He shared some information about congestion, clarifying that we currently have four slow buses an hour in Bexley and the BRT project would change this to four fast Rapid Transit buses and one slower bus an hour.

Mayor Kessler then addressed parking questions stating that one of the pieces of rationale behind this station was the limited impact on parking and they are working to attain as close to net neutral parking, if not additional parking, as possible.

Mayor Kessler then addressed the safety concerns which break into two categories, the pedestrian safety of using the stop, and also concerns about additional people the stop will bring to the City. Mayor Kessler spoke about the Chief's comments at a recent meeting that people are part of the fabric of Main Street and shared that the Chief has generously offered to address any safety concerns and to complete a safety audit for any business who requests it.

Ms. Lampke asked Ms. Meyer about the LinkUs focused Meet Your Street meeting, which she provided. She then asked Chief Lewis if he had any concerns with the proposed bus stop location, and Chief Lewis stated that he does not have concerns, stating that he did speak with COTA who has done extensive research on their 80+ stops throughout Columbus and there has been no safety implication linking acts of violence to bus stops near schools or other businesses with children.

Mr. Hurley asked about the nature of the comments from Christ Lutheran during their meeting, and Mayor Kessler shared he isn't comfortable speaking for Christ Lutheran, pointing out that members from leadership are present. Mr. Hurley then asked about the next steps for authorizing this location specifically, which Mayor Kessler answered.

Mr. Silverman shared his belief that there is a need for a stop in Bexley, but asked if there were any other intersections that have been considered. Mayor Kessler shared that Drexel was the original focus and that while other intersections east of this area were considered, the density

is not as high in these areas and also the use of these intersections would cut off access to businesses and/or residents in the area.

Ms. Lampke also shared about the distance between stops. Mr. Markham asked about what sorts of things Chief Lewis would do for a safety audit and also to address the safety of a bus stop in the middle of the street. Chief Lewis shared that he was brought in to address safety concerns more related to people at the station and then shared about his next steps for assessing traffic safety. Ms. Lampke then asked about how we would address bus riders who might try to access the station from the left side. Chief Lewis shared that he hasn't considered it but it's a good question that he'll be considering as the design phase continues. He also shared that he's meeting with the safety team at COTA with the intent of learning more.

Ms. Kathy Shroer, President of Christ Lutheran Church, shared her concerns about the safety of the children in her care, and also shared concerns about congestion and concerns about not seeing the plans.

Mr. Robert Farquart who lives on Sherwood thanked City Council for allowing comments, expressing his support for the development of BRT in Bexley but his concerns for this stop, which he feels will create congestion and potential safety issues for children in the area.

Ms. Kelsey Ellingsen of COTA spoke about COTA's commitment to preserving parking, and then shared that a very recent audit of Bexley's existing bus riders revealed that 96% of current riders walked to the stop, and also shared that 35% were students, 35% used the bus for transportation to work, and 23 1/2% were using the bus to spend money. She also spoke about the mass and location of the stations creating a sense of awareness for drivers.

Mr. Craig Ness of 2576 Bryden Road spoke in support of the LinkUs BRT initiative and specifically the Pleasant Ridge location, sharing his use of transit and his excitement for Bexley's involvement in this initiative.

Mr. Lewis of 663 Euclaire asked about the expenses associated with the stop and how they would be paid. Mayor Kessler shared that the cost is supported by the levy that passed and COTA, but that there might be some City investment in optional upgrades to landscaping and such.

Mr. Hurley asked about a Plan B if this stop wasn't selected and Mayor Kessler shared he'd be very hesitant to throw out an intersection because there would be a direct impact to the left-hand turn lane and would directly block access for a business or road. Mr. Hurley asked a follow up question, and shared that he would feel more comfortable if there were another location in the mix being negotiated. Kelsey and Megan shared about the considerations of other intersections that occurred throughout the planning process, including meetings with the Council group. Mayor Kessler also added some information.

Mr. Marcellino shared his concerns with the LinkUS project as a whole but also shared that he does feel Bexley does need a stop. He also shared about his experience in the committee evaluating different intersections along Main Street. Mr. Marcellino shared that if it isn't

impacting someone's home or their ability to get to their home, he feels that may be our best option.

Ms. Saad spoke in agreement with Mr. Marcellino and thanked the community for their input. She asked Mayor Kessler and Ms. Meyer if the presentation could be added to the website, which they agreed to do.

Ms. Feibel shared that she is hearing that safety, congestion, and parking are concerns, and shared her opinion that she believes that the signal influencing discussed by COTA will mitigate this concern. She is also convinced that we can improve our parking situation in this area. She also shared her belief that if the Chief believed this location was a safety concern, this is not a stop the community would be likely to pursue. Ms. Feibel also shared that she works with many mothers and young children who rely on public transport to access amenities.

Mr. Fishel spoke as a Bexley resident about the history of this project and his opinion that Pleasant Ridge is the best location and shared his opinion that there will be concerns regardless of the location. He also spoke to the expertise we have in the Chief and Ms. Meyer for their hard work and insight on this issue.

Ms. Lampke moved to table Resolution 02-25.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

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

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke shared that there will be a hearing on Ordinance 11-25 on June 10 so it will need to be tabled until that date.

Mr. Fishel did share that there not restrictions on how close a DORA can be to a school.

Ms. Lampke moved to table Ordinance 11-25.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

12. Second Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

13. First Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

- a. **Ordinance 12-25** approving the updated rules of the Bexley Civil Service Commission, introduced by Danny Hurley on May 13, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the Ordinance 12-25 and Mr. Hurley and Mayor Kessler invited Mr. Fishel to share more on this, which he did, sharing the background of the ordinance and the work done by the Civil Service Commission.

- b. Resolution 03-25** to adopt the Tax Budget for calendar year attached hereto as Exhibit A, introduced by Jess Saad on May 13, 2025

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Saad shared briefly about the background of this ordinance.

14. 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.

Ms. Saad moved to remove Resolution 01-25 from the table.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Kessler spoke about his opinion on the best path forward relating to the sewer study. HE shared some of what he's learned through the discussion of the Resolution and the data received throughout the flow monitoring process and feels that a deeper dive into the history with plans to revisit the issue in the fall would be the best choice at this time.

Ms. Saad moved to withdraw Resolution 01-25.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

15. Public Comments (Speaker Slip Required)

Mr. Heckman of Bexley Public Library apologized for not arriving in time to speak during the reading of the BRT Resolution. He then spoke in support of the BRT and spoke of the positive impact it would have on library users. He concluded by complimenting Council on their hard work on this issue.

16. Safety Committee – Troy Markham, Chair

No report.

17. Service and Environmental Committee – Alex Silverman, Chair

Mr. Silverman spoke about the AAPI festival and shared about the live Szechuan cooking that will be coming up at this event.

18. Finance Committee – Jessica Saad, Chair

Ms. Saad spoke about the Pelotonia kickoff on May 15 and shared her appreciation for library partners and Council Members Lampke and Feibel at the Women's Health and Wellness fair. She spoke about how much she enjoyed the event and looks forward to bringing this back to Bexley next year.

19. Strategic and Health Committee – Danny Hurley, Chair

No report, but encouraged everyone to attend the AAPI festival.

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

Ms. Feibel shared that the Rec Department met last week and she's looking forward to sharing some of the work on the commonwealth landscaping designs. She also shared about the upcoming pool season. She also spoke about summer registration and spoke about some ideas for the senior center and spoke to the AEDs that are all now in the parks. She also encouraged Council to volunteer with the Bloomers.

21. Zoning and Development Committee – Sam Marcellino, Chair

No report.

22. Adjourn

Ms. Lampke moved to adjourn.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.