



City Council Minutes

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call of Members

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

Ms. Lampke moves to excuse Ms. Feibel's absence.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Special Guests

a. Coach Chris Proclamation

Mayor Kessler presented Coach Chris Quickert with a proclamation. Mr. Hurley shared about the positive experience his kids have had and Ms. Saad also thanked him and complimented him for the positive experience all three of her kids had in Coach Chris's classes.

5. Ordinances with Visiting Presenters (Civil Service Commission)

- a. Ordinance 12-25** approving the updated rules of the Bexley Civil Service Commission, introduced by Danny Hurley on May 13, 2025. This is the second reading of this ordinance (Speaker Slip Required)

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Mr. Hurley shared the background of this ordinance inviting Mayor Kessler to have the special speaker speak. Mr. Fishel, Mr. Offenberger, and Mr. Nathans all spoke about the process of rewriting the Civil Service Commission rules, answering questions from Mr. Hurley along the way.

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

7. President's Report

8. City Attorney Report

9. Auditor Report

10. Administrative Update

a. Mayor's Update

Mayor Kessler shared some of the highlights of his report. Mr. Marcellino asked about a meeting with Columbus Sign and another item on his schedule list.

b. Finance Department, Karrie Martin

Ms. Martin shared the highlights of her report.

c. Recreation Department, Mike Price

Mr. Price shared some of the highlights of his report and Mr. Silverman asked a question about algae in the pond, which Mayor Kessler answered.

11. Consent Agenda (No Speaker Slip Required)

a. Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2025

Ms. Lampke moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

3. Third Readings (No Speaker Slip Required)

4. Second Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

a. **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 some brief background, reviewing the attachment.

5. First Readings (Speaker Slip Required)

a. **Ordinance 13-25** appropriations ordinance for Building Department to appropriate \$53,500 for the increase in required development-related plumbing inspections., introduced by Jess Saad on May 27, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Saad provided some brief background on the purpose of the ordinance.

- b. Ordinance 14-25** authorizing the Mayor and Auditor to sign a Consent and Hold Harmless Agreement on behalf of the City of Bexley with the property owner 240 S Drexel (Parcel No. 020-003767), regarding improvements made upon and within the City owned right-of-way between the sidewalk and the property line, introduced by Sam Marcellino on May 27, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Mr. Marcellino invited Mayor Kessler to provide some background and information about the ordinance which he did. Mr. Silverman then asked about the specific location of the feature in question as this home is a corner lot, and Mayor Kessler will check on that. Mr. Markham asked about the brick pavers area, which is part of the driveway which isn't being considered in the Consent and Hold Harmless.

- c. Ordinance 15-25** to amend the Codified Ordinances to permit Accessory Dwelling Units under specified conditions, and to enact new Sections 1266.24, 1290.01, and 1290.02 of the Codified Ordinances, introduced by Sam Marcellino on May 27, 2025

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Mr. Marcellino shared some of the background and rationale behind this ordinance which was written in an effort to create opportunities for some additional lower priced options for smaller dwelling units in the city. Mr. Hurley asked questions about the ordinance and parking restrictions. Mr. Silverman asked about how addresses would work, which both Mr. Marcellino and Mayor Kessler answered, though ultimately more information would be needed before this could be definitively clarified. Mr. Hurley then asked a follow up question about utility payments. Ms. Saad asked about the penalty section, which both Mayor Kessler and Mr. Fishel answered.

- d. Ordinance 16-25** to authorize the Mayor to enter into a lease with the City of Columbus for premises located at the Southeast corner of Alum Creek Drive and Main Street, also known as the Pump House Park site, and to declare an emergency, introduced by Lori Ann Feibel on May 27, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Lampke shared some background information on this park and Mayor Kessler shared some of the history of this park. Ms. Saad shared some additional information on possible future uses, which Mayor Kessler will keep in mind. Mr. Hurley asked about the cost of maintenance and Ben agreed to provide this.

- e. Ordinance 17-25** to establish the speed limit on Drexel Avenue between Main Street and Broad Street at 25 MPH, introduced by Troy Markham on May 27, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Mr. Markham provided some background on this ordinance. Mr. Silverman asked about an earlier ODOT report on this. Mr. Marcellino expressed his compliments to the team for working on this initiative and his belief that it will make Bexley safer. Ms. Saad shared similar support and thoughts Ms. Lampke similarly shared positive feelings about the long road.

- f. Ordinance 18-25** to amend the Bed and Breakfast variance at 519 South Drexel Avenue in the City of Bexley, Ohio, introduced by Sam Marcellino on May 27, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Mr. Marcellino shared the background and rationale behind this ordinance along with the background of other offers that have been received on this property. He also shared he's unsure of where he stands on this ordinance and wants Council to start thinking on the matter, which he feels is likely to crop up in some form in the future.

Ms. Saad asked about the potential of considering having someone living on site to manage the property, which Mayor Kessler shared Capital indicated was challenging to balance with keeping the property profitable. He also shared some thoughts on differences between this model which has multiple units as opposed to an Air BNB which has one unit. Mr. Silverman asked about how enforcement of owner check-ins would work and shared some other concerns. Mr. Hurley shared his interest in seeing something like this work out as we don't have other lodging. Ms. Saad asked about parking, which Mr. Fishel answered. Mr. Markham followed up on Ms. Saad's earlier comment about living on sight and expressed his concerns with how a daily check in would be defined and enforced. Mr. Marcellino also shared his concern for where this goes from here.

- g. Ordinance 19-25** to authorize the Mayor to enter into a five-year employment contract with Chief Gary D. Lewis, Jr., introduced by Jess Saad on May 27, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Ms. Saad provided some background this ordinance. The contract is still being finalized and will be provided soon.

- h. Resolution 04-25** confirming the Mayor's appointments of members to the Architectural Review Board; the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning; the Recreation and Parks Board; the Tree and Public Gardens Commission; the Board of Health; the Board of Tax Review; the Civil Service Commission; the Citizen Review Board; the CRA Housing Council; The Records Commission; the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee; and to declare an emergency, introduced by Danny Hurley on May 27, 2025.

Mr. Fishel read the ordinance and Mr. Hurley provided some background on this ordinance, with the Mayor adding some information as well.

6. Tabled Ordinances

- 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.

Ms. Lampke moved to remove Resolution 02-25 from the table.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Lampke shared that we are continuing to receive emails and comments from the public on this and that coupled with that and the lack of urgency on the timing, she'd feel more comfortable postponing this until all seven members of Council are present. Ms. Saad also shared her belief that on matters this important to Council and to the city, she feels it's best to have all Council members present for the vote. Mr. Hurley shared his support of having a BRT stop in Bexley but also shared his desire to have Council have the opportunity to provide a final approval regarding aesthetics, etc. Council continued to discuss this briefly.

Ms. Lampke moved to table Resolution 02-25.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

- 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. (Public hearing scheduled for June 10, 2025)

No action.

7. Public Comments (Speaker Slip Required)

None.

8. Safety Committee – Troy Markham, Chair

No report.

9. Service and Environmental Committee – Alex Silverman, Chair

No report.

10. Finance Committee – Jessica Saad, Chair

Ms. Saad shared that the Pedal for Pancakes event is Saturday, June 14 at Commonwealth Park.

11. Strategic and Health Committee – Danny Hurley, Chair

Mr. Hurley shared his compliments on the Memorial Day Ceremony and the AAPI Festival.

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

No report.

13. Zoning and Development Committee – Sam Marcellino, Chair

No report.

14. Adjourn

Ms. Lampke moved to adjourn.

Mr. Marcellino seconded.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

BEXLEY CITY COUNCIL POLICY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

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.