



**City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
6:00 PM**

1) Call to Order- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Feibel

2) Roll Call of Members – President Feibel, Troy Markham, Richard Sharp, Jen Robinson, Jessica Saad, Matt Klingler, and Monique Lampke

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Presentations/Special Guest- None

5) Public Comments:

President Feibel asked all speakers to list their name and address prior to speaking.

Ms. Laurie Ellman Scoblionko said she has been reading how the housing projects are going to help the citizens of Bexley and play into the strategy for Bexley employees. She also suggested having individuals call in on their phones to join Council meetings. She asked who the proper person would be to contact with questions regarding the projects. Mayor Kessler said The Community Builders would be the correct contact to address her suggestions and comments and he will send her that information. She would prefer scattered housing vs. one project because they often become low-income housing. The city is the one that needs to have her back. Some of the residents did not receive the proper notifications about this project and future meetings. No one should lose property in order “to do the right thing” for the City. The property value loss should be spread throughout the community. She is concerned about the Livingston traffic issue and it will be another two years before this is cleared up. President Feibel thanked her for sharing her thoughts.

6) President's Report – President Feibel said Ms. Lampke is doing a wonderful job planning our retreat and suggested they pass along any subjects they would like to have for a strategic discussion.

7) City Attorney Report - No report.

8) Consent Agenda:

A) Ordinance 02-21 to appropriate \$100,000 from the Grant Reimbursed Expenditures Account of the General Fund for the purpose of paying for expenses associated with the Jeffrey Mansion Expansion and Accessibility Project after the receipt of \$100,000 from the 2020 State of Ohio Capital Budget, introduced by Mr. Markham (Introduced on 1-12-21)

B) 2021 1-26 City Council Minutes

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Mr. Klingler and seconded by Ms. Saad.
Vote – 7-0 PASSED**

9) Administrative Updates:

Finance Department – No report

Police Department – Nothing from Chief Rinehart other than his written report.

Ms. Robinson asked the Chief to pass on to the officers, their thanks for their hard work. Mr. Sharp asked about the flag disposal box being made by the Eagle Scout and said it will be open for residents to drop off flags.

Recreation Department - Mr. Price said no report other than his written report. President Feibel thanked him and his staff for the ice rink and all their hard work.

Service Department – Mr. Bashore said nothing other than his written report. Ms. Saad wanted to thank Andy and his team for getting the streets salted and cleared. It is one of the most important things for our city and they really appreciate it. Mr. Sharp said he also wanted to thank the Service workers. He asked how the overall winter supply is holding up for salt. Mr. Bashore said we still have plenty available, so we are in good shape.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Kessler wanted to brag about Mr. Bashore and his Service employees. He said they have done a wonderful job keeping Bexley safe during these snowfalls. Mayor Kessler said there was a dramatic car jacking over a week ago. Our police department has made an arrest in this case, which did involve a juvenile. We are having issues with juveniles creating a lot of crimes currently and being released back into the communities, continuing the same cycles. He suggested writing to Justice Brown and request that when it is a violent offense that these individuals be held accountable. Bexley and other suburbs are experiencing similar issues including Upper Arlington, Grove City and Grandview. There is a small group of juveniles circulating through the system and then being released.

Mayor Kessler continued with highlights from his report.

11) Third Readings:

A) Ordinance 01-21 to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Fraternal

Ms. Robinson said we have no new changes since our last meeting on this contract.

President Feibel genuinely appreciates Mr. Fishel's amazing explanations last week and answer the questions that our good citizens had concerning this contract. Mr. Sharp agreed with one of the comments from a resident at the last meeting regarding the employment files. These need to be maintained according to our Records Retention Policy. We want to make sure we are not inadvertently leaving documentation unavailable for future employers.

Ms. Lampke checked with Mr. Fishel and our Record Retention Policy is keeping in with best policies. Mr. Fishel said the city has historically followed the recommendations from the Ohio Historical Society and has a Records Retention Committee and we do meet on a regular basis. Mr. Fishel said we just reviewed the Police Department's record retention last year and we do keep employment records for at least 7 years. If documents are requested to be destroyed, they are sent to the Ohio Historical Society for approval prior to any record being destroyed.

Ms. Lampke said we will continue to work on our revised Strategic Plan for diversity and inclusion issues as well.

Motion by Ms. Robinson to approve and seconded by Ms. Saad. Vote 7 – 0 PASSED

12) Second Readings:

- A) Ordinance 04-21 to allow for vacation time buyouts for unused vacation time in excess of 10 days, in the instance where a staff member was unable to take vacation leave due to extraordinary circumstances in their job impacted by the City's COVID-19 pandemic response, introduced by Mr. Markham (Introduced on 1-26-21)

Ms. Robinson asked what the dollar figure looks like for this Ordinance? She knows this will be taken care of by Cares Act but would like to have the actual number. Mayor Kessler said Mr. Price will provide him with that information and he will share it with Council. He would also like to amend the Ordinance to add the option of vacation time vs. pay out. Mr. Markham asked if they were able to carry over vacation time currently? Mayor Kessler said 10 days is the maximum currently permitted to be carried over by employees.

- B) Ordinance 05-21 to unappropriate \$35,000 from the Salary & Wages line item of the Vehicle and Grounds Maintenance and Urban Forestry account and to appropriate \$35,000 into the Turf Maintenance line item of the Vehicle and Grounds Maintenance and Urban Forestry account, introduced by Mr. Markham (Introduced on 1-26-21)

Mr. Markham said this is an attempt by our Service Department to save us money from hiring additional employees and to contract out the work. Ms. Robinson asked if we have the projected savings amount? Mayor Kessler said that would be up to \$40,000 (assuming the employee coming in would have elected family insurance coverage).

Mr. Markham said he was comfortable putting this on the Consent Agenda for the next meeting.

13) First Readings:

- A) Ordinance 06-21 to authorize a transfer from the Road and Alley Fund of \$5,256 to the Bond Retirement Fund and to appropriate \$5,256 from the Bond Retirement Fund, to appropriate \$52,559 from the Water Fund and to appropriate \$7,884 from the Sewer Fund to pay debt service related to the South Roosevelt and Ashbourne Improvement Project, (introduced by Mr. Markham on February 9, 2021).

Mr. Markham said this project is now completed and this will allow the city to start making the payments.

- B) Ordinance 07-21 to establish a special fund designated the South Drexel Ave. and Grandon Avenue Comprehensive Improvements Fund to record all revenue and expenses associated with the South Drexel Avenue and Grandon Avenue project, to appropriate \$5,158,807 from this fund to pay for the cost of the project and to authorize transfers from the Water, Sewer and Road and Alley Funds of \$134,181, \$31,572 and \$97,347 respectively to the South Drexel Ave. and Grandon Avenue Comprehensive Improvements Fund to pay the City's portion of the project (introduced by Mr. Markham on February 9, 2021)

Mr. Markham said this is an upcoming project and this Ordinance will establish the funds to be used. The last three figures are the City's responsibility, and the balance is to be paid from grants and loans from the OPWC. Mr. Harvey said 75% of this figure will be loans.

- C) Resolution 01-21, confirming the Mayor's appointments of members to the Citizen Review Board, introduced by Ms. Robinson (introduced February 9, 2021)

Ms. Robinson said she, Ms. Williams and the Mayor have spent the last few weeks interviewing applicants for the openings on our Citizen's Review Board. Mayor Kessler said Glenn Soden and Tiffany Hunt are the two new appointees. Mayor Kessler said this was a difficult decision because all applicants were highly qualified, and he does look at the proper balance of the Board.

14) Tabled Ordinances:

A) Ordinance 36-20 amending Bexley Codified Ordinance 648.09 Mayor's Emergency Powers, introduced by Mr. Sharp (Introduced on 8-25-20) tabled on 09-22-20 until February 9th, 2021 – No Action

15) Service and Environmental Committee - Richard Sharp, Chair

Mr. Sharp asked the Mayor to update the residents on the sewer mitigation program and whether there is a schedule for inspections or mailings at this time. Mayor Kessler said we have drafted the emails to be sent; the contractors have been selected; we are putting together a Fact Sheet and hope to get everything out within the next few weeks. We will have information on the website as well. There are many properties that we have identified that are hooked up incorrectly and we will be reaching out to them as well. Mr. Bashore said they are currently gathering those addresses from their last study.

Mr. Sharp said the Historical Society is planning on a Centennial Celebration with the school and possible recognition of homes over 100 years old as a fundraiser venture.

16) Finance Committee - Troy Markham, Chair – No Report

17) Safety and Health Committee - Jen Robinson, Chair

The Bexley Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (BCPAAA) Food drive will be holding their event at Montrose Elementary. She received word from Ms. Ellman, COVID Task Force Manager that we are in conversation for an event for March to plan a COVID testing at St. Charles. We are also looking to become a provider location for the vaccine as well.

18) Zoning and Development Committee - Jessica Saad, Chair

Ms. Saad wanted to remind everyone that February 11th at 6:00 p.m. will be the Architectural Review Board Meeting. Thursday, February 25th at 6:00 p.m. will be the next Planning and Zoning Meeting.

19) Recreation and Parks Committee - Matt Klingler, Chair

Mr. Klingler said the Bexley Activity Walking Club has begun and everyone is welcome to join. Please contact the Recreation Department for more information if you are interested. He said Ohioans age 65 or older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Park and Recreation Department is excited to open the ice-skating rink and you can contact them regarding making reservations.

20) Judiciary and Strategic Committee - Monique Lampke, Chair

Ms. Lampke said Feb. 26th from 9 am to noon will be the Council retreat. Feb. 17th a Charter Review discussion along with public comment will be held.

21) Public Comments (No Speaker Slip Required)

President Feibel asked if anyone in attendance would like to share their thoughts with Council tonight. – No questions or comments from participants.

22) Adjourn – Motion to adjourn Mr. Klingler and seconded by Ms. Robinson.

Vote 7 – 0 ADJOURNED at 7:20 p.m.

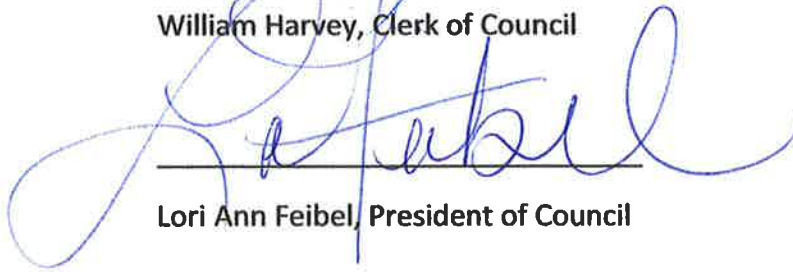
Summary minutes are supplemented by a full audio record of meetings. To review meeting audio, please visit www.bexley.org/meetings.

Minutes Approved: February 23rd, 2021

Attest:



William Harvey, Clerk of Council



Lori Ann Feibel, President of Council