

ORDINANCE NO. 11-80

By: John H. Page

An Ordinance to authorize the Mayor and Auditor to enter into an agreement with other Municipalities within the State of Ohio to contest and oppose the proposed rate increase of Ohio Bell Telephone and to authorize the City of Columbus City Attorney's Office to serve as special legal representative in such proceedings.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEXLEY,
OHIO:

Section 1: That there is a need to protect the residents of the City of Bexley and the City Government itself against an unreasonable increase in the rates which the Ohio Bell Telephone Company is seeking by virtue of an application filed by the Ohio Bell Telephone Company in the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio under Formal Case No. 79-1184-TP-AIR, and that opposition to said rate increase is for the preservation of peace, health and welfare.

Section 2: That telephone service is a necessity of urban life; and, that the Ohio Bell Telephone Company is the principal supplier of telephone service in the City of Bexley, Ohio, and

Section 3: That the Ohio Bell Telephone Company has filed an application for an increase in rates of \$99 million; and, that the proposed increase should be examined in the greatest possible detail to determine the fairness, equity, and need for the increase in particular types of service; and,

Section 4: That a number of cities throughout Ohio have joined in objection to this increase being granted, and determined to retain special counsel and consultants to do so; and, that the City of Bexley's share in this expense is based on population; and, that this Council, in the exercise of its sound discretion, deems such an expenditure to be for a public purpose and in the public interest.

Section 5: That the Mayor and Auditor of the City of Bexley, on behalf of the City of Bexley, be and they are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with other municipalities within the State of Ohio to investigate, analyze and put forth evidence with regard to the current Ohio Bell Telephone rate proceeding, Case No. 79-1184-TP-AIR, whereby the City of Bexley shall furnish the sum of \$800.00 for the purpose of employing consultants and expert witnesses who will secure and furnish necessary technical information to assist Bexley in opposing the rate increase requested by the Ohio Bell Telephone Company, which effort will inure to the benefit of the peace, health and general welfare of the citizens of Bexley, the City Government and the general business community.

Section 6: To authorize the Mayor and Auditor of the City of Bexley to authorize the City of Columbus City Attorney's office to serve as special legal representative for purposes of the Ohio Bell Telephone rate proceeding.

Section 7: That for the purpose of paying the costs thereof, the expenditure of \$800.00 is hereby authorized from the General Fund. It is further provided that said expenditure

of funds shall be subject to contracts entered into between consultants and expert witnesses and the City of Bexley, which will provide for the terms under which consultants and expert witnesses shall be retained. However, said sum of money shall not be disbursed until further authorization by this Council.

Section 8: That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: March 11, 1980

John A. Offerberg
President of Council

Attest: John W. Donkey

Approved: March 11, 1980

David H. Madison
David H. Madison
Mayor

1st reading: 2-12-80
2nd reading 2-26-80
3rd reading 3-11-80
adopted