

## **BRYAN CITY COUNCIL**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

Council President F. John Betts opened the meeting with the following members present: Jim Kozumplik, Mary Leatherman, Judith Yahraus, and Richard Hupe. Also present were: Mayor Carrie Schlade, City Attorney Rhonda Fisher, City Engineer Brian Wieland, Police Chief Christopher Chapa, Fire Chief Bruce Siders, Parks and Recreation Director Benjamin Dominique, Street Commissioner Tyson Engstrom, Dispatcher McKenzie Martinez, Operations Manager Dawn Fitzcharles, Board of Public Affairs members Tom Sprow and Richard Long, and Clerk-Treasurer Laura Rode.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2020, Regular Meeting as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Chapa and Fire Chief Siders offered a commendation to Dispatcher McKenzie Martinez for a job well done in directing personnel and professionally handling a 911 call on January 25, 2020. A standing ovation was given.

Bob Golding representing the Bryan Area Chamber of Commerce introduced a plan for a Downtown Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) to the Council. (See attached.) Discussion was held on the size of the Downtown Outdoor Refreshment Area as well as the hours and potential operation issues including littering. Mr. Golding noted that by keeping the area larger, more commercially zoned properties could be given a better opportunity if they were located within the DORA district. Mayor Schlade did provide a map overlaying the proposed DORA district with the current C3 Core also noted.

Mr. Golding explained that a DORA cup must be utilized to transport the adult beverages and that a green or red sticker could be displayed at establishments within the proposed district designating a business' participation or lack thereof. He further added that Fountain City School as well as Bryan City Schools had no issues with the proposed DORA.

Discussion then turned to trash concerns to which Mr. Golding stated that the Monday pickup for the downtown would continue as currently established and that the businesses would be responsible for trash collection outside of that normal date. Joel Miller with the Henry County Chamber of Commerce in Napoleon added that trash has not been an issue for Napoleon since they established a designated district. He added that Napoleon established review dates with City personnel and merchants to discuss trash and security issues to ensure the process was functioning as it should.

Council President Betts inquired about the Williams County Courthouse Square to which Mr. Golding said that would be up to the Commissioners; however, he hoped they would choose to participate. Further discussion was held regarding possible violations for

intoxication, open container outside the defined DORA district, and littering as well as possible methods of handling existing downtown events such as the Jubilee. Mr. Golding added that he felt the Police Officers have discretion regarding misdemeanors in the State of Ohio to which City Attorney Fisher responded that while Police Officers do have discretion with regard to misdemeanors, there is a big difference between speeding versus open container on a property not participating in DORA in which officers would be compelled to act. Discussion then included Mr. Miller's input as to the economic effect the DORA has had in Napoleon noting that it did improve the amount of visitors to the city.

Discussion shifted to the hours of operation for the DORA in the City with Mr. Miller noting that Napoleon does not allow the DORA to be in effect on Sundays and the starting hour is 4:00 p.m. Mr. Golding added that he would like the program to be consistent with regard to the dates and hours for the proposed Bryan DORA. Parameters as defined by the State pertaining to operating a DORA were also discussed as well as the need for signage and informational handouts. Mr. Golding shared his thoughts that the City should be responsible for the applicable signage.

Further discussion continued with David Swanson advocating for the DORA stating that "booze and food" are what draw people to a town/event and that it could assist with recruiting employees. Bryan citizen Verna Grocki added that while she is not against a DORA, she has concerns regarding litter and the map size. John Trippy addressed Council with the thought of expanding the size of the DORA district to include the train station. Adam Vasquez addressed Council adding that a DORA would bring in more events to the City.

Mayor Schlade added that the County Commissioners have not yet been given the DORA document. However, she noted that the subject will be on a future agenda.

Wrapping up the DORA discussion, Pastor John McFarland shared that he is puzzled that alcohol must be involved to bring people to Bryan. He noted that there are nine (9) establishments on the square which currently serve alcohol and that special event permits are available. He was left to question why a program such as this needs to affect the community as a whole.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve the Clerk-Treasurer's report for the month ending January 31, 2020, as submitted by Clerk-Treasurer Rode. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried

Council President Betts read a prepared statement and asked the base question of whether the current dual structure of government in Bryan is functioning optimally or if there was room for improvement. He continued that if it were determined that the appropriate method was to blend the entities into one, he would like to honor the existing term limits and retain the expertise of the all members, though he would propose to not continue with a ten member Council beyond December 31, 2021.

Otherwise, if the governing entities are to remain separate, he proposed to have a written resolution establishing guidelines and a communication mechanism to allow for better coordination between the entities. He suggested a Joint Meeting with the Board to discuss possible solutions.

Councilman Yahraus stated that what we have right now works just fine and that she knows no one in favor of dissolving or merging with the Board of Public Affairs. She continued by stating that she ran for the City Council – not the Board of Public Affairs. Further discussion was held regarding the time involved, the merit of possibly having more meetings, possible topics for a Joint Meeting agenda, etc. It was then discussed to revisit Ordinance No. 46, 2019, to finalize action on it at the March 2, 2020, meeting.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to set a Joint Special Meeting with the Board of Public Affairs at a date to be determined. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 11, 2020, titled,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF BRYAN TO APPLY FOR GRANTS FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT**

was presented and read by title only. Fire Chief Siders requested Council's authorization to apply for various grants for the City of Bryan Fire Department for 2020 including, but not limited to, the: Ohio Fire Marshal Training Grant, Ohio Fire Marshal MARCS Radio Grant, and the Ohio Bureau of Workman's Compensation Grant. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 11, 2020, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Resolution No. 11, 2020. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Street Commissioner Engstrom requested to hire Zachary Williams as a Vehicle Operator Trainee and Gregory Temple as an Equipment Maintenance Mechanic upon passing their physicals, drug screens and criminal background checks.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to hire Zachary Williams as a Vehicle Operator Trainee at a rate of \$13.40 per hour and Gregory Temple as an Equipment Maintenance Mechanic at a rate of \$18.50 per hour upon passing their physicals, drug screens and criminal background checks. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

City Engineer Wieland requested to hire Clifford Weigel as the Clean Up Bryan Technician effective February 19, 2020.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to hire Clifford Weigel as the Clean Up Bryan Technician effective February 19, 2020 at a rate of \$13.00 per hour. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Director Dominique and Police Chief Chapa gave annual reports for the Parks and Recreation Department and Police Department, respectively. Council members were appreciative of the annual reports provided by Parks and Recreation Director Dominique and Police Chief Chapa, respectively. Councilman Hupe also welcomed the new hires to the City. In addition, Councilman Leatherman expressed her sincere appreciation to the Parks and Recreation Department for assisting the Kiwanis organization with their recent donations to the City

Council President Betts expressed his appreciation for the discussion this evening

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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President of Council

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Clerk-Treasurer