

BRYAN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 4, 2020

Council President F. John Betts opened the meeting via teleconference with the following members present via teleconference: Jim Kozumplik, Mary Leatherman, Judith Yahraus, and Richard Hupe. Also present in the Council Chambers were: Mayor Carrie Schlade and City Clerk-Treasurer Laura Rode. Other City employees participating via teleconference include: City Attorney Rhonda Fisher, Police Chief Christopher Chapa, Street Commissioner Tyson Engstrom, Fire Chief Bruce Siders, Wastewater Superintendent Wes Wygant, Parks and Recreation Director Benjamin Dominique, and Local Programming and Production Lead Eric Herman.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2020, Regular Meeting as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 17, 2020, titled,

AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW FOR A 15 DAY SICK LEAVE DONATION DURING THE CITY STATE OF EMERGENCY, OR OTHERWISE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WHICH WILL NOT AFFECT FURTHER SICK LEAVE DONATION UNDER SECTION 312 OF THE CITY OF BRYAN EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, EFFECTIVE MARCH 10, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

was presented and read by title only. Mayor Schlade requested Council approve a measure allowing 15 days of sick leave donation due the COVID-19 pandemic and the pronouncement of a State of Emergency which would not affect further sick leave donation under section 312 of the City of Bryan Employee Handbook for the period March 10, 2020, through September 10, 2020. She noted that several recently hired employees had not yet accrued much sick time, and this would assist them. In addition, Mayor Schlade noted that this legislation would be presented to the Board of Public Affairs tomorrow evening.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 17, 2020, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 17, 2020. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 19, 2020, titled,

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF BRYAN TO APPLY FOR GRANTS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19 FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN AS NEEDED.

was presented and read by title only.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 19, 2020, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to pass Resolution No. 19, 2020. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 20, 2020, titled,

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF BRYAN TO APPLY FOR AND MANAGE GRANTS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19 FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN AS NEEDED.

was presented and read by title only.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 20, 2020, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to pass Resolution No. 20, 2020. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Chapa requested that Patrol Officer Derek Beardsley be given a contractual increase effective April 7, 2020, taking him from \$22.56 per hour to \$23.76 per hour.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to give Patrol Officer Derek Beardsley a contractual increase effective April 7, 2020, taking him from \$22.56 per hour to \$23.76 per hour. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Chapa requested that Patrol Officer Richard Roe be moved from probationary status to regular employment status effective May 13, 2020, taking him from \$18.81 per hour to \$21.61 per hour.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to move Patrol Officer Richard Roe from probationary status to regular employment status effective May 13, 2020, taking him from \$18.81 per hour to \$21.61 per hour. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Chapa requested that Patrol Sergeant Jeremy Viers be moved from probationary status to regular employment status effective May 5, 2020, with no change in pay.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to move Patrol Sergeant Jeremy Viers from probationary status to regular employment status effective May 5, 2020, with no change in pay. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Chapa informed the public that the Police Department would be returning to normal operations while following additional safety precautions.

Street Commissioner Engstrom informed the public that all trash pick would be resuming this week. He requested items be bagged or boxed to lessen contact for the workers. Further, Commissioner Engstrom noted that recycled items are still going to the landfill for the time being as it is not yet safe to sort recycled items and the inmates that normally assist with the operation are not available. Additional discussion was held.

Council members thanked City employees for their efforts during the COVID-19 crisis, and urged the public to continue social distancing.

A brief recess was taken.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to go into Executive Session to discuss the compensation of personnel and the acquisition of property at 5:30 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Asked to attend the Executive Session were: Mayor Schlade, City Attorney Fisher, and City Clerk-Treasurer Rode.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding a request from Metalink regarding installing two (2) free hotspots within the City limits. As the equipment needed would be attached to the East End Pool building and the ice rink, the equipment would be considered a permanent fixture should the building ever be sold and, therefore, would transfer with the buildings in that case. Further discussion was held.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to allow the Mayor to enter into a contract with Metalink allowing two (2) free hotspots to be located at the East End Pool building and the ice rink noting the equipment required would be permanent fixtures of the buildings. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Fire Burn Building as mediation was held in an attempt to resolve the inadequate building situation with Rupp /Rosebrock, Inc. In an effort to not prolong resolving the issue, Councilman Hupe suggested moving forward with a settlement on the Fire Burn Building, thereby avoiding further litigation expenses, and allowing City Clerk-Treasurer Rode to release the retainage amount to the 250 Fire Fund.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve allowing City Attorney Fisher, City Engineer Wieland, and Fire Chief Siders to settle litigation on the Fire Burn Building and also to allow Clerk-Treasurer Rode to release the retainage associated with the burn building to the 250 Fire Fund. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion approved.

Ordinance No. 18, 2020, titled,

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF BRYAN TO ENTER INTO A SHARED WORK PROGRAM WITH JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

was presented and read by title only. Mayor Schlade requested Council consider entering into a Shared Work Program with Job and Family Services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was designed as a voluntary layoff aversion program to be utilized to reduce hours worked by employees while allowing them to maintain full benefits during an economic downturn providing for savings while promoting job retainage. Further discussion was held.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 18, 2020, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 18, 2020. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

President of Council

Clerk-Treasurer