

BRYAN CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2, 2019

Council President Lynn Wieland opened the meeting with the following members present: Judith Yahraus, Mary Leatherman, F. John Betts, and Richard Hupe. Also present were: Mayor Carrie Schlade, City Attorney Rhonda Fisher, Parks and Recreation Director Ben Dominique, City Engineer Brian Wieland, Street Commissioner Tyson Engstrom, Fire Chief Bruce Siders, Interim Police Chief Christopher Chapa, Board of Public Affairs members Jim Salsbury, Richard Long, Derek Allen, Karen Ford, and Tom Sprow, Operations Manager Dawn Fitzcharles, Laborer III John DeGroff, Power Plant Operator IV AJ Geren, Power Plant Superintendent Jim Coressel, Water Distribution Supervisor John Caperton, Council member-elect Jim Kozumplik, Board of Public Affairs member-elect Annette Schreiner, and Clerk-Treasurer Laura Rode.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2019, Regular Meeting as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ms. Emma Kirkpatrick of Maumee Valley Planning Organization addressed Council regarding the Safe Routes to School grant as funds may be available to provide sidewalks for children to walk or bike to school safely. She plans to apply for a \$400,000 grant for Bryan Elementary and Middle Schools at the end of this year; however, funds may not be available until 2023 or 2024. Further discussion was held with Mayor Schlade noting that while the City would participate in the grant, there is no cost to the City.

Council President Wieland set expectations regarding the hearing of public concerns portion of the meeting as there were a large number of guests in attendance.

Mr. Richard Reed of Bryan approached Council to restate his belief that the City should be under one (1) governing body. He noted having a Human Resources person and Purchasing Agent for the entire City could be beneficial as well as noting pieces of equipment that could potentially be shared. Mr. Reed named several organizations as well as municipalities that have only one (1) board noting that some are much larger than the City based on number of employees and/or revenues and that the taxpayers are responsible for the City. He ended by suggesting that the taxpayers should have the opportunity to express how the City is structured.

Mr. Tom Lingvai of Bryan approached Council stating that he believes the issue is one of good/efficient governance. In his opinion, the voters are liable for decisions made and as such the issue should be placed in front of them.

A Bryan citizen, Mr. Bill Metz, then approached Council in opposition of Ordinance No. 46, 2019, stating many reasons to not dissolve the Board of Public Affairs and noting several City elections supporting the Board of Public Affairs and referring to various Charter commission reviews over the years. He questioned that if better communications

were the goal, why not have joint quarterly meetings and continued to remind the public that the Council relies on the taxpayers whereas Bryan Municipal Utilities relies on the ratepayers. He also suggested that relying on an unpaid advisory board to oversee a budget exceeding \$30,000,000 was not wise and further expounded on the Board's experience. Other pertinent issues brought forward by Mr. Metz include the kilowatt hour tax and "free service." He indicated that committees were already being formed to keep the Board of Public Affairs and suggested that if the issue were to go forward on the March ballot, the Council should suspend their wage payments for the balance of the year.

Water Distribution Supervisor Caperton addressed Council regarding the need for Bryan Municipal Utilities to have a vac truck and advised that it was utilized.

Mr. Dan Yahraus representing the Bryan Area Chamber of Commerce thanked both City and Bryan Municipal Utilities for their assistance for the Friday evening Christmas parade and the lights on the courthouse.

Bryan citizen, Mr. Jesse Hageman, addressed Council questioning the four (4) homes purchased by Bryan Municipal Utilities and adding that he wanted the vote to take place.

Council President Wieland thanked everyone for their thoughts and appreciated everyone being engaged in the process of discussing this issue and to do what is right for Bryan.

Ordinance No. 46, 2019, titled,

AN ORDINANCE TO PLACE ON THE BALLOT FOR ELECTORAL CONSIDERATION, AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BRYAN, TO DISSOLVE THE ELECTED BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND TO BRING THE BRYAN MUNICIPAL UTILITIES UNDER THE DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE BRYAN MAYOR AND BRYAN CITY COUNCIL.

was presented and read by title only. Councilman Betts, too, thanked everyone for their thoughts and comments noting that as there are those both for and against the issue, it should go to a vote of the people. He provided a brief chronology of events since the October 21, 2019, Council meeting when it was requested to consider a Charter change regarding dissolving the Board of Public Affairs. He reiterated that the motion to put a Charter change up for consideration was to allow the people of Bryan the opportunity to determine how much government they need and/or want. He further answered some of the questions pertaining to the time and/or expertise required for Bryan Municipal Utilities' issues, and why a charter commission wasn't established to review the issue as well as other pertinent questions.

Councilman Betts restated that there is no plan to reduce staff or wages. In addition, there is absolutely no plan to sell the utilities which could not happen according to the City Charter. The idea was to eliminate duplication, streamline, and improve

communications. As the public may not see some of these issues, he now believes more public information is essential so the people can decide how much City governance they want. He continued by recognizing that more discussion may be helpful in multiple forums with residents, businesses, and industry. He followed with a motion to table the 3rd reading knowing that the ordinance must be approved no later than July 20, 2020, if the proposed Charter change were to be placed on the November 2020 ballot.

Further discussion was held with Councilman Yahraus noting that taking a pause and allowing additional time to review the issue is important as is hearing from citizens as to their thoughts on the matter.

Council President Wieland agreed that hitting the pause button is good to allow more pros and cons to be voiced. Councilman Hupe added that the passion over this issue has not fallen on deaf ears whether citizens are for or opposed to the proposed Charter amendment.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to table the third reading of Ordinance No. 46, 2019. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 33, 2019, titled,

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A \$20,000 DONATION FROM THE BRYAN AREA FOUNDATION TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR PICKLEBALL COURTS.

was presented and read by title only. Parks and Recreation Director Dominique shared with Council that a \$20,000 donation was received from the Bryan Area Foundation for the Parks and Recreation Department to begin the work on the pickleball courts. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 33, 2019, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Betts moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to pass Resolution No. 33, 2019. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 34, 2019, titled,

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE REPAYMENT OF AN INTER-FUND CASH ADVANCE.

was presented and read by title only. Clerk-Treasurer Rode advised Council that the Ohio Department of Transportation had forwarded \$1,219,313 as committed for the Main Street project; therefore, she requested to return the money advanced from the ½% Income Tax Fund.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 34, 2019, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to pass Resolution No. 34, 2019. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 51, 2019, titled,

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN, FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

was presented and read by title only. Clerk-Treasurer Rode detailed the requested transfers for City Council.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 51, 2019, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 51, 2019. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 52, 2019, titled,

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

was presented and read by title only. Clerk-Treasurer Rode detailed the requested appropriations for City Council.

Mr. Betts moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 52, 2019, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 52, 2019. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 53, 2019, titled,

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDER #3 AND FINAL FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS “2018 DETENTION BASIN ENLARGEMENT” FOR BRYAN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.

was presented and read by title only. City Engineer Wieland requested Council approve change order #3 and final for the project known as 2018 Detention Basin Enlargement

project at the Bryan Industrial and Commercial Complex noting that a \$15,520 increase was required to close the project.

Mr. Betts moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 53, 2019, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 53, 2019. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade requested Council's permission to move Executive Secretary Natasha Baldwin from probationary status to regular employment status effective December 12, 2019.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to move Executive Secretary Natasha Baldwin from probationary employment status to regular employment status effective December 12, 2019, taking her from \$14.00 per hour to \$14.35 per hour. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Street Commissioner Engstrom requested to hire Gary Hussey and Lenix Sands as Recycling Vehicle Operator Trainees at a rate of \$13.40 per hour at a date to be determined pending physicals and background checks.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to approve hiring Gary Hussey and Lenix Sands as Recycling Vehicle Operator Trainees at a rate of \$13.40 per hour at a date to be determined pending physicals and background checks. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Citizen John Shaffer thanked Council for using appropriate deliberation regarding the Charter amendment issue. Board of Public Affairs member-elect Schreiner added that she was glad to have more time regarding the issue as well.

Citizen Metz inquired as to when the public would know if the issue would go forward to which Councilmen Betts replied that it must be decided by July 20, 2020, if it is to make the November 2020 election. Council President Wieland advised that the Council agenda is provided to the Bryan Times.

Council members and Mayor Schlade thanked all who spoke at the meeting and thanked Bryan Area Foundation for their donation.

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

President of Council

Clerk-Treasurer