

## **BRYAN CITY COUNCIL**

**MAY 3, 2021**

Council President Mary Leatherman opened the combined in-person/virtual meeting with the following members present: Judith Yahraus, F. John Betts, Richard Hupe, and Jim Kozumplik. Also attending in person were: Mayor Carrie Schlade, Planning and Zoning Administrator Andy Waterston, Videographer Parker Rosebrook, Board of Public Affairs member Jim Salsbury, and City Clerk-Treasurer Laura I. Rode. Attending via teleconference were: City Attorney Rhonda Fisher, City Engineer Brian Wieland, Street Commissioner Tyson Engstrom, Police Chief Christopher Chapa, Wastewater Superintendent Wes Wygant, Fire Chief Bruce Siders, Parks and Recreation Director Benjamin Dominique, and Videographer Kristopher Bryce.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2021, Regular Meeting as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Bryan citizen Jason Johnston approached Council as a tree was removed at his address on Blakeslee Avenue and the stump was to be taken out by the City. In an effort to prep the area for the stump removal, a section of sidewalk was removed making the sidewalk inaccessible. Mr. Johnston wanted to know why the process was taking so long and when the stump would be removed. Street Commissioner Engstrom replied that there were approximately 100 stumps to be removed in the City. He was provided with Mr. Johnston's contact information to further discuss the issue.

Ordinance No. 15, 2021, titled,

### **AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A VACANT BUILDING/STOREFRONT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.**

was presented and read by title only.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, remove Ordinance No. 15, 2021, from the table. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed program for enforcing vacant building/storefronts in the City of Bryan. Mr. Russ Davies representing the Bryan Development Foundation approached Council and explained the comments and opinions shared at a recent meeting held with businesses regarding the proposed ordinance. The discussion centered around the impact of vacant buildings noting that several of the buildings being addressed were built in the 1800s which made refurbishing them to required specifications often cost prohibitive. Council member Yahraus noted that when you invest in a home or building, there are repairs, etc., that one is responsible for to which Mr. Davies agreed. Council member Kozumplik added that he appreciates everyone who participated in the meeting; however, he believes the ordinance as written is too burdensome for some business owners. Mr. Davies added that starting the

conversation was a good thing; however, he did not appreciate The Bryan Times article referencing a “ghost town.”

Councilman Betts requested the Bryan Development Foundation work with the Mayor and other designees to achieve a balanced approach. Mr. Davies added that by having all parties working together a solution could be found. Mayor Schlade agreed to work together on the solution.

Council President Leatherman appreciated the positive energy of those who attended the meeting. Councilman Hupe added that he appreciates the good intentions as well and recognizes the goal is to get quality occupants in the vacant buildings.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to table Ordinance No. 15, 2021, for a second time. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 20, 2021, titled,

**A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AN \$8,000.00 DONATION FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR AND \$2,119.56 FROM THE KIWANIS CLUB OF BRYAN TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR HARMONY PARK EQUIPMENT.**

was presented and read by title only. Parks and Recreation Director Dominique requested Council approve a donation of \$8,000 from an anonymous donor and \$2,119.56 from the Kiwanis Club of Bryan for the purchase of Harmony Park equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 20, 2021, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Leatherman abstained. Motion carried.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Resolution No. 20, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Leatherman abstained. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 21, 2021, titled,

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND THE CLERK-TREASURER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK, DESIGNATING HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK, AS THE DEPOSITORY FOR ACTIVE, INACTIVE AND INTERIM FUNDS OF THE CITY OF BRYAN FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS, FROM JUNE 20, 2021 TO JUNE 19, 2026.**

was presented and read by title only. City Clerk-Treasurer Rode requested Council approve an agreement with Huntington National Bank to be the depository for the active, inactive and interim funds for the City of Bryan. The agreement would be a renewal for a

five (5) year period beginning June 20, 2021, and ending June 19, 2026, if approved. She noted the terms and conditions are the same as previously approved. In addition, Clerk-Treasurer Rode thanked the Huntington National Bank staff for their quick response on the renewal.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 21, 2021, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Betts moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to pass Resolution No. 21, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade shared that a letter had been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor control regarding permits to sell alcoholic beverages in the City of Bryan. She requested Council approve to allow for all current liquor permits to be renewed in the City of Bryan and reminded permit holders of the renewal application date.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve to allow for all current liquor permits to be renewed in the City of Bryan. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Wastewater Superintendent Wygant requested to reclassify Class 2 Operator A Geoff Warner to Class 2 Operator B effective June 4, 2021, taking him from \$21.69 per hour to \$22.78 per hour per the union contract.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to reclassify Class 2 Operator A Geoff Warner to Class 2 Operator B effective June 4, 2021, taking him from \$21.69 per hour to \$22.78 per hour per the union contract. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Chapa led a discussion regarding the Police/Fire Dispatcher residency which would allow their residency requirement to be the same as stated in the City of Bryan Employee Handbook residency section. With the recent request to allow a Civil Service test for dispatchers, this would allow for a larger pool of potential applicants. Mayor Schlade added that Police/Fire Dispatchers must have a valid Ohio driver's license and noted that drive time to work is not an issue for those positions. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, that the Police/Fire Dispatchers are to recognize and follow the City of Bryan Employee Handbook residency requirement. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Council members shared their thanks for the donations received as well as those who participated in the discussion on the vacant building situation in Bryan.

A brief recess was taken.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to go into Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of property and the hiring of a public employee at 6:12 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Asked to attend were: Mayor Schlade, City Attorney Fisher, City Engineer Wieland, and Clerk-Treasurer Rode. All attended the Executive Session in person.

City Engineer Wieland exited the Executive Session at 6:22 p.m.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Betts 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