

## **BRYAN CITY COUNCIL**

**July 17, 2023**

Council President Richard Hupe opened the meeting with the following members present: F. John Betts, Judith Yahraus, Mary Leatherman, and Jim Kozumplik. Also attending were: Board of Public Affairs members Dick Long, Jim Salisbury, Tom Sprow, and Annette Schreiner, as well as Mayor Carrie Schlade, City Engineer Brian Wieland, Police Chief Greg Ruskey, Fire Chief Doug Pool, Street Commissioner Tyson Engstrom, Wastewater Superintendent Wes Wygant, Parks and Recreation Director Benjamin Dominique, and Clerk-Treasurer John Lehner.

Mr. Betts moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Caleb Webber, Center Ridge Road, presented his concerns on speeding traffic along Downing Drive and suggested four-way stop signs be installed at the intersection of Downing Drive and Center Ridge Road. He also requested that Council consider the topic of legalizing properly equipped golf carts on Bryan city streets.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve the Clerk-Treasurer's Report for the month ending June 30, 2023 as submitted by Clerk-Treasurer Lehner. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 29, 2023, titled,

### **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

was presented and read by title only. Clerk-Treasurer Lehner explained that the requested appropriations were reflective of donations received to help fund concerts scheduled at the Fountain City Amphitheater, totaling \$2,250; and a new two-year probation grant effective July 1, 2023, for which the appropriation of \$99,565 would cover allowed expenses through the end of the current budget year. He also explained the new single grant replaces two grants the City has received in previous years.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 29, 2023, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 29, 2023. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 30, 2023, titled,

**AN ORDINANCE GRANTING AN EASEMENT ON CERTAIN CITY OWNED PROPERTY TO OHIO GAS COMPANY FOR PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTING, LAYING, RELOCATING, OPERATING, REPAIRING, AND MAINTAINING GAS PIPELINES AND GAS PIPELINE APPURTENANCES.**

was presented and read by title only. City Engineer Wieland explained that Ohio Gas Company is installing a new connector line on W. Wilson Street from Lynn Street to Beech Street, and in order to keep the line out of the public right-of-way, has sought easements from property owners along the route. The City owns one of the parcels, located at the southeast corner of W. Wilson and Beech Streets. Mr. Wieland requested Council grant the easement.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 30, 2023, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 30, 2023. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 31, 2023, titled,

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE CITY OF BRYAN GOVERNING PATROL OFFICERS IN THE BRYAN POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

was presented and read by title only. Mayor Schlade presented Council with a copy of the negotiated agreement between the City of Bryan and the International Union of Police Associations for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025. She thanked all participants for their professionalism and a successful outcome. Mrs. Yahraus indicated this was her first time participating in a negotiation, thanked Mr. Betts for insights he provided throughout, and commended all participants.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 31, 2023, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 31, 2023. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 32, 2023, titled,

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

was presented and read by title only. Chief Pool explained the need to attract more applicants for positions in the Fire Department, and that expanding the allowable residency requirement to include Paulding County would help in those efforts.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 32, 2023, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 32, 2023. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 39, 2023, titled,

**A RESOLUTION TO SET THE EMPLOYEE ANNUAL PREMIUM RATE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

was presented and read by title only. Mayor Schlade explained insurance rates for the coming year were negotiated to a 6.11% increase, down from a double-digit increase initially proposed. She thanked Mike Kurivial of First Insurance for his efforts to reduce the increase, and she requested Council adopt the corresponding employee contribution rates.

Mr. Betts moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 39, 2023, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to pass Resolution No. 39, 2023. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 40, 2023, titled,

**A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A \$1200.00 DONATION FROM BRYAN FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES TO THE CITY OF BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE DONATIONS.**

was presented and read by title only. Chief Pool explained that the Bryan Fraternal Order of Eagles has again donated funding for the Haas Alert System annual service subscription and requested Council accept the gift of \$1,200. The system enhances emergency responder safety by providing approaching drivers real-time digital alerts about in-route emergency response vehicles nearby.

Mr. Betts moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 40, 2023, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to pass Resolution No. 40, 2023. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 41, 2023, titled,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REVOLVING LOAN FUND LOAN FOR SAUNDERS THEATER GROUP FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BUILDING AT 144 S. LYNN STREET TO ALLOW FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION.**

was presented and read by title only. Mayor Schlade asked that Council approve a \$65,000 Revolving Loan Fund loan at 4.0% interest for 20 years to the Saunders Theater Group for the purchase of the former Sound Shop building located at 144 S. Lynn Street. Further discussion was held on the potential use of the building, noting how long it has been vacant and the prospect of having it occupied again. The likely use for the upstairs is residential/Airbnb, and for the downstairs is undisclosed commercial.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 41, 2023, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to pass Resolution No. 41, 2023. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Ruskey requested permission to test for the position of Dispatcher, citing that a current full-time Dispatcher is dropping to part-time and the current eligibility list has been exhausted.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to authorize the Police Department to conduct a test for the position of Dispatcher. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Ruskey requested permission to test for the position of Patrol Officer, citing that the current eligibility list has been exhausted, and there were no applicants for the test authorized in June. With the recent settlement of the Patrol Officers' contract, including a new higher starting wage, the expectation is for this test to be more successful. Further discussion was held.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to authorize the Police Department to conduct a test for the position of Patrol Officer. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Pool requested permission to test for the position of Fire Fighter, citing that there will be a vacancy in the coming week and the current eligibility list has been exhausted, also noting that there had been only one applicant the last time the test was offered.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to authorize the Fire Department to conduct a test for the position of Fire Fighter. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

City Engineer Wieland asked Council to approve a final building permit for the Spangler Candy Company's \$1.2 million downtown storefront/renovation; and a permit for Insane Image, an automotive detailing shop at 435 S. Union Street, for a \$22,000 addition to its existing building.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to approve building permits for Spangler Candy Company's \$1.2 million renovation at 131 S. Main Street, and Insane Image's \$22,000 building addition at 435 S. Union Street. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade advised Council on the receipt of a legislative notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding the issuance of a liquor permit to Blueberry Hill Pancake House and Restaurant, and if no objections, requested Council waive its right to request a hearing on the matter.

Mr. Betts moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to waive a hearing on the issuance of a liquor permit to Blueberry Hill Pancake House and Restaurant. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Multiple members of Council offered thanks to the Bryan Eagles for its donation, the Saunders for their investments in the downtown, negotiators who helped with the police bargaining agreement and Mr. Kurivial for his help on health insurance rates. Several noted that it is probably time to revisit the issue of street legal golf carts and thanked Mr. Webber for bringing up the topic.

A brief recess was taken.

Bryan Board of Public Affairs Chairman Richard Long opened the special meeting of the Bryan Board of Public Affairs in conjunction with the Bryan City Council meeting at 6:07 p.m. with the following members present: James Salsbury, Annette Schreiner, and Tom Sprow. Karen Ford was absent.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to go into a joint Executive Session to discuss acquisition of property and employment and compensation of a public employee at 6:08 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Asked to attend: Mayor Schlade, Director of Utilities Schultz, and Clerk-Treasurer Lehner.

Ms. Leatherman moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to adjourn the joint Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade explained the need to hire a new Human Resources Director and recommended that the position be hired to fulfill the needs of both the city administration and Bryan Municipal Utilities under the direction of the Clerk-Treasurer.

Bryan City Council Ordinance No. 33, 2023, titled,

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF HUMAN  
RESOURCES DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN WITHIN THE  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK-TREASURER**

was presented and read by title only.

Mr. Betts moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 33, 2023, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 33, 2023. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

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President of Council

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Clerk-Treasurer