

## **BRYAN CITY COUNCIL**

**February 5, 2024**

Council President Mary Leatherman opened the meeting with the following members present: Jim Kozumplik, F. John Betts, Richard Hupe, and Stephen Alspaugh. Also attending were: Mayor Carrie Schlade, Police Chief Greg Ruskey, Fire Chief Doug Pool, Street Commissioner Tyson Engstrom, Wastewater Superintendent Wes Wygant, Board of Public Affairs Member Jim Salsbury, and Clerk-Treasurer John Lehner.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2024 Regular Meeting as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Bryan resident Bill Metz addressed the Council with his concerns with the recent decision to no longer provide video of the Bryan City Council and Bryan Board of Public Affairs meetings. He believes there should have been more opportunity for public input before the decision was made. He is also unhappy with the diminished capability of the City's internet/email service to properly filter spam and other unsolicited emails. He is aware this had to do with Bryan Municipal Utilities' decision to not renew its Barracuda filtering software, but questioned why. He requested details on the cost of the video equipment and spam filter software.

Resolution No. 11, 2024, titled,

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A GRANT OF EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$8,855.00) FROM THE OHIO CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR BODY WORN CAMERAS FOR THE OFFICERS OF THE BRYAN POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

was presented and read by title only. Police Chief Ruskey explained that the City of Bryan had been awarded this grant to help complete the equipping of all officers with body-worn cameras.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 11, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to pass Resolution No. 11, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade advised Council on the receipt of legislative notices from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding the issuance of two liquor permits, one to Ridi Stores LLC and one to Zazaracs LLC, and if no objections, requested Council waive its right to request a hearing on the matter.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to waive hearings on the issuance of liquor permits to Ridi Stores LLC and Zazaracs LLC. 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 is a vacancy and the current eligibility list has been exhausted.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Alspaugh 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.

Mayor Schlade Schultz requested the Council approve and sign a letter of support for the Fountain Creek Senior Villas project and the efforts of the Williams County Port Authority and Frontier Community Services to secure a \$1.0 million grant from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) to help fund the project. Funding for the project located at 300 West Fountain Grove had been requested before and just missed meeting the criteria for award. The scope of the project has been increased from 42 to 50 units.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to authorize and sign a Letter of Support for the Fountain Creek Senior Villas project. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Pool presented the 2023 Fire Department Annual Report which highlighted operational statistics, fire prevention and training activities, and a status report on vehicles and heavy equipment. Further discussion on age and replacement costs of various vehicles was held. Council Member Alspaugh inquired as the routing of calls placed to the Emergency 911 system and the rising trend of annuals calls for service. Further discussion was held.

Mayor Schlade presented her 2023 State of the City report which offered insight to the City's finances, grant dollars received, economic development activity and significant capital projects completed in 2023.

Council Members, in turn, offered thanks to the Chief Pool and Mayor Schlade for their reports, thanks to City of Bryan staff who help to secure grant funding for the City, and Mr. Metz for sharing his concerns.

A brief recess was taken.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to go into Executive Session to discuss imminent or pending litigation at 6:23 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Asked to attend: Mayor Schlade, Clerk-Treasurer Lehner, Police Chief Ruskey, Fire Chief Pool.

City Attorney Marc Fishel joined the executive session via cell phone at 6:33 p.m. and exited at 7:11 p.m.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Alspaugh 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