

Held TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 _____ 20 _____

The regular meeting of the Bowling Green City Council, held in the Council Chamber, 304 North Church Street, Bowling Green, Ohio was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Hollenbaugh. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, Council Members Dennis, Herald, Hollenbaugh, O'Doriso, Phipps, Robinette, and Rubando were present. Also present were Mayor Mike Aspacher, Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter, City Attorney Michael Marsh, Public Services Bureau Director Joe Fawcett and Public Infrastructure Director Brian O'Connell.

Council Member Herald moved, Rubando seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 15, 2022 as distributed. On unanimous voice vote, Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Aspacher remarked on the new Downtown Forward program. He noted that the program was also introduced earlier in the day at a press conference. The Mayor listed program goals as identifying community priorities for downtown and developing plans for implementation through outreach to the community and in coordination our downtown partners, Reimagining Rural Regions (R3) program and the Center for Regional Development at Bowling Green State University lead by Dr. Russell Mills. The Mayor noted the name change from Heritage 2025 to Downtown Forward, which speaks to the current strong momentum in Bowling Green with the hope is to build on this in the months ahead as the appointed steering committee begins work on the program. Russell Mills was introduced and first shared a quick background on the Center for Regional Development, the funding for the new program, and how the City was chosen for the current cohort of cities in the R3 program. One criteria met was the USDA definition of rural, which is defined as a community of under 50,000 residents. Russell noted the initial program timeline runs through summer 2023 with time spent gathering information, hearing from other communities who have already been part of the program, and meeting with as many community members as possible. Mills commented that Bowling Green State University undergraduate students will work with the information to come up with project ideas to implement next summer. Mills reported that the final product will be an ArcGIS interactive report that can be used going forward and updated as projects are implemented.

LOBBY VISITATIONS

David Saneholtz, 11934 Sugar Ridge Road, shared with Council, on behalf of other pickleball players from the community, some of the reasons the group believes building outdoor pickleball courts should be supported and funded. Saneholtz distributed a pickle ball court construction cost estimate.

Paula Hermes, 1125 Brim Road, echoed the remarks made by Saneholtz.

Faith Elsea, 338 W. Merry Street, came before Council to encourage community attendance at the Emergency Essentials Fair, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1033 Conneaut Avenue, on September 24th from 10:00-2:00.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following new legislation was recommended by the Administration and presented to Council for introduction:

Council Member Robinette, for the Finance and Ways and Means Committee, introduced the following two items:

- Resolution transferring previously appropriated funds
- Ordinance providing supplemental appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022.

Council Member Phipps, for the Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee, introduced the following two items:

- Resolution urging Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Transportation to reconsider ending the Route 23 Connect Study, and in support of an improved highway connection between northwest Ohio and the City of Columbus
- Ordinance amending section 158.03 and section 158.08 of the codified ordinances of the City of Bowling Green, related to Historic and Architectural Preservation

Council President Hollenbaugh, for the Public Utilities Committee, introduced the following two items:

- Ordinance authorizing the Utilities Director to sell or trade electrical equipment no longer needed for municipal purposes
- Ordinance authorizing the Utilities Director to execute a power purchase agreement with American Municipal Power, Inc., for the water treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant and declaring an emergency

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Mayor Aspacher had no report. Council Member Robinette commented to the Mayor on being impressed by the commitment of so many busy community members for the new program presented earlier in the meeting. The Mayor agreed that the City is fortunate to have so many so willing to serve. Council Member Dennis commented on the landscape work at the Post Office property. Dennis asked if City employees are doing this work. The Mayor responded that the overgrown condition is an embarrassment and that this has been an ongoing conversation had with many people. The Mayor mentioned Jeff Rettig, of Tony Buff Custom Homes, as one who offered to be part of the solution. On multiple occasions, employees from the local building company have been on site weeding and getting it ready for additional improvements. Mulch will be added tomorrow, with cost of the mulch and installation covered by two anonymous donors. It was noted that the Black Swamp Arts Festival footprint expands to Pearl Street this weekend, making this an important area clean up. The Mayor expressed gratitude for the work being done, to those who have been willing to be part of a solution, and committed to finding a permanent solution to this issue as the unkept condition is an embarrassment to the City. He noted there is often a misconception that the building belongs to the City. Through numerous conversations about this issue, the Mayor learned that the Federal Government, owner of the building, does not provide sufficient resources to maintain the building. The Mayor committed to continuing this conversation with congressional representatives to try to facilitate a long term solution. The Mayor also commented that the idea of taking care of the problem at the local level is inappropriate.

City Attorney Marsh had no report.

Public Services Bureau Director Joe Fawcett covered the official report for Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter. Fawcett relayed information on road closures and other traffic items during the upcoming Black Swamp Arts Festival. Fawcett also updated Council on the status of some of the capital projects. As far as paving projects, Fawcett reported that residential paving stripping has begun, City Park paving started today with a change in traffic direction, and East Wooster Street work will begin in a few weeks.

Public Infrastructure Bureau Director Brian O'Connell updated Council on West Wooster/Haskins work. The work is scheduled for three phases beginning in mid-September: Church to Gorrell, Gorrell to Haskins, then up Haskins to Wallace. One lane of east bound traffic will be maintained with a detour for west bound traffic. Anticipated project completion was noted to be May 2023. O'Connell indicated that some trees will be removed as a result of this work compromising tree roots and that all property owners

have been contacted. Replacement trees will be offered after the end of the project. Council Member Rubando asked if the current work on Court Street is being done by the City. O'Connell noted the question, promised to look into this project, and get back with Rubando.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Member Phipps reported on the Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee Public Hearing held prior to tonight's regular Council meeting. The purpose of the meeting was for Council to hear public comment on Ordinance #9020 amending the zoning district map of the City of Bowling Green for the property generally known as 220 Manville Avenue from M-1 light industrial to R-2 single family residential zoning. Phipps noted that there was no public comment during the Public Hearing.

Council President Hollenbaugh provide the following reminders:

- Committee of the Whole meeting – ARPA funds – Thursday, September 15 at 6 pm
- Committee of the Whole meeting – Bicycle Treatment Map presentation – Monday, September 19 at 6 pm – prior to the regular Council meeting at 7 pm

READING OF LEGISLATION

Clerk read Resolution #3832 Resolution transferring previously appropriated funds for first reading.

Council Member Robinette moved, Herald seconded, to suspend the rules and give Resolution #3832 its second and third reading. On roll call vote, Council Members Herald, Hollenbaugh, O'Dorisio, Phipps, Robinette, Rubando, and Dennis voted yes. Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried, and rules suspended.

Clerk read Resolution #3832 for second and third reading by number and title only.

Council Member Robinette moved, Herald seconded, to adopt Resolution #3832. On roll call vote, Council Members Hollenbaugh, O'Dorisio, Phipps, Robinette, Rubando, Dennis, and Herald voted yes. Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried, and Resolution #3832 adopted.

Clerk read Resolution #3833 Resolution urging Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Transportation to reconsider ending the Route 23 Connect Study, and in support of an improved highway connection between northwest Ohio and the City of Columbus for first reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #9025 Ordinance providing supplemental appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Bowling Green, Ohio, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022 for first reading.

Council Member Robinette moved, Herald seconded, to suspend the rules and give Ordinance #9025 its second and third reading. On roll call vote, Council Members O'Dorisio, Phipps, Robinette, Rubando, Dennis, Herald, and Hollenbaugh, voted yes. Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried, and rules suspended.

Clerk read Ordinance #9025 for second and third reading by number and title only.

Council Member Robinette moved, Herald seconded, to adopt Ordinance #9025. On roll call vote, Council Members Phipps, Robinette, Rubando, Dennis, Hollenbaugh, Herald, and O'Dorisio, voted yes. Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried, and Ordinance #9025 adopted.

Clerk read Ordinance #9026 Ordinance authorizing the Utilities Director to sell or trade electrical equipment no longer needed for municipal purposes for first reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #9027 Ordinance authorizing the Utilities Director to execute a power purchase agreement with American Municipal Power, Inc., for the water treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant and declaring an emergency for first reading.

Clerk read Ordinance #9028 Ordinance amending section 158.03 and section 158.08 of the codified ordinances of the City of Bowling Green, related to Historic and Architectural Preservation for first reading.


Clerk read Ordinance #9024 Ordinance authorizing the Utilities Director to execute an agreement with American Municipal Power for safety and training programs for second reading.

Clerk read Resolution #3829 Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor for third reading. Council Member Robinette moved, Herald seconded, to adopt Resolution #3829. On roll call vote, Robinette, Rubando, Dennis, Herald, Hollenbaugh, O'Dorisio, and Phipps voted yes. Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried, and Resolution #3829 adopted.

Clerk read Resolution #3831 Resolution authorizing the City of Bowling Green to participate in the local park improvement grant program and to file an application and accept grant funding upon grant application approval for third reading. Council Member Rubando moved, O'Dorisio seconded, to adopt Resolution #3831. On roll call vote Rubando, Dennis, Herald, Hollenbaugh, O'Dorisio, Phipps, and Robinette, voted yes. Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried, and Resolution #3831 adopted.

Clerk noted Ordinance #9020 automatically comes off the table. Council Member Phipps moved, and Rubando seconded, to adopt Ordinance #9020. On roll call vote, Council Members Dennis, Herald, Hollenbaugh, O'Dorisio, Phipps, Robinette, and Rubando voted yes. Council President Hollenbaugh declared motion carried, and Ordinance #9020 adopted.

Council Member Herald moved, O'Dorisio seconded, to adjourn. On unanimous voice vote, Council President Hollenbaugh adjourned the September 6, 2022 regular meeting of the City Council at 8:04 p.m., subject to call.



Jodi Sickler, Clerk of Council



Mark Hollenbaugh, President of Council