

## **BRYAN CITY COUNCIL**

**APRIL 5, 2021**

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

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2021, Regular Meeting as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Bryan business owner Mr. Terry Rummel addressed Council regarding the upcoming ordinance pertaining to a vacant building/storefront enforcement program. Mr. Rummel voiced concerns regarding the timelines within the proposed program as well as his concerns that the program could stifle the ability to do more business in the area. He also pointed out that not only is remodeling time consuming; it is expensive.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to approve the Clerk-Treasurer's report for the month ending February 28, 2021, as submitted by Clerk-Treasurer Rode. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 14, 2021, titled,

### **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN, FOR THE MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2021**

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

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 14, 2021, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 14, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 15, 2021, titled,

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

was presented and read by title only. Planning and Zoning Administrator Waterston approached Council with a tentative program for enforcing vacant building/storefronts in the City of Bryan. He reminded that a program of this nature was shared by Heritage Ohio; however, the proposed program was revised. The purpose of the program is to ensure that storefronts are being utilized.

Details of the program include sending a certified letter to vacant properties along with a registration form. The program would allow 90 days to fill the storefront unless a 90-day exemption would be obtained showing that the property is actively trying to be rented or remodeled. A \$200 registration would be charged 90 days after the notice of registration or the expired exemption. There would be an annual \$800 vacancy fee which would double each year the property remains vacant which would be capped at \$6,400.

Discussion was held regarding the estimated number of properties in the City that may qualify for this enforcement which seemed to be close to 25. Councilman Betts suggested using a balanced approach to the program to avoid hurting future businesses. Council member Yahraus shared that it was depressing to see empty storefronts to which Council President Leatherman shared that while it was difficult seeing empty storefronts, some are trying to fill them.

Mr. Russ Davies representing the Bryan Development Foundation approached Council thanking them for starting the conversation on the subject and noted that empty buildings have increased risk associated to them. He added that Bryan Development Foundation wants to be part of the solution.

Further discussion was held with the suggestion of having members of the Bryan Development Foundation, the City Engineering Department, and City Attorney Fisher reviewing the proposed program and making adjustments if necessary. Mr. Rummel noted his primary concern is that government – not necessarily local government – often gets in the way of business owners. However, it was noted that the Williams County Commissioners and Mayor Schlade are engaged with several local business owners on a grant that could assist them.

Further discussion was held with guidance to be firm, but fair. Councilman Hupe suggested to table the topic for further review.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to table Ordinance No. 15, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 12, 2021, titled,

**A RESOLUTION SUSPENDING THE DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA) FOR DOWNTOWN BRYAN, DURING THE 2021 BRYAN JUBILEE.**

was presented and read by title only. Mayor Schlade presented Council with a proposal to suspend the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) during the 2021 Bryan Jubilee. If approved, the suspension would take effect from June 17, 2021, at noon through June 19, 2021, at 11:00 p.m. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 12, 2021, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to pass Resolution No. 12, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 13, 2021, titled,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2021**

was presented and read by title only. Street Commissioner Engstrom requested permission to have the City of Bryan participate in the annual Ohio Department of Transportation road salt contracts to be awarded in 2021.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 13, 2021, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Resolution No. 13, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 14, 2021, titled,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS “2021 AVENUE A AREA SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.”**

was presented and read by title only. City Engineer Wieland requested Council’s authorization to advertise for bids on the 2021 Avenue A Area Sanitary Improvements project. He estimated the cost of the project to be approximately \$350,000. Further discussion was held regarding the pipe bursting process to be utilized.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 14, 2021, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to pass Resolution No. 14, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 15, 2021, titled,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS “2021 BRUNICARDI WAY PAVEMENT OVERLAY AND REPAIRS.”**

was presented and read by title only. City Engineer Wieland requested Council’s authorization to advertise for bids on the 2021 Brunicardi Way Pavement Overlay and Repairs project. He noted that an additional appropriation would likely be needed for the project; however, Ohio Public Works funds would cover approximately 39%. City Engineer Wieland also noted that the project would not be awarded until July if Council proceeds.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 15, 2021, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Resolution No. 15, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 16, 2021, titled,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS “2021 BRYAN SENIOR CENTER PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS.”**

was presented and read by title only. City Engineer Wieland requested Council’s authorization to advertise for bids on the 2021 Bryan Senior Center Parking Lot Improvements project. He noted that the estimated cost of the project was approximately \$125,000 and that the Bryan Area Foundation planned to donate \$100,000 toward the project. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Betts moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 16, 2021, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Resolution No. 16, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 17, 2021, titled,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF BRYAN TO APPLY FOR GRANTS FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

was presented and read by title only. Fire Chief Siders requested Council’s permission to apply for the following grants including, but not limited to: National Volunteer Fire Council, MSA, and DuPont Globe Gear Giveaway 2021, and Leary Firefighters Foundation Grant. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 17, 2021, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Resolution No. 17, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Chapa requested to reclassify and give a merit increase to Dispatcher Zakaree Merschdorf taking him from a rate of \$14.50 per hour to a rate of \$15.00 per hour effective November 22, 2020. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to reclassify and give a merit increase to Dispatcher Zakaree Merschdorf taking him from a rate of \$14.50 per hour to a rate of \$15.00 per hour effective November 22, 2020. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Chapa requested to hire Andria Henry as a part-time Dispatcher Trainee at a rate of \$14.50 per hour effective April 6, 2021.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to hire Andria Henry as a part-time Dispatcher Trainee at a rate of \$14.50 per hour effective April 6, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Police Chief Chapa informed Council that the City had received the State bulletproof vest grant in the amount of \$5,858. Council offered their appreciation. In addition, Councilman Kozumplik noted he liked the new lettering of the Police vehicles.

Street Commissioner Engstrom requested to move Equipment Maintenance Mechanic Gregory Temple from probationary status to regular employment status taking him from a rate of \$18.50 per hour to a rate of \$18.96 per hour effective March 9, 2021.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to move Equipment Maintenance Mechanic Gregory Temple from probationary status to regular employment status taking him from a rate of \$18.50 per hour to a rate of \$18.96 per hour effective March 9, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Street Commissioner Engstrom requested to hire Cory Hulbert as a Vehicle Operator Trainee for the Recycling Department effective April 6, 2021, at a rate of \$13.40 per hour.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to hire Cory Hulbert as a Vehicle Operator Trainee for the Recycling Department effective April 6, 2021, at a rate of \$13.40 per hour. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Street Commissioner Engstrom requested to hire part-time cemetery employees Jerry Lemons and Bill Daugherty at a rate of \$10.06 per hour and \$9.56 per hour, respectively. Councilman Betts added that they do a great job at the cemetery.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to hire part-time cemetery employees Jerry Lemons and Bill Daugherty at a rate of 10.06 per hour and \$9.56 per hour, respectively. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Street Commissioner Engstrom requested to hire Gary Hussey as a part-time employee on an initial 30 day hire at the Recycling Center at a rate of \$14.15 per hour beginning March 8, 2021. Mayor Schlade added that she supports keeping Mr. Hussey on as a part-time employee due to a lack of access to CCNO trustees. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to hire Gary Hussey as a part-time employee at the Recycling Center at a rate of \$14.15 per hour beginning March 8, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Director Dominique requested Council approve hiring Russ Davies as a part-time seasonal employee at a rate of \$9.00 per hour. Further discussion was held.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to hire Russ Davies as a part-time seasonal employee at a rate of \$9.00 per hour. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Council members thanked Planning and Zoning Administrator Waterston for his work on the vacant building/storefront enforcement program.

Clerk-Treasurer Rode reminded the public of the City of Bryan 2020 Income Tax filing deadline being extended until May 17, 2021, keeping in line with the federal government.

Mayor Schlade informed the community that the public restrooms at the park facilities would be opening this week noting that it will be an “enter at your own risk” due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She also noted that for anyone who incurred unemployment fraud not to call the local Police Department. Rather, those persons should contact the Ohio Job and Family Services to file a complaint.

A brief recess was taken.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to go into Executive Session to discuss the compensation of personnel and the acquisition of property at 6:58 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Asked to attend were: Mayor Schlade, City Attorney Fisher, Street Commissioner Engstrom, and Clerk-Treasurer Rode.

Street Commissioner Engstrom left the Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:19 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade then recommended to Council to give a merit increase to Vehicle Operator Franklin Motter taking him from \$15.02 per hour to \$16.02 per hour effective April 6, 2021. Mayor noted that Vehicle Operator Motter takes over the supervisor duties for Recycling Supervisor Mark Sponsler in his absence. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Betts moved, Mrs. Yahraus seconded, to approve giving a merit increase to Vehicle Operator Franklin Motter taking him from \$15.02 per hour to \$16.02 per hour effective April 6, 2021. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

---

President of Council

---

Clerk-Treasurer