

BRYAN CITY COUNCIL

August 21 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: Mayor Carrie Schlade, Police Chief Greg Ruskey, Fire Chief Doug Pool, Wastewater Superintendent Wes Wygant, Parks and Recreation Director Benjamin Dominique, and Clerk-Treasurer John Lehner.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2023 Regular Meeting as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Friends of Williams County EMS, represented by Kyle Brigle, Jesse Brumbaugh, and Thomasina Zuver, provided Council with its presentation in support of the upcoming November ballot issue on the levy to fund the Williams County Emergency Medical Service (EMS). The proposed levy is 3.5 mills, set to generate \$2.9 million per year to support current operations and expanded coverage throughout Williams County that will result in improved response times. Highlights of the presentation included the history of the service, its dramatic growth from an all-volunteer force to a full-time staffed operation responding to over 5,000 calls per year, and that it is one of the last public EMS systems in Ohio operating without a tax levy.

Council President Hupe inquired about the current condition of the EMS fleet, to which Mr. Brigle replied that they are operating some vehicles with over 350,000 miles, but that they are waiting on two new vehicles on order since December, 2021 which will help a lot. Council Member Betts urged the group to be very clear in its messaging to voters about the need and what the additional funding will mean for improved service levels. Mayor Schlade read a letter from Kathryn Pool suggesting that the service should use the State of Ohio's ability to divert income tax refunds from delinquent service payers; Mr. Brigle indicated that they do utilize that service through the Ohio Attorney General's Office with modest success. Further discussion was held on the ramifications of the levy failing.

Bryan resident Steven Cox offered praise to the Bryan Fire Department for helping with his recent concern about carbon monoxide in his home, which turned out to be a false alarm. He also noted that some recent ground work around a fire hydrant near the intersection of E. High Street and Huntington Drive had settled poorly and was full of weeds. Mayor Schlade referred him to the Water Department.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve the Clerk-Treasurer's Report for the month ending July 31, 2023 as submitted by Clerk-Treasurer Lehner. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 45, 2023, titled,

A 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.

was presented and read by title only. Clerk-Treasurer Lehner explained that each year the Williams County Auditor's Office requests Council accept the proposed property tax rates to be levied for the coming calendar year, and that the rates are unchanged from the current year.

Mrs. Yahraus moved, Ms. Leatherman seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 45, 2023, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Resolution No. 45, 2023. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade offered many thanks to the community, the City's workforce, neighboring communities' safety service support, and the band for nearly flawless execution of the Girl Named Tom concert event at the Fountain City Amphitheater.

Parks and Recreation Director Dominique thanked a long list of donors, sponsors, local safety service agencies, staff from the Bryan Police, Fire and Parks Departments, and many volunteers for helping to make the evening a huge success. Police Chief Ruskey and Fire Chief Pool each offered similar appreciation to all involved in the effort.

All members of Council offered similar thanks and praise for the event that helped showcase what the community can do, with Council President Hupe concluding that the City of Bryan has much to be proud of.

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

President of Council

Clerk-Treasurer