

BRYAN CITY COUNCIL

May 6, 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, City Engineer Brian Wieland, Police Chief Greg Ruskey, Street Commissioner Tyson Engstrom, Wastewater Superintendent Wes Wygant, Parks and Recreation Director Benjamin Dominique, and Clerk-Treasurer John Lehner.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2024 Regular Meeting as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Bryan resident Steve Cox addressed the Council to express thanks to the Bryan Municipal Utilities Water Department for providing the residents of Huntington Drive advance notice for work done on the street. He also noted that a section of pavement on the South Court of Huntington Drive was badly cracked.

Bryan resident Caleb Weber addressed the council to express support for the effort to legalize golf carts and low-speed vehicles in the City of Bryan.

Ordinance No. 14, 2024, titled,

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 5 OF THE CITY OF BRYAN'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ADD CHAPTER 343 CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS AND UNDER-SPEED VEHICLES ON CITY STREETS

was presented and read by title only. Mayor Schlade explained that upon recommendation from Council at the last meeting, the ordinance has been amended to allow use on streets with speed limits up to 35 miles per hour (MPH) rather than the original 25 MPH, but still excluding Main and High Streets.

Council Member Hupe supported the change and also provided numerous “pros” as to why legalization could be beneficial to users and the community – lower cost vehicle operation, convenience, “neighboring”, etc.

Council President Leatherman asked for any concerns from the Police Department, to which Police Chief Ruskey assured that they would enforce any laws the Council passes.

There was lengthy discussion on the challenge of keeping vehicles off the grass in the parks, during special events, and after dark. Concerns were raised over the size and legibility of permit stickers for the sake of enforcement. City Engineer Wieland was asked to research the cost of larger options than originally planned.

Council Member Betts was supportive of the 35 MPH change, adding that it would simplify enforcement efforts for the Bryan Police Department. He also suggested that Council retain the stated right to amend or repeal the language in the future, pending a review of issues and concerns at an appropriate time. Further discussion was held.

Ordinance No. 14, 2024 was let lie after its second reading as amended.

Ordinance No. 16, 2024, titled,

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PROSECUTORIAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF RUPP, HAGANS & BOHMER, LLP

was presented and read by title only. Mayor Schlade requested Council approve the contract covering dates from June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. She further explained that the rates and terms are unchanged from the current contract, which expires on May 31, 2024.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 16, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 16, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 17, 2024, titled,

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH NIHART REAL ESTATE, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF TAX PARCEL 063-210-01-001.002 KNOWN AS LOT 25 OF THE BRYAN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL COMPLEX 2ND ADDITION, SAVING AND EXCEPTING THE PROGRESS DRIVE RIGHT OF WAY AS DEDICATED.

was presented and read by title only. City Engineer Wieland explained the sale of 6.49 acres of land for \$5,000 per acre to Nihart Real Estate, LLC was reviewed and supported by the Bryan Industrial Park Advisory Committee (BIPAC), and that the planned use of the land is for construction of a 34,000 square foot distribution facility. Further discussion was held on industrial park signage.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 17, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 17, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 22, 2024, titled,

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF BRYAN TO APPLY FOR GRANTS FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

was presented and read by title only. Police Chief Ruskey requested to apply for two grants for the City of Bryan Police Department in 2024, including the 2024 COPS Grant which could provide equipment for the School Resource Officer program, and the National Criminal History Improvement Plan which would provide funding for finger printing equipment.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 22, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Resolution No. 22, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 23, 2024, titled,

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A \$11,750.00 DONATION FROM VARIOUS SPONSORS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE FOUNTAIN CITY AMPHITHEATER.

was presented and read by title only. Parks and Recreation Director Dominique requested Council accept \$11,750 in donations for the Fountain City Amphitheater, including \$10,000 from Spangler Candy Company in support of the concert planned for the City's Day in the Park.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 23, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Resolution No. 23, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 18, 2024, titled,

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF BRYAN, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

was presented and read by title only. Clerk-Treasurer Lehner explained that the amended appropriations request is to authorize expenditure of newly donated funds received for the Fountain City Amphitheater, Lincoln Park playground project, and restitution received for recent vandalism that occurred in one of the parks.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 18, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 18, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

City Engineer Wieland requested Council approve a building permit for a \$611,943 interior remodel project for Parkview Health at 524 W. High Street.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to approve a building permit for a \$611,943 interior remodel project for Parkview Health at 524 W. High Street. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade requested Council consider moving the Bryan City Council meeting scheduled for May 20, 2024 to May 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. due to a scheduling conflict.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to move the Bryan City Council meeting scheduled for May 20, 2024 to May 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

President of Council

Clerk-Treasurer