

BRYAN CITY COUNCIL

May 19, 2025

Council President Mary Leatherman opened the meeting with the following members present: Richard Hupe, Jim Kozumplik, F. John Betts, and Stephen Alspaugh. Also attending were: Mayor Carrie Schlade, Planning & Zoning Administrator Andy Waterston, Police Chief Greg Ruskey, Fire Chief Doug Pool, Street Commissioner Tyson Engstrom, Wastewater Superintendent Wes Wygant, Parks and Recreation Director Benjamin Dominique, Human Resources Director Tricia Lyons, City Attorney Marc Fishel, Director of Utilities Derek Schultz, and Clerk-Treasurer John Lehner.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Bryan resident Steve Cox commented again on his wish to have the stones on the sides of Huntington Drive vacuumed by the Bryan Street Department. He also had a question on the operational use of City of Bryan vehicles, to which he was told by Mayor Schlade that operational questions should be directed to her during scheduled office hours rather than to Council. Further discussion was held.

Bryan resident Larry Harsila addressed Council on E-bikes and E-scooters, noting that he would like any upcoming ordinance regulating them be given three readings, providing ample opportunity for public input. He noted in his experience as a school bus driver, most young riders he encounters are respectful and operate them responsibly. He urged Council to not “punish the kids.”

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to approve the Clerk-Treasurer’s Report for the month ending April 30, 2025 as submitted by Clerk-Treasurer Lehner. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 25, 2025, titled,

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL 5243 AND THE CITY OF BRYAN.

was presented and read by title only. Human Resources Director Lyons explained that negotiations on the contract took place between October, 2024 and February, 2025, and that the delay in bringing it to Council was over technicalities. She noted the effective date would be retroactive to January 1, 2025.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25, 2025, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 25, 2025. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 26, 2025, titled,

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 377 OF THE BRYAN
CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO REGULATE THE USE OF ELECTRIC
PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES.**

was presented and read by title only. City Attorney Fishel retraced the sequence of events pertaining to this issue, including the tabling of Ordinance No. 19, 2025, the drafting of this ordinance as a substitute, and the widespread confusion over recently adopted language in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) relating to which devices the language does and does not apply to. Part of the City's intent with regard to regulation of E-scooters is to comply with the ORC, at a minimum. The ORC does not address age restrictions or helmet requirements for E-scooters, and Council wishes to include them for further discussion. City Attorney Fishel suggested that this ordinance may no longer apply, and that Ordinance No. 19, 2025 may be a more appropriate starting place to continue the discussion; he suggested un-tabling it.

Much further discussion was held. Mr. Alspaugh noted that many students use E-scooters as their primary source of transportation to and from school, sports practices, etc. Mayor Schlade recognized the deference that might be given to parents as opposed to police enforcement over their use. Mr. Betts noted that based on what he sees daily on the streets in his role as a school bus driver, he feels strongly about the need for age restrictions and required helmet use. Mr. Hupe requested input from the Bryan Police Department; Mr. Kozumplik raised the issue of their use on Main and High Streets, which most often carry busy and fast-moving traffic.

Using Ordinance No. 19, 2025 as a starting point, City Attorney Fishel suggested amending it to incorporate many of Council's concerns and bring it to the next Council meeting for further consideration.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to withdraw Ordinance No. 26, 2025. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to un-table Ordinance No. 19, 2025. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 19, 2025 was given a third reading.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to table Ordinance No. 19, 2025. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 28, 2025, titled,

**A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A \$32,500.00 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 various donations for upcoming concerts at the Fountain City Amphitheater, including a \$32,000 donation from Bard Manufacturing.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 28, 2025, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Resolution No. 28, 2025. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 29, 2025, titled,

**A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A \$5,000.00 DONATION FROM THE
BRYAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT FOR PAVILION RENOVATIONS AT THE
RECREATION PARK SOCCER FIELDS.**

was presented and read by title only. Parks and Recreation Director Dominique requested Council accept a \$5,000 donation from the Bryan Soccer Association for improvements to the pavilion, concrete surfaces and picnic area at the Recreation Park Soccer Fields.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 29, 2025, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Resolution No. 29, 2025. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 27, 2025, titled,

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR
THE CITY OF BRYAN, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER
31, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

was presented and read by title only. Clerk-Treasurer Lehner explained the requested appropriations are to authorize the expenditure of the various donations to the Parks and Recreation Department; the recently accepted grant from the State of Ohio for new salt/brine street equipment; and the newly awarded Probation Department operating grant funds to be received in the second half of 2025.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 27, 2025, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 27, 2025. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 30, 2025, titled,

A RESOLUTION STATING THE SERVICES THAT THE CITY WILL PROVIDE TO THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES LOCATED IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION TWENTY-ONE (21) IN PULASKI TOWNSHIP KNOWN AS PARCEL NUMBERS 063-210-02-026.000 AND 063-210-02-027.000.

was presented and read by title only. Mayor Schlade explained that as part of accepting new property parcels into the City, Council needs to authorize the provision of utility services to said properties. This annexation request was submitted on March 24, 2025 and will be heard by the Williams County Commissioners on May 29, 2025.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 30, 2025, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to pass Resolution No. 30, 2025. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Waterston requested Council approve a building permit for construction of a 26,763 square foot warehouse building at 841 East Edgerton Street for a cost of \$1,190,638. The building will provide additional covered storage for the Bryan Municipal Utilities Electric Department.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve a building permit for construction of a 26,763 square foot warehouse building at 841 East Edgerton Street for a cost of \$1,190,638. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade advised Council on the receipt of a legislative notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a transfer of the liquor permit held by All Star Bryan Convenience & Food LLC, dba Par T Pak to Heerakeshav LLC, dba Par T Pak, and if no objections, requested Council waive its right to request a hearing on the matter.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to waive hearings on a transfer of the liquor permit held by All Star Bryan Convenience & Food LLC, dba Par T Pak to Heerakeshav LLC, dba Par T Pak. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade offered congratulations to the Bryan High School graduating Class of 2025, and provided a reminder of the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Waterston notified Council that the 2025 street paving program is expected to start on June 2, 2025.

City Attorney Fishel initiated a discussion on Council Committee structure that would allow most current committee meeting practices to continue but in a way more consistent with Ohio Sunshine Law requirements pertaining to quorums and meetings open to the public. The recommendation is to define all standing committees as “committee-of-the-whole,” to include all members of the Council, with a single designated Chair for each. Informal discussions on the topic of the committee can then be held by any number of committee member less than a majority (in the Council’s case, two – the Chair and another member). Further discussion was held. City Attorney Fishel and Mayor Schlade will prepare recommendations for future action on the matter.

A brief recess was taken.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending an imminent litigation at 6:45 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Asked to attend: Mayor Schlade, City Attorney Fishel, Director of Utilities Schultz, Clerk-Treasurer Lehner

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

President of Council

Clerk-Treasurer