

BRYAN CITY COUNCIL

May 21, 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, Planning & Zoning Administrator Andy Waterston, Police Chief Greg Ruskey, Fire Chief Doug Pool, and Deputy Clerk Treasurer Patricia Buda. City Attorney Marc Fishel (5:32 p.m.), Clerk-Treasurer John Lehner (5:38 p.m.), Board of Public Affairs Members Annette Schreiner (5:38 p.m.) and Dick Long (5:40 p.m.) entered the meeting at the noted times following their attendance at the Bryan Board of Public Affairs meeting scheduled for earlier in the evening.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2024 Regular Meeting as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Bryan resident Steve Cox voiced his concerns for golf carts or other slow-moving vehicles that cannot travel up to the posted speed limit and the hazard they could present to other drivers. He also reminded Council of the “shattered” pavement on South Court that is in need of repair.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve the Clerk-Treasurer’s Report for the month ending April 30, 2024 as submitted by Clerk-Treasurer Lehner. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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. City Attorney Fishel explained the options Council can consider regarding a 3rd reading of the ordinance. He explained proposed changes to Section 342.02(c) to clarify the street restrictions included in the language, and the addition of Section 342.02(k) that requires valid Ohio license plates on each vehicle. Mr. Betts opined that the language regarding 35 MPH street restrictions was overly complicated and suggested simply stating that under-speed vehicles would be restricted from operating on High Street and Main Street but could cross those streets at a signaled intersection. Further discussion was held with general support for simplifying the language.

Council President Leatherman expressed strong concerns for safety along other truck routes in the City and for the potential of property damage in the parks and other public spaces. Council Member Alspaugh shared similar concerns, including the additional burden placed on law enforcement. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to amend Ordinance No. 14, 2024, by simplifying Section 342.02(c) and adding Section 342.02(k). Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 14, 2024, as amended. Roll call vote: Hupe aye, Kozumplik aye, Alspaugh nay, Betts aye, Leatherman nay. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 19, 2024, titled,

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS REGARDING THE REIMBURSEMENT PAID TO NEWLY HIRED POLICE OFFICERS AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A CERTIFIED OHIO POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY AND APPROPRIATING \$8,500.00 TO FUND THIS PROGRAM FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2024.

was presented and read by title only. (Clerk-Treasurer Lehner took over clerk duties from Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Buda at 6:05 p.m.) Police Chief Ruskey explained this is a new hiring incentive to generate interest in job openings in the Bryan Police Department. It would reimburse the cost of academy training to newly hired recent graduates of a certified Ohio police training academy. As a retention incentive, reimbursement would be in three equal annual payments over the first three years of service to the department.

Council Member Betts asked several questions relating to the impact this incentive might have on future union negotiations, if other communities in the area had similar incentives, the typical longevity of a new hire, and how the terms of the incentive were decided. Further discussion was held

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 19, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: Kozumplik aye, Alspaugh aye, Hupe aye, Betts nay, Leatherman aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 19, 2024. Roll call vote: Alspaugh aye, Hupe aye, Kozumplik aye, Betts nay, Leatherman aye. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 24, 2024, titled,

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A \$6,000.00 DONATION FROM THE BRYAN AREA FOUNDATION ON BEHALF OF THE WILLIAM F. METZ II COMMUNITY FUND GRANT TO THE CITY OF BRYAN POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) ELECTRIC BIKES.

was presented and read by title only. Police Chief Ruskey explained that the donated funds would be used toward the purchase of two E-Bikes for patrol purposes.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 24, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to pass Resolution No. 24, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 25, 2024, titled,

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE *COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT*
AREA TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATION AS SUBMITTED BY
NORTHSQUARE CENTER, LTD.**

was presented and read by title only. Planning & Zoning Administrator Waterston explained that the tax exemption is being requested at 100% for seven years on a renovation project at 110 (116-118) West High Street, and he requested Council approve the application. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 25, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Resolution No. 25, 2024. Roll call vote: Hupe aye, Betts aye, Kozumplik aye, Alspaugh abstain, Leatherman aye. Motion carried.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Waterston requested Council approve a building permit for a \$500,000 building renovation for David Swanson at 110 (116-118) West High Street.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to approve a building permit for a \$500,000 building renovation for David Swanson at 116-118 West High Street. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade offered a reminder of the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony. Police Chief Ruskey thanked the Metz Family for its donation. Council Member Betts echoed the same plus thanked David Swanson for ongoing development on the Square, and offered best wishes to the Bryan High School graduating seniors and all of the spring sports athletes. Others shared similar sentiments.

A brief recess was taken.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to go into Executive Session to discuss imminent and pending litigation at 6:21 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Asked to attend: Mayor Schlade, Planning & Zoning Administrator Waterston, Police Chief Ruskey, Fire Chief Pool, City Attorney Fishel, Clerk-Treasurer Lehner.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

President of Council

Clerk-Treasurer