

BRYAN CITY COUNCIL

August 19, 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, Planning & Zoning Administrator Andy Waterston, Fire Chief Doug Pool, Wastewater Superintendent Wes Wygant, Parks and Recreation Director Benjamin Dominique, Board of Public Affairs Member Jim Salisbury, and Clerk-Treasurer John Lehner.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2024 Regular Meeting, as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Bryan resident Steve Cox addressed Council with his concerns for the cracked pavement on Huntington Drive/South Court that he has mentioned before. It is getting worse, and nothing has been done about it.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to approve the Clerk-Treasurer's Report for the month ending July 31, 2024 as submitted by Clerk-Treasurer Lehner. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Williams County Humane Society Officer and Dog Warden Alicia Strup addressed the Council on potential spay and neuter options for stray/feral cats. She described stray cats in the County as an overwhelming problem for which there is currently not enough funding or veterinarian time slots to properly address. Two options discussed were the contracting of a mobile veterinary hospital called Rascal Unit that specializes in trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs utilizing volunteers, or an effort by the City to fund and secure additional veterinary surgical slots. Much discussion followed on challenges and how to proceed. It was the opinion of multiple Council members to further investigate the local effort to secure more surgical slots, ideally in the Spring of 2025. Council will consider how to proceed at a future meeting before the end of the year.

Ordinance No. 29, 2024, titled,

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 15 OF THE BRYAN CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ENACTING CHAPTER 1503 ENTITLED FIREWORKS

was presented and read by title only. Fire Chief Pool explained the enacted language would effectively ban the private use of fireworks within the Bryan city limits. There are multiple exceptions, including for permitted fireworks displays and novelty items. Further discussion was held. Fire Chief Pool requested a first reading only in order to solicit additional input from the public.

Ordinance No. 29, 2024 was let lie after its first reading.

Ordinance No. 30, 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 the need for the three items requested, including \$270,000 to cover the full bid price of the pending South Myers Street Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project and \$45,000 to cover additional legal costs associated with two pending lawsuits.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 30, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 30, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 31, 2024, titled,

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH S&S DIRECTIONAL BORING LTD FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS “2024 SOUTH MYERS STREET SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT.”

was presented and read by title only. City Engineer Wieland explained S&S Directional Boring was the lone bidder on the South Myers Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement project, but was within bid guidelines with a proposal of \$820,415. An Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant of \$275,000 will offset a portion the City’s total cost.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 31, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to pass Ordinance No. 31, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 33, 2024, titled,

A RESOLUTION TO SET THE EMPLOYEE ANNUAL PREMIUM RATE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

was presented and read by title only. Clerk-Treasurer Lehner explained insurance rates for the coming year were negotiated to a 13.0% increase, down from the 14.9% increase initially proposed. The decrease was the result of modest plan changes including increased deductibles and maximum-out-of-pocket expenses for employees. Mr. Lehner

further explained that employee benefits were being enhanced by adding a number of voluntary insurance products and by raising the age of dependent coverage for vision and dental coverage to 26, matching that of medical and prescription coverage. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 33, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Resolution No. 33, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 34, 2024, 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 amounts and property tax rates to be levied for the coming calendar year. The rates are unchanged from the current year, and the anticipated revenue increases slightly.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 34, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to pass Resolution No. 34, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 35, 2024, titled,

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A \$1198.00 DONATION FROM BRYAN FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES TO THE CITY OF BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE DONATIONS.

was presented and read by title only. Fire Chief Pool explained that the Bryan Fraternal Order of Eagles has again donated funding for the Haas Alert System annual service subscription and requested Council accept the gift of \$1,198. The system enhances emergency responder safety by providing approaching drivers real-time digital alerts about in-route emergency response vehicles nearby.

Mr. Alspaugh moved, Mr. Hupe seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 35, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Betts seconded, to pass Resolution No. 35, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 36, 2024, titled,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK-TREASURER TO
ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS
“ALTERATION TO: BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT.”**

was presented and read by title only. Fire Chief Pool explained that the current budget has \$115,000 budgeted for the construction of a bunk room in existing and available space in the Police & Fire Building. If awarded, the project will include heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), drop ceilings, smoke detection, flooring and interior walls construction.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 36, 2024, on three separate days. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Hupe moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to pass Resolution No. 36, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade requested permission to test for the position of Patrol Officer, citing that the current eligibility list has been exhausted, and there are two vacancies left to fill.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to authorize the Police Department to conduct a test for the position of Patrol Officer. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Waterston requested Council approve a building permit for a \$20,436 building improvement project at the art studio at 317 W. Butler Street. Improvements are primarily for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

Mr. Kozumplik moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to approve a building permit for a \$20,436 building improvement project at 317 W. Butler Street. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mayor Schlade explained that an optional second hearing for the liquor permit requested by Lotto Masters LLC (Get N Go Mart) at 216 East High Street, relevant to the store's proximity to Lincoln Park, could be held, unless the City has no further objection. As the Council chose to waive the first hearing, and the Bryan Police Department has had no issue with the location, Mayor Schlade recommend waiving the hearing.

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Alspaugh seconded, to waive hearings on the issuance of a liquor permit to Lotto Masters LLC, dba Get N Go Mart. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Director Dominique requested that Council approve the recommended date and times for the Community Hollerween Party and Community Trick or Treat, as follows:

Saturday, October 26, 2024

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Hollerween Party

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Community Trick or Treat

Mr. Betts moved, Mr. Kozumplik seconded, to approve the date and times for Hollerween and Trick or Treat as presented. 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