

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Bellbrook City Council Meeting
January 13, 2020

PRESENT: Tim Taylor
Ernie Havens
Dave Van Veldhuizen
Forrest Greenwood
Nick Edwards
Elaine Middlestetter
Mayor Mike Schweller

Mayor Schweller called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Edwards made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment and compensation of a public employee and pending litigation. Mrs. Middlestetter seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll. Mr. Edwards, yes; Mrs. Middlestetter, yes; Mr. Taylor, yes; Mr. Havens, yes; Dr. Van Veldhuizen, yes; Mr. Greenwood, yes; Mayor Schweller, yes. The motion carried 7-0.

At 7:00 PM Mayor Schweller called the regular session of the City Council to order. He welcomed Council to the 2020 year. He explained that he and newly-elected Council member Ernie Havens were sworn in by Judge Mike Murry before the end of the year. Judge Murry retired at the end of 2019 but always enjoyed administering oaths of office. Then as Mayor, he sworn Elaine Middlestetter and newly-elected council member Tim Taylor in. Bellbrook's charter requires Council members be sworn in before the first of the year.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Taylor, yes; Mr. Havens, yes; Dr. Van Veldhuizen, yes; Mr. Greenwood, yes; Mr. Edwards, yes; Mrs. Middlestetter, yes; Mayor Schweller, yes.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor explained that according to the city charter, a Deputy Mayor is to be chosen at the first meeting of the year following an election and serves for a two-year term.

The Clerk explained the process. The Mayor asked Council for nominations. Mr. Havens nominated Mr. Edwards. Mr. Greenwood nominated himself. Each nominee spoke on their desire and qualification for the position.

Mr. Edwards explained that he has been involved with Bellbrook city government for 24 years including a leadership position on the Planning Board and the Charter Review Commission. He added that he has outside experience in leadership as the Board Chair of United Way. He concluded by stating that Bellbrook has been and will continue to be his home. He expressed that he would be honored to serve as Deputy Mayor.

Mr. Greenwood stated his qualifications including leadership in the military and U.S. civil service. He has served six years on City Council. He explained that he could guarantee a seamless transition while maintaining the citizens' confidence in our city. He listed his greatest qualities as loyalty, integrity, sound judgement, and heart. He expressed his belief that all of the Council members are qualified for this role and thanked them for considering him.

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The Mayor asked for the other council members to vote by show of hands. First for Mr. Edwards. By show of hands the votes were from Mr. Taylor, Mr. Havens, Dr. Van Veldhuizen, Mrs. Middlestetter, and Mayor Schweller. Mr. Edwards was named Deputy Mayor with all five votes.

FORMAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After polling members of City Council, as there were no other corrections or additions to the regular meeting minutes of December 9, 2019 Mayor Schweller declared the minutes approved as written.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/SPECIAL GUEST

- Oath of Office of Sgt. John Anthony Vetter

Chief Doherty asked Sgt. Vetter to join him at the podium. He reviewed the path that brought Sgt. Vetter to his place and rank within the Bellbrook Police Department. Sgt. Vetter was hired by Bellbrook as a part-time dispatcher in 1997. He proceeded to move up as a full-time dispatcher, then a part-time dispatcher and part-time officer, then a full-time officer. In 2016 he became a detective and has now become a Sergeant in his hometown.

Mayor Schweller swore Sgt. Vetter in. Sgt. Vetter's wife pinned his Sergeants badge on him. Sgt. Vetter thanked the Chief, the Mayor, and City Council.

- City of Beavercreek Proclamation

Mayor Schweller read a proclamation that the City of Beavercreek presented to the City of Bellbrook along with challenge coins for each member of council. The proclamation thanked the City of Bellbrook for their assistance following the tornado that hit their city in May 2019. Mayor Schweller asked Ryan Pasley, the Service Department Director to take the proclamation to show the Service Department employees and thank them for their acts of charity to their neighbors. The City Manager added that the city asked for no reimbursement from Beavercreek or FEMA.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES - none

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - none

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Edwards read **Resolution 2020-A A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager/Finance Director to File with the Greene County Auditor Requests for Advances of Taxes Collected**. He explained that this legislation is enacted every year so that the city can access funds throughout the year, not just the two times that property taxes are collected. Mrs. Dodd added that because there is no income tax, the city only receives money through property taxes.

Mr. Edwards made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2020-A A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager/Finance Director to File with the Greene County Auditor Requests for Advances of Taxes Collected**. This was seconded by Dr. Van Veldhuizen. The Clerk called the roll. Mr. Edwards, yes; Dr.

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Van Veldhuizen, yes; Mr. Taylor, yes; Mr. Havens, yes; Mr. Greenwood, yes; Mrs. Middlestetter, yes; Mayor Schweller, yes. The motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Middlestetter read **Resolution 2020-B A Resolution Authorizing Michael W. Schweller, Mayor of the City of Bellbrook, to Enter into and Amended Employment Agreement with Melissa J. Dodd, City Manager/Finance Director.**

Mrs. Middlestetter made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2020-B A Resolution Authorizing Michael W. Schweller, Mayor of the City of Bellbrook, to Enter into and Amended Employment Agreement with Melissa J. Dodd, City Manager/Finance Director.** Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll. Mrs. Middlestetter, yes; Mr. Taylor, yes; Mr. Havens, yes; Dr. Van Veldhuizen, yes; Mr. Greenwood, yes; Mr. Edwards, yes; Mayor Schweller, yes. The motion passed 7-0.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Dodd stated that she hopes everyone had happy holidays.

On January 26 Mrs. Dodd, Ryan Pasley Service Director, and a representative from the EPA will be meeting to create a formal wellfield protection plan. They may use a template or ask the EPA for suggestions. This is a preliminary conversation.

The City Manager explained that there might be an opening on the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Parks District Board in May of this year. This is a three-member commission that is appointed by a judge. The present board makeup does not include a Bellbrook resident and hasn't for the past seven years. The Parks District manages and maintains the two parks located within Bellbrook. The Council agreed that it would be good to recommend a Bellbrook resident for this board since the parks are funded by our tax dollars too.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Clerk explained that each Council member is part of two of the three-person committees. With the new Council members, the committee makeup is as follows:

Service: Chair Mr. Greenwood, Dr. Van Veldhuizen, and Mr. Taylor

Safety: Chair Mr. Taylor, Mr. Greenwood, and Mrs. Middlestetter

Finance/Audit: Chair Mr. Edwards, Dr. Van Veldhuizen, and Mr. Havens

Community Affairs: Chair Mrs. Middlestetter, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Havens

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Service: none

Safety: Mr. Greenwood wanted to relay that citizens have told him how much they appreciate all of the new and existing police officers.

Finance/Audit: none

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Community Affairs: Mrs. Middlestetter reported that there are two board positions opening: one on the Village Review Board and one the Board of Zoning Appeals and Property Review Commission. According to the ordinances, the opening on the Village Review Board needs to be a business owner. Interested parties should submit an application. The posting is open for 30 days. If anyone who has previously submitted an application is interested, please contact the Clerk of Council.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS -

The Clerk, Mrs. Timmons explained that starting this year, Council members will also serve as liaisons to the city's boards and commissions. The liaison position does not have voting rights on the boards. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Havens will be the liaisons to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Property Review Commission.

Dr. Van Veldhuizen and Mr. Taylor will be the liaisons to the Planning Board.

Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Havens will be the liaisons to the Village Review Board.

Mrs. Middlestetter and Dr. Van Veldhuizen will be the liaisons to the Museum Board of Trustees

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Taylor congratulated Sgt. Vetter. He thanked the citizens for voting for him and entrusting him with this duty.

Mr. Havens thanked the City manager for a good job. He thanked Sgt. Vetter. He also thanked the residents for their confidence in him.

Dr. Van Veldhuizen also congratulated Mrs. Dodd on a successful year as city manager. He is looking forward to the new year on Council.

Mr. Greenwood congratulated Sgt. Vettters. He welcomed Mr. Taylor and Mr. Havens to council and looks forward to more great things ahead.

Mr. Edwards echoed all of the previous congratulations. He also asked if there would soon be another of the Community Leaders meetings with Bellbrook, Sugarcreek Township, School Board and Parks District. Mrs. Dodd answered that there would be and that it is Bellbrook's turn to host the meeting.

Mrs. Middlestetter also congratulated Mrs. Dodd and Sgt. Vettters. She thanked the voters for electing her to her third term on City Council. She also mentioned that last week was Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and that we should all show our appreciation all year, not just one day.

Mayor Schweller also thanked the voters for electing him as Mayor. He recounted being involved with Bellbrook's government since 1986 and had hoped to become Mayor as the capstone to that career. He congratulated the other newly elected Council members. He added that he is glad to see Sgt. Vettters receive this promotion and thinks it is important to promote from within.

Steve Kircher, 3695 W Franklin Street, Magnetic Springs Ranch explained that he was representing the business he is planning to open called Bellbrook Mountain. He asked that City Council consider his request to buy or lease the city's land. He pointed out that the land is part of the well field. His plan

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for the land would be to cap the contaminated abandoned wells on the land that are a risk to the city's water supply. He also plans to correct the large meander in the Little Sugar Creek. He added that the land has more liabilities than its value. He believes that Bellbrook Mountain will bring pride and joy to the city of Bellbrook and he has heard overwhelming support from the citizens. It will protect precious open space and attract visitors from around the state.

Mayor Schweller explained that this is a topic that City Council will be reviewed before the next council meeting.

Mr. Havens asked if Mr. Kircher if he planned to cap and fill the abandoned wells at his own expense whether the land is purchased or leased? Mr. Kircher answered that it was intention to do that. He added that correcting the meander will avoid further erosion of the land. He explained that the EPA explained that it is an area that qualifies for stabilization of a meander.

ADJOURN

Being no further business to come before the Bellbrook City Council, Mayor Schweller declared the regular meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Michael W. Schweller, Mayor

Pamela Timmons, Clerk of Council