

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Bellbrook City Council Regular Meeting
December 14, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the December 14, 2020 City Council Meeting was conducted using Zoom's remote webinar platform.

PRESENT: T.J. Hoke
Ernie Havens
David Van Veldhuizen
Forrest Greenwood
Elaine Middlestetter
Nick Edwards
Mayor Mike Schweller

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Melissa Dodd

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Schweller called the executive session to discuss the for the purpose of considering the employment and compensation of the clerk of council at 6:00 pm. Mr. Edwards made a motion to enter into executive session. Dr. Van Veldhuizen seconded the motion.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Schweller called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After polling the members of City Council about the regular meeting minutes of November 23, 2020 Mayor Schweller declared the minutes approved.

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MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Schweller expressed his condolences at the passing of Mary France. Mrs. France served on the School Board for 31 years. Prior to that she served on several city committees and she will be missed by the city of Bellbrook.

The Mayor announced that Fire Chief Jim Neidhard is retiring on December 31 after seven years with the City of Bellbrook. He explained that when Chief Neidhard joined the Bellbrook Fire Department it was in need of stability and leadership which the Chief brought to the position. He will be missed by the staff and citizens of Bellbrook. Under the Chief, the Fire Department attained an ISO rating of 2 which puts us in the top three percent in the nation among fire departments. He helped secure a grant for the CPR LUCAS devices and has updated the department's technology. Staffing has been increased to the appropriate amount for our city. Adding a fitness center was a great improvement and he has encouraged the fire fighters to pursue educational opportunities. Chief Neidhard was also named a Hometown Hero by the Optimist Club.

Fire Chief Jim Neidhard thanked the Mayor and Council for their kind words and support. He added that coming to Bellbrook was one of the best decisions he ever made. He shared how he came to be a fire fighter considering as a child he wanted to be a police officer. His story followed his life and career and ends with his hopeful plans for retirement. He thanked everyone who has been part of his story.

Council members each expressed their well wishes and shared stories about the Chief.

Mayor Schweller introduced Robert Middlestetter who is receiving a plaque commemorating his 30 years of service to the city of Bellbrook. The Clerk expounded on Mr. Middlestetter's service listing 13 years on City Council, 10 years on the Board of Zoning Appeals and Property Review Commission, and 20 years as a Museum Trustee.

Mr. Middlestetter expressed his thanks and stated how much he enjoyed serving his city and hopes others will follow in that example. Council members expressed their thanks and including his wife, Council member Elaine Middlestetter.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES -

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Mr. Edwards read **Ordinance 2020-13 An Ordinance Approving the Appropriations of the City of Bellbrook for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021.**

The City Manager explained that this is only for operating expenses. Capital expenses have been extracted and will be discussed more in depth after the first of the year for later inclusion in the budget. Mrs. Dodd went through the Budget presentation.

Mr. Edwards made a motion to adopt **Ordinance 2020-13 An Ordinance Approving the Appropriations of the City of Bellbrook for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021.** Mr. Hoke seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll. Mr. Edwards, yes; Mr. Hoke, yes; Mr. Havens, yes; Dr. Van Veldhuizen, yes; Mr. Greenwood, yes; Mrs. Middlestetter, yes; Mayor Schweller, yes. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Havens read **Ordinance 2020-14 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2020-10 to Adjust the City of Bellbrook Appropriations.**

Mrs. Dodd stated that this is the final supplemental appropriation of the year to ensure all funds and major expense categories are appropriated adequately to close the year. She explained that there were two last minute items: a diesel purchase by the school, and a capital improvement item that had not rolled over from 2019 by the time the books had closed.

Mr. Havens moved to adopt **Ordinance 2020-14 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2020-10 to Adjust the City of Bellbrook Appropriations.** Mr. Greenwood seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll. Mr. Havens, yes; Mr. Greenwood, yes; Mr. Hoke, yes; Dr. Van Veldhuizen, yes; Mrs. Middlestetter, yes; Mr. Edwards, yes; Mayor Schweller, yes. The motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Van Veldhuizen read **Ordinance 2020-15 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2020-14 to Adjust the City of Bellbrook Appropriations and Declaring an Emergency.**

Mrs. Dodd explained that this ordinance is to account for the last-minute Coronavirus Relief Funds received which need to be spent by December 30 and therefore the emergency declaration as a result.

Dr. Van Veldhuizen made a motion to adopt **Ordinance 2020-15 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2020-14 to Adjust the City of Bellbrook Appropriations and Declaring an Emergency.** Mrs.

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Middlestetter seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll. Dr. Van Veldhuizen, yes; Mrs. Middlestetter, yes; Mr. Hoke, yes; Mr. Havens, yes; Mr. Greenwood, yes; Mr. Edwards, yes; Mayor Schweller, yes. The motion passed 7-0.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - none

RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Middlestetter read **Resolution 2020-CC A Resolution Adopting the 2020 Greene County Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Bellbrook.**

Mrs. Dodd explained that this plan was developed by the County which covers the entire county. Each municipality has been asked to adopt the plan by way of resolution by the end of the year. The plan identifies risks that are most possible for each community. The full document is available on the website.

Mrs. Middlestetter moved to adopt **Resolution 2020-CC A Resolution Adopting the 2020 Greene County Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Bellbrook.** Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll. Mrs. Middlestetter, yes; Mr. Edwards, yes; Mr. Hoke, yes; Mr. Havens, yes; Dr. Van Veldhuizen, yes; Mr. Greenwood, yes; Mayor Schweller, yes. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Greenwood read **Resolution 2020-DD A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds for 2021.**

Mrs. Dodd said this is an annual piece of legislation to coincide with the 2021 budget.

Mr. Greenwood made a motion to adopt **Resolution 2020-DD A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds for 2021.** The motion was seconded by Dr. Van Veldhuizen. The Clerk called the roll. Mr. Greenwood, yes; Dr. Van Veldhuizen, yes; Mr. Hoke, yes; Mr. Havens, yes; Mrs. Middlestetter, yes; Mr. Edwards, yes; Mayor Schweller, yes. The motion passed 7-0.

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CITY MANAGER REPORT

The City Manager began by expressing her appreciation and congratulations for Chief Neidhard. She added that she is sorry that due to the restriction on gatherings a formal celebrate of his achievements is not possible.

Mrs. Dodd congratulated Anthony Bizzarro on his achievement of becoming the next Fire Chief.

Mrs. Dodd reported that the Police Department has achieved Group 3 Ohio Collaborative Standards. The Ohio Collaborative Certification process was established in 2015 to get police agencies, throughout Ohio, standardized on a set of identified policies, practices and procedures. To date, The Bellbrook Police Department has met the criteria of the following standards:

1. Response to Resistance and Recruitment/Hiring
2. Community Engagement and Body Worn Cameras
3. Bias Free Policing and Investigation of Employee Misconduct

The next standard to cover is "Vehicle Pursuits".

The City Manager updated council on the Coronavirus Relief Funds. The City received redistributed funds from the County the last week in November. An additional \$22,000 was received from municipalities in Greene County that did not expend the original funds by the deadline. The funds are being used for one other network security project and in coordination with the library to install a wifi hotspot on their building for outdoor use. The library will be responsible for the internet used from the hotspot. The remainder of the funds will be used toward Police and Fire wages.

The North West Street Sidewalk Project has been finalized and looks great! Thanks go to Service Director Ryan Pasley and his staff for working with the contractor to get everything coordinated.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS - none

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Service – Mr. Greenwood reported that snowflakes have been put up on the two light poles that the city owns. The Service Department is prepared for any winter weather events.

Safety – Mr. Hoke again congratulated Chief Neidhard on his retirement. There will be a blood drive on December 26 at fire station 22 from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM. Appointments are not required but are encouraged.

Finance – none

Community Affairs – Mrs. Middlestetter announced that the Historical Museum is still open on Wednesdays and Saturdays through the end of December. It will be closed January and February. The exhibits have been improved as overseen by Director Dwight Bartlett and curator Judy Carr.

CLERK'S REPORT

Mrs. Timmons announced the following future items:

- January 11 – swearing in of new Fire Chief Anthony Bizzarro
- January 18 – Council goal setting work session at 6 PM
- January 25th - City Manager Performance Review
- Future Work Session for CIC Follow up in February
- Legislative Items to be considered from Planning Board
 - Vacancy Registration Requirements
 - 18.20(B) – Sign Code
 - Article 14

COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood again thanked retiring Fire Chief Jim Neidhard and he wished everyone happy holidays.

Mr. Havens congratulated Anthony Bizzarro on his new role as Fire Chief. He opined that although it has been normal to use funds from the General Fund to supplement the Fire and Police Funds, he would like to see a levy on a future ballot.

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Mr. Hoke agreed with Mr. Havens' suggestion. He also thanked the community member who took it upon themselves to pick up litter. He is encouraged by people who do good things without recognition. He also thanked the person who put lights up on the old firehouse building.

Mrs. Middlestetter echoed the others' well wishes to Chief Neidhard and congratulations to Anthony Bizzarro. She also thanked Council and staff for how everyone handled this challenging year. She also wished everyone a safe holiday.

Dr. Van Veldhuizen added his wishes for a happy and better new year.

Mr. Edwards expressed his appreciation for how everyone in Bellbrook has handled the challenges this year.

Mayor Schweller echoed those sentiments.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Jodi Martin, Executive Director of the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce, introduced herself to the city. She explained that there are a lot of changes going on with the chamber and she is excited for what the new year will bring. Ms. Martin can be reached at info@bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Schweller announced that there was no further business to come before the Bellbrook City Council and declared the regular meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Michael W. Schweller, Mayor

Pamela Timmons, Clerk of Council