

Brookville City Council
Regular Meeting
January 17, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Brookville City Council was called to order by Mayor Letner at 7:30 p.m. on January 17, 2023. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers and virtually using the Cisco Webex application. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members Crane, Fowler, Requarth, Schreier, Wilder and Zimmerlin; Manager Keaton, Finance Director Brandt, Law Director Stephan, Fire Chief Fletcher, Police Chief Jerome and Clerk Duncan were present.

Roll Call by Clerk Duncan.

Motion by Fowler, second by Requarth to adopt the Agenda as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Fowler to approve the January 3, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. All yeas, motion carried.

Manager Keaton reported Perry Township Trustees recently voted on a new three-year Fire & EMS Service Agreement beginning January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2025. Manager Keaton requested Council authorization to enter into a three-year Agreement with Perry Township for Fire & EMS Service beginning January 1, 2023.

Motion by Requarth, second by Fowler to authorize the City Manager to enter into a three-year Agreement with Perry Township for Fire & EMS Service beginning January 1, 2023. All yeas, motion carried.

Manager Keaton reported she was recently notified that AES has contracted with Wright Tree Service who will trim trees over the next couple of weeks in the area northwest of the Brookville substation located on Upper Lewisburg-Salem Road, just east of Brookville. Customers in this area will be receiving an outbound call announcing the upcoming work. Most of the trimming will occur in Clay Township with the exception of residents along Arlington Road, north of Interstate 70, E. Upper Lewisburg-Salem Road, and businesses on Walker Court.

Manager Keaton reported Montgomery County Animal Care & Control will be selling dog licenses in the Training Room of Fire Station 76. This original date was Friday, January 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but she learned late on Friday that they need to change to Monday, January 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Manager Keaton advised once she hears back if January 30 is workable, she will let Council know.

Manager Keaton requested Council authorization to allow the submission of an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Equipment Grant to purchase a Valve Exerciser. Grants are being offered to reimburse the initial cost of valve exercising, leak detection and meter accuracy testing equipment. The purpose of these grants is to help public water systems increase their technical capacity to provide a continuous source of safe drinking water. Grants may be requested for equipment, supplies and training in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

Member Requarth asked what a Valve Exerciser is?

Manager Keaton advised a Valve Exerciser is used to open and close fire hydrants. It is also used to isolate water lines during water main breaks.

Motion by Requarth, second by Schreier to authorize Manager Keaton to allow the submission of an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Equipment Grant to purchase a Valve Exerciser. All yeas, motion carried.

Manager Keaton reported Park Board has set the annual Park Clean-up Day for March 25, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. until noon, with a rain date of April 1, 2023. Manager Keaton encouraged everyone to mark their calendars to help with this event as there are many limbs down in the parks.

Manager Keaton reported proposed Resolution No. 23-02 allows the Director of Transportation to move forward with resurfacing Interstate 70 from the Montgomery County line to just east of the Diamond Mill Road overpass, with a portion of the interstate in the city limits. The State will bear 100% of the costs of resurfacing.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Wilder to read proposed Resolution No. 23-02. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Fowler, second by Fowler to accept the first reading of proposed Resolution No. 23-02. All yeas, motion carried.

Member Zimmerlin inquired whether homeowners have the option to contract with an independent tree contractor to trim their trees, rather than use the contractor that AES has selected?

Manager Keaton replied she will contact AES to find out.

Member Requarth commented homeowners may not be able to use their own contractor because AES is only trimming trees in the utility easement.

Finance Director Brandt requested Council designate two members to sit on the Volunteer Firefighter's Dependent Fund for 2023. The current members are Mayor Letner and Member Wilder.

Motion by Fowler, second by Zimmerlin to designate Mayor Letner and Member Wilder to sit on the Volunteer Firefighter's Dependent Fund for 2023. Requarth yea, Crane yea, Fowler yea, Zimmerlin yea, Schreier yea, Wilder abstained and Letner abstained. Motion carried with five yeas and two abstentions.

Finance Director Brandt announced the City of Vandalia will be at the Brookville City Offices to help residents with their city income tax preparation on March 31 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and on April 1 from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

Fire Chief Fletcher reported the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved an Ambulance Inflation Factor of 8% for EMS Services in 2023. Fire Chief Fletcher stated he and Manager Keaton discussed it with our representative, who feels this rate may be adjusted down later in the year. Fire Chief Fletcher recommended increasing our rate by 3%.

Member Fowler asked how the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services determines the inflation factor?

Fire Chief Fletcher replied he does not know the formula they use to determine the rate.

Member Zimmerlin inquired what surrounding communities are doing?

Fire Chief Fletcher stated he does not know but he can get this information for Council if they request it. Fire Chief Fletcher stated we have never followed suit with other agencies regarding EMS billing.

Motion by Fowler, second by Crane to approve a 3% increase in EMS billing for 2023. All yeas, motion carried.

Police Chief Jerome thanked Damian Kristof of the Brookville Library for allowing the Police and Fire Department to participate in the Lights, Sirens and Pizza event, which was a great success.

Police Chief Jerome reported the Coffee with a Cop event at Brookhaven and the Community Prayer breakfast was also a success.

Police Chief Jerome reported Brookville Police Officers have recently been issuing parking tickets to residents for violations such as expired tags. If these tickets are paid within 24 hours the cost is \$5, or \$10 if paid between 24-72 hours. A regular ticket for this same violation would be \$145, plus an additional \$145 if the vehicle is towed. A regular ticket would also go on their driving record. The parking tickets give us an opportunity to warn our citizens of the requirements of the law, for a small amount of money. Police Chief Jerome reminded everyone that the temporary Covid pardon for expired tags is no longer in effect.

Law Director Stephan had no report.

Mayor Letner thanked everyone who attended the Community Prayer Breakfast, stating it was well received. Mayor Letner thanked Law Director Stephan for speaking about government at the breakfast, stating the message was well received and he was proud of the way Law Director Stephan represented the City of Brookville

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Fowler to read proposed Ordinance No. 2023-02. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Fowler, second by Schreier to accept the second reading of proposed Ordinance No. 2023-02. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Fowler to read proposed Ordinance No. 2023-04. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Fowler, second by Wilder to accept the second reading of proposed Ordinance No. 2023-04. All yeas, motion carried.

Member Fowler, Park Liaison, reported he was not able to attend the Park Board meeting but items discussed were grants that were received for playground mulch and for sidewalks and handicap accessibility at Golden Gate and Westbrook Park. Dates for the Optimist Egg Hunts and Pumpkin Walk were also approved.

Member Schreier, Planning Liaison, had no report.

Damian Kristof, of 61 Oak Street, stated the Brookville Public Library would like to hold a community festival at the library and asked Council if June 17, July 1 or August 12 would work best?

Discussion followed. The consensus was June 17 would be the best date.

Motion by Fowler, second by Zimmerlin to go into Executive Session under O.R.C. 121.22(G)(8) to consider confidential information of an applicant for economic development assistance and finding the Executive Session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Fowler, second by Zimmerlin to go back into Regular Session. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Fowler, second by Requarth to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.



Kimberly Duncan, Clerk



Charles Letner, Mayor