

Brookville City Council
Regular Meeting
October 15, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Brookville City Council was called to order by Mayor Letner at 7:30 p.m. on October 15, 2024. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers and virtually using the Cisco Webex application. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members Crane, Piper, Schreier, Wilder and Zimmerlin; Manager Kuntz, Law Director Stephan, Fire Chief Fletcher, Police Chief Jerome and Clerk Duncan were present. Member Fowler and Finance Director Brandt were absent.

Roll Call by Clerk Duncan.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Piper to accept the Agenda as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Wilder to accept the October 1, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Crane yea, Piper yea, Schreier yea, Wilder yea, Zimmerlin yea, Letner abstained. Motion carried with five yeas and one abstention.

Manager Kuntz reported the Wolf Creek Road resurfacing project should finish up this week. There have been contractor delays due to material availability.

Manager Kuntz reported Kevin Garlitz has accepted an offer to be our Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Garlitz, a Brookville alumni and retired police officer, is coming to Brookville after being the zoning administrator for Clay Township. Mr. Garlitz's background and familiarity with the community should allow him to hit the ground running.

Manager Kuntz announced the Montgomery County Auditor's Office is offering information to reduce property taxes on properties that were damaged in the recent storms. Residents should visit the auditor's website at www.mcauditor.org or call 937-225-4326 for more information.

Manager Kuntz reported Ghostly Night Out is this Saturday, October 19 at Golden Gate Park. Manager Kuntz encouraged everyone to attend this event.

Manager Kuntz thanked Chief Jerome, Ronda Dittrick, Officer Wilson and all members of the Brookville Police Department for their recent outreach programs, which include two Coffee with a Cop events, a Cones with Cops event and the upcoming Ghostly Night Out event.

Manager Kuntz welcomed PURE Beauty Bar, 21 Market Street and Mulberry & Main, 130 Main Street to the downtown Brookville community. Manager Kuntz encouraged everyone to consider stopping by the new businesses to say hi and to "Shop Brookville" whenever possible.

Manager Kuntz reported the city's first Age Friendly Lunch and Learn is scheduled for November 14 at the Leiber Center. This program offers seniors and retirees a free lunch with a guest speaker. The guest speaker is Officer Wilson from the Brookville Police Department, who will be discussing ways to stay safe from fraud and identify theft. Interested participants should RSVP by November 6, by calling 937-833-2001 x204 or emailing rdittrick@brookvilleohio.com.

Manager Kuntz announced this year's last Third Thursday event is scheduled for October 17 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Gruenig Park on Market Street. Manager Kuntz thanked the Market Street Connection for holding this event each month during the spring and summer months. Manager Kuntz stated he hopes to see this event grow in 2025.

Manager Kuntz thanked Fire Captain Ferguson, Brittany Ferguson and BFD members who put together the Fire Prevention Week activities and the Open House held on Sunday, October 13.

Manager Kuntz thanked the Service Department for their work cleaning up the storm debris and helping Barton Malow complete the Hay Avenue bank demolition. Manager Kuntz stated the Service Department is often performing jobs we take for granted and we appreciate their effort in responding and addressing circumstances before they become issues.

Manager Kuntz reported there are numerous terms expiring at the end of the year on our Boards and Commissions and asked Council to consider whether they would like to invite these individuals to serve another term or if they want to advertise the open seats for additional candidates.

Manager Kuntz thanked the Brookville Corvette Club for donating \$500 to the Park Fund.

Manager Kuntz reported residents can rake leaves curbside for leaf pickup beginning this week.

Manager Kuntz announced Carolyn Haney has resigned from the Park Board. Ms. Haney has served as a Park Trustee since 2016. Manager Kuntz thanked her for her service to the city and its residents. Manager Kuntz added that the inception of our annual Christmas in the Park event can be attributed to Ms. Haney.

Manager Kuntz announced Beggar's Night is scheduled for October 31 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. and advised this is a rain, snow, or shine event.

Mayor Letner called for a motion to approve the September 30, 2024 Fund Balance as submitted in Finance Director Brandt's report.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Schreier to approve the September 30, 2024 Fund Balance as submitted.

Motion by Piper, second by Zimmerlin to read proposed Resolution No. 24-20. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Schreier to accept the first reading, dispense with the second and third reading and adopt Resolution No. 24-20 entitled "A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 APPROPRIATIONS, AS SET FORTH BELOW, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.40 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND SECTION 12.35 OF THE OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO THE CERTIFICATE OF ESTIMATED RESOURCES, AS SET FORTH BELOW." All yeas, motion carried.

Fire Chief Fletcher reported the BFD Open House was well attended and thanked Chad and Brittany Ferguson for organizing the event.

Fire Chief Fletcher announced BFD is hosting a blood drive on October 22 at the Fire House.

Police Chief Jerome reported the Police Department is recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness month by wearing pink badges.

Police Chief Jerome reported stolen vehicles and thefts from vehicles continue to be a problem in Brookville, and thieves are enabled by unlocked vehicles and keys left inside vehicles. Fingerprints were used to clear some cases and charge individuals. Police are working diligently, but the problem persists and requires a lot of manpower. Police Chief Jerome continued to encourage the public to follow the 9pm lock up routine.

Law Director Stephan had no report.

Mayor Letner thanked Vice Mayor Zimmerlin for filling in for him at the last Council meeting.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Wilder to read proposed Resolution No. 24-17. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Piper, second by Schreier to accept the third reading and adopt Resolution No. 24-17 entitled "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." All yeas, motion carried.

Member Schreier, Planning Commission Liaison, had no report.

Wilbur Meyer, 11080 Baltimore Phillipsburg Road, stated he owns the property which the current referendum on the ballot refers to. Mr. Meyer stated he is a seventh generation Clay Township farmer. He inherited his family farm along with seven figures in debt. His family purchased the property in question at public auction as a potential investment. Mr. Meyer stated his plan is to sell the property in order to purchase more land to pass on to his son, which in turn will help keep the area rural. Mr. Meyer stated the Keep It Rural group is stripping him of his rights and hurting other farmers like him who are trying to make the most of potential land and reinvest to stay in farming.

Jared Leford, 441 Meadow Glen, stated the Issue 2 argument is between keeping the property zoned as it is or making changes. Voting yes means no immediate impact on property, voting no will bring the issue back to Council for more discussion. Regardless of what happens, there will be no immediate impact on the property as it could be years before it is developed. Mr. Leford stressed that we should each care about individuals property rights as much as our own.

Bruce Garber, 434 Sycamore Street, stated he sympathizes with Mr. Meyer's situation but if he just owned different land, he would not be in this situation. If everyone follows suit and wants to annex into Brookville, there will be no more farmland.

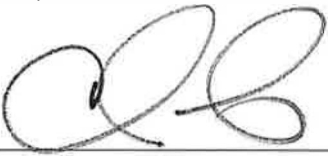
Mr. Meyer asked the public to consider the aging farming population of this township and help them. Mr. Meyer stated there will be a lot more land coming up for auction in the near future.

Rob Rutherford, 39 Wilderness Cove, stated financing farmland is difficult. Loans are riskier, limiting expansion opportunities for farmers. Mr. Rutherford cited a recent case in Ohio where precedent has been set in favor of the landowner's property rights. Mr. Rutherford stated Mr. Garber is spreading a misconception by alluding to unlimited farmland that could be annexed into the city.

Dave Kindell, 526 Meadow Glen, compared Brookville to surrounding communities, such as Huber Heights, Clayton or Englewood. Brookville would have to grow by over 7,000 people and based on average household size, 3,100 homes would have to be built to even get close to the size of Clayton. Mr. Kindell stated there is not enough land around us to make this much growth possible.

Steve Berk, 9901 Wengerlawn Road, commented the Farmland Preservation Program, which administers a conservation easement program, is a tool for farmers to use as an incentive to keep farmland, but it will never compensate a farmer at the same rate as marketing it for development.

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


Kimberly Duncan, Clerk
Charles Letner, Mayor