

Brookville City Council
Regular Meeting
July 15, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Brookville City Council was called to order by Mayor Letner at 7:30 p.m. on July 15, 2025. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members Crane, Fowler, Piper, Schreier, Wilder and Zimmerlin; Manager Kuntz, Law Director Stephan, Fire Chief Fletcher, Police Chief Jerome and Clerk Duncan were present. Finance Director Brandt was absent.

Roll Call by Clerk Duncan.

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

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Piper to accept the July 1, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Kate Baker, Programs Coordinator for the Montgomery County Recorder's Office gave a Fraud Alert presentation regarding online property theft. Ms. Baker recommended all property owners register their homes on the county website so that they will be alerted if there is any activity on their deed. Ms. Baker outlined some rights and benefits that veterans are eligible for through the Veterans ID program. Ms. Baker also encouraged homeowners to fill out Transfer on Death, which simplifies property transfer without legal fees after death.

Manager Kuntz announced upcoming events include the Market Street Third Thursday at Gruenig Park this Thursday, July 17, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The annual Community Picnic will be held July 24 through July 26 at Golden Gate Park. Manager Kuntz encouraged the public to support both events.

Manager Kuntz reported the city's street resurfacing program has resumed after several years of inactivity. Streets to be resurfaced this year are a portion of Upper Lewisburg-Salem Road at the Golden Gate Park entrance, Maple Street, Osage Drive and a section of Mound Street. The city owned parking lot on Hay Avenue will also be resurfaced as part of this project.

Manager Kuntz reported the quarterly utility bills are scheduled to go out to residents this week. Manager Kuntz encouraged residents to be on the lookout for the bills which will include the summer edition of the Brookville Bulletin.

Manager Kuntz provided an update on the gas aggregation program, stating that our consultant, Palmer Energy, has recommended to our regional group that given price increases in the gas market due to the uncertain political climate in the Middle East, it would be appropriate to pause and reevaluate market conditions over the next several weeks before deciding to lock-in a natural gas rate. This pause may push the start date of the program back to November or December of this year. Manager Kuntz advised he will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Manager Kuntz reported that staff recently signed the OPWC grant administrative agreement for the McKinley Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project. This project was approved for OPWC submission last year by the City Council and was subsequently awarded \$199,999 in state funding. The local match will use the city's remaining ARPA funds, approximately \$135,674, for this project. The city's engineer is finalizing the final construction plans. Council will be updated on this project's timeline as we get closer to putting the project out to bid.

The Service Department has been extremely busy the past few weeks with their regular tasks, as well as managing the street resurfacing project and getting the park ready for the community picnic.

Manager Kuntz presented information gathered by staff regarding installation and operating costs of a community splash pad. The three communities surveyed differ from the City of Brookville due to the fact that they operate their own water systems and we get our water from the City of Dayton. If Brookville were to install a splash park, we would have to use a recirculating spray park, which is similar to operating a swimming pool. Underground water tanks would need to be installed and monitored. The cost to install this type of park is considerably higher. Operating costs would include treatment chemicals and staffing to take water samples, record operating parameters, and check that the system is operating correctly. Manager Kuntz stated the city has many infrastructure needs, which would have to be weighed against adding amenities to our parks. Manager Kuntz estimated it would cost \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 for the city to install a splash pad, based on inflationary costs and the additional equipment, licensing and manpower needed. Manager Kuntz advised he is not aware of any communities in the area with a splash pad who do not have their own water system.

Mayor Letner inquired about the city's street sweeping program?

Manager Kuntz replied the city is required by the Ohio EPA to sweep our streets several times per year. Our street sweeper is currently not operating and is beyond repair. A new street sweeper is over \$300,000. We had budgeted \$100,000 toward purchasing a used one, but since then an opportunity came up to contract with the City of Clayton to use their street sweeper. Once approved, this will result in considerable savings for the city and our residents. Manager Kuntz stated our Service Department personnel are currently training to operate this equipment.

Mayor Letner called for a motion to approve the June 30, 2025 Fund Balance as presented.

Motion by Zimmerlin, second by Wilder to approve the June 30, 2025 Fund Balance as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Mayor Letner presented a request from Finance Director Brandt to waive the annual hearing before the Montgomery County Budget Commission for the 2025/2026 Tax Information/Budget and/or Inside Millage.

Motion by Fowler, second by Schreier to waive the annual hearing before the Montgomery County Budget Commission for the 2025/2026 Tax Information/Budget and/or Inside Millage as recommended by the Finance Director. All yeas, motion carried.

Fire Chief Fletcher had no report.

Police Chief Jerome reported incidents are up by 100 over this same time last year.

Police Chief Jerome reported the Police Department is getting ready for the upcoming community picnic. A \$4,000 donation was received from Amvets to detail and wrap the school resource officer's police cruiser. Preparations have begun for the annual Ghostly Night Out event.

Mayor Letner thanked the Police Chief for helping with long-time resident John Behm's memorial service.

Law Director Stephan had no report.

Mayor Letner reported he recently had the honor of being a part of the opening ceremonies for the Montgomery County Fair. He also thanked the city's Service Department and the Barton Mallow Company for their assistance with the new school playground donated by Sue Hey.

Mayor Letner announced he will be reading a proclamation at the Brookville Community Picnic's Opening Ceremony to honor the Brookville High School Track team, who recently won the state championship. This is the third time in Brookville history that the track team has won a state championship.

Lindsey Gray, 71 N. Hill Street, advocated for changing the city ordinance to allow residents to keep chickens. Ms. Gray also stated there is a need for traffic signage on Harshman Street as drivers do not slow down at the curve in the street.

Rod Fryman, 101 Oak Street, also advocated for keeping chickens within the city. Mr. Fryman stated he has had chickens within the city limits on two separate occasions over the past five years with no complaints until recently.

Member Fowler announced there will be a kids vendor fair at the Community Picnic on Thursday, July 24 beginning at 5:00 p.m. and encouraged everyone to attend.

Member Zimmerlin stated residents have advocated for changing the ordinance regarding keeping chickens in the past. Most surrounding municipalities have very strict zoning restrictions regarding keeping chickens, including not allowing chickens on lots under one half-acre. Member Zimmerlin commented he personally would not support allowing chickens on any lots under one half-acre, but he is speaking only for himself. Member Zimmerlin advised he would support proponents if they would like to do a ballot measure and let the residents decide.

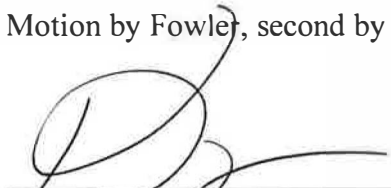
Member Schreier stated he is not advocating either way but pointed out that the administrative aspect of allowing chickens and getting surrounding residents to cooperate is a concern of his.

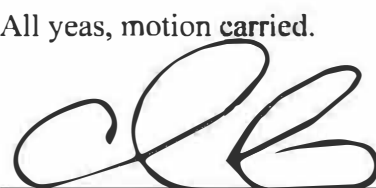
Member Fowler commented there are some residents who would be responsible chicken owners and others who would not be responsible.

Katherine Fryman, 101 Oak Street, commented on the rules regarding keeping chickens in nearby cities.

Member Schreier observed it is difficult to monitor all the areas in Brookville that have known speeding issues. He suggested putting the speed trailer on Harshman street to slow down and educate drivers.

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



Kimberly Duncan, Clerk

Charles Letner, Mayor