

BROOKVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 2, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Brookville City Council was called to order by Mayor Seagraves at 7:30 p.m. on June 2, 2015 in the City Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members Apgar, Cantrell, Duncan, Garber, Kirklin and Letner; Fire Chief Fletcher, Police Chief Jerome, Acting Manager/Law Director Stephan and Assistant Manager/Finance Director/Clerk Keaton were present.

Motion by Duncan, second by Apgar to accept the Agenda as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Apgar, second by Kirklin to accept the May 19, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Kathy Helton, of 212 N. Columbia Street, requested permission to close off part of the Columbia Street alley on June 27, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. for her daughter's graduation party.

Member Garber inquired whether any of the neighbors need to use the alley to access their garage?

Mrs. Helton replied only one neighbor but she will be out of town on that date.

Motion by Duncan, second by Kirklin to allow Kathy Helton to block the Columbia Street alley on June 27, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. for a graduation party as requested. All yeas, motion carried.

Carla Porter, representing the Brookville High School Band Association, advised the Optimists have asked the Band Association to take over the Picnic Run. Mrs. Porter stated the Band Association is changing the event from a five mile run to a 5K run and walk. The Ohio River Road Runners Club will be measuring the official course. Mrs. Porter stated the 5K will begin at 8:00 a.m. on July 25, 2015. Those that are not finished in an hour will be moved to the sidewalks for safety reasons. Mrs. Porter is coordinating the 5K run safety with the Brookville Police Department and Community United Methodist Church is providing a free pancake breakfast to race participants.

Member Garber asked if the band will be playing any music?

Mrs. Porter stated they would like to have some band members playing on the street corners if possible.

Member Garber stated he has always helped with the run and has enjoyed playing music to help motivate the runners.

Mrs. Porter stated it was very generous of the Optimists to give the established event to the band.

Mayor Seagraves stated he is assuming the Band Association is looking for bigger and better attendance.

Mrs. Porter replied that is their hope. The Band Association held a run in December and had approximately 125 participants whom they plan to email about the Picnic Run. Dick Baker has also been very helpful in providing knowledge about the event.

Member Cantrell stated she is excited that the Picnic Run is continuing as it is a tradition. Member Cantrell asked if they are keeping the same shirt theme?

Mrs. Porter replied they may keep the same theme. Band Association Member Julie Smith will be designing a shirt and it will be printed by local company Alley Cat Designs.

Member Garber commented that Dick Baker's daughter created the original design.

Motion by Cantrell, second by Apgar to allow the Brookville Band Association to hold the 5K Picnic Run on Saturday, July 25, 2015 beginning at 8:00 a.m., at Golden Gate Park and subject to route approval by Police Chief Jerome. All yeas, motion carried.

Alan Thrush, of 30 Gaines Street, stated he is present to talk about the City Manager position and stated this Council is probably the best Council we have ever had, other than the former members seated in the back of the room. Mr. Thrush stated he feels we are making some huge mistakes when it comes to looking for a City Manager. Mr. Thrush stated he thinks we are passing up some awesome opportunities within and he would rather see us be vertically integrated. Mr. Thrush stated we should have internships going on for the City Manager position and he has not seen any of that. Mr. Thrush also stated he does not think he is out of line by saying some of the choices that he has seen and read about have appalled him. Mr. Thrush questioned why Council wants what other cities have, when we have a strong mayor in place that has the ability to hire and fire a City Manager.

Mayor Seagraves stated we do not have a strong mayor form of government; ours is management driven. Council has the ability to hire and fire a City Manager.

Mr. Thrush commented his point is that the eleven months since John Wright informed Council of his intention to retire went by pretty quickly, didn't it?

Member Cantrell stated John Wright announced his retirement in February.

Mr. Thrush asked if Council just now found out about his retirement in February?

Mayor Seagraves replied Council knew John Wright was thinking about retiring but he gave them his ultimatum in February.

Mr. Thrush stated something should have been in place by now because he does not believe in panic management and we should never operate under panic management.

Mayor Seagraves replied Council has taken this long because not of panic management. Council wants to find the right individual for the slot. Mayor Seagraves stated he thinks you will see a plan in place in the changing of the guard with an Assistant Manager put on board down the road, and you will see some grooming and some skill level sets where we can get to that next level so we do not have to go through this process again.

Mr. Thrush asked what is our vision?

Mayor Seagraves responded his personal vision is to make sure we provide and put in the best person to best represent this community.

Mr. Thrush stated that is not what he is talking about and asked where do you see our City in four years or five years as we both have children here?

Mayor Seagraves replied he sees exciting times and thinks you are going to see some real changes.

Mr. Thrush asked what are the changes? Mr. Thrush stated he does not need answers right now but Council needs to think about it.

Mayor Seagraves replied these are all good points and stated one of the things that Council has agreed upon in their pursuit of a new man is that there is going to be a strategic plan put in place where they can answer that question honestly.

Mr. Thrush stated these are things Council should have been thinking about. Mr. Thrush stated he does not know everything that is going on but would like to make a suggestion. Mr. Thrush stated he would like to see Sonja Keaton be the City Manager for two years. This would give Council two years to put in place what they need. Mr. Thrush commented as if her plate is not already full because she is doing the job of two people right now. Mr. Thrush

stated something needs to happen where we can go in and start putting candidates out there or build vertically, and we can come up with a solution pretty quickly.

Mayor Seagraves advised Council will be interviewing the two candidates on Wednesday and Thursday who are the finalists for the position. Mayor Seagraves stated he thinks Mr. Thrush will see those types of procedures go into place pretty quickly. This process has been a good learning curve for Council as this is the first time the City has searched for a manager in 70 years.

Mr. Thrush commented that we do not want to have to look for a new City Manager for another 15 or 20 years.

Member Cantrell stated she does not necessarily agree with that because when you have a change of guard in smaller numbers than 30 or 40 years, you bring new and innovative ideas, young talent, and thought processes that only younger people have.

Mr. Thrush commented that the vision should be set by Council.

Member Cantrell commented she thinks Council has learned that. This process has been a real learning experience.

Mayor Seagraves asked Mr. Thrush to give Council a chance and they will be glad to revisit this. Mayor Seagraves commented he thinks everyone will see a real change in Council and a different movement in about a month and a half. Mayor Seagraves stated Council is going a whole different direction and they are going to make decisions, not the City Manager. Mayor Seagraves stated Council is going to run the City Manager. The City Manager is not going to run Council.

Mr. Thrush replied that is the way it is supposed to be.

Mayor Seagraves stated Council has found that out through a process and there is going to be some real change here across the board. It is going to be for the good and Council is going to be much more involved in what they do and how they work with new management and things are going to change. Mayor Seagraves asked Council if his assessment is fair?

Members Duncan, Apgar and numerous others agreed.

Member Kirklin commented to Mr. Thrush that Council is really giving thought to the very point that he made about being forward thinking about their vision, their strategic plan, about where we want to go in five years and about putting an executable plan in place to achieve that. Member Kirklin stated to respond to Mr. Thrush's comments that this should have already been done, Council does not have a time machine and she cannot argue with the point Mr. Thrush is making. Member Kirklin stated a succession plan is a huge part of this and a succession plan must be in place in order to build vertically from within as Mr. Thrush stated. Member Kirklin stated if they had a time machine and could go back they could change that. But to Mayor Seagraves point, she believes Mr. Thrush will see with the new City Manager in place and the new strategic plan that Council is committed to, our City is on the edge of doing some really forward thinking things exactly to several of the points made.

Mayor Seagraves advised Mr. Thrush that his point is well taken and he is spot on. Mayor Seagraves stated there are things that are shame on Council.

Mr. Thrush stated he was not trying to say that and that he truly meant it when he said that this is the best Council we have had in a long time, excluding the three former Members in the back of Council Chambers, whom he has a lot of respect for.

Mayor Seagraves stated Mr. Thrush's point is well taken and he hopes he can say that shortly he will see a different direction in things that are much more focused.

Member Garber observed neither Manager Wright nor Council wanted to have much of an overlap with the new City Manager so the new person could come in and run their own show and create their own paradigm. Member Garber stated regarding being vertically integrated,

he works for DP&L and in his division there are 150 management people. Even with that big of a group it is hard to create succession plans. With a smaller group sometime it is not possible to identify someone to fill the bill. Member Garber advised he is not knocking anyone that works for Brookville or DP&L, but it is hard enough for a large outfit to come up with a succession plan. The smaller the group, the harder it is.

Mr. Thrush stated with all due respect he does not need a business lesson; he is trying to open everyone's eyes up to what he feels, with nothing hateful.

Mayor Seagraves stated Council hears him and to be honest with him, this has been a very stressful time. This decision making has not happened overnight, the process of trying to bring people in. Mayor Seagraves stated he thinks Council would agree that a lot of those candidates, that is why they are not finalists because they were pathetic. Hopefully we can make a sound decision over the next couple of nights that we can take and build on and accomplish some of the thoughts that Mr. Thrush has expressed. These are things that Council has heard regurgitated to them over this process. It has been a good learning curve for Council in understanding this process and it has been a tough challenge.

Mr. Thrush asked if anyone has laid out a plan regarding our City Manager because Council will fire the first one in two years? Mr. Thrush stated that is a fact and Council can mark his word on that.

Member Apgar stated Council has not laid out a plan because they do not want to right now. Council wants the new City Manager to be part of the plan.

Mr. Thrush observed that contradicts what Mayor Seagraves said about Council running the management team rather than them running Council.

Member Apgar stated the City Manager should be in on the plan because he has to execute the plan.

Member Duncan stated many of the candidates throughout this process have brought ideas to Council. We realized we have been pretty complacent over the years and we never thought about changing it and that is shame on us.

Mr. Thrush observed the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is right now.

Member Letner stated Council has a vision, the plan will come when they put the guy in place.

Mr. Thrush stated he would like that vision shared because he has a lot at stake in this town.

Member Cantrell agreed, stating you do have a lot at stake as do all of Council who own residences and business property in the City. Member Cantrell encouraged everyone to come to Council meetings.

Mr. Thrush stated Council does not want him here every time as they need to get out of here before midnight. Mr. Thrush stated he used to attend the Council meetings and went a whole year without missing a meeting. Mr. Thrush stated Council is doing a good job.

Member Cantrell stated it is sad that of all the people who live in this community, many have never even been inside Council Chambers.

Mr. Thrush observed it may be because people trust Council. Mr. Thrush suggested Council pick up the social media, such as posting to Twitter.

Member Cantrell agreed.

Mayor Seagraves stated Council worked their tail off on the income tax issue and held an open forum and only two people showed up.

Mr. Thrush commented we needed the income tax increase and he voted for it but he does not think Council went about it the right way. Council played on emotion with the “please help us help you” slogan, and he does not ever want to see that again. That is beneath all of us and he did not appreciate that. Mr. Thrush commented he voted for it as we need money to work with and money to operate on and said Council does a very good job of pinching pennies.

Mayor Seagraves commented our books are always open and he sleeps at night because of Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton sitting beside him.

Mr. Thrush thanked Council for their time and for hearing his comments and said to keep up the good work.

Jerry Letner, of 28 Brookside Drive, stated he did not want the increase in tax either but he felt it was necessary. Mr. Letner agreed with Member Cantrell that if more people participated in what we can do to help the community instead of looking to 8-10 people thinking they have to have the master plan. Mr. Letner stated he thought Mr. Thrush sounded negative pushing for the five year plan and wanting all the answers right now and it just does not happen that way.

Mayor Seagraves commented that Mr. Thrush is a successful business owner, but when you compare that mode of operation to the place where Mr. Letner works and to the place where Member Garber works, he can appreciate the comments made by all three men. Mayor Seagraves stated Mr. Thrush would be out in left field on the other two stops because those things just do not happen as quick as he thinks they should. For Council to go through and have a plan laid out without having the input of the new City Manager would not be fair to him or her. The problem is no matter what Council does people are always going to call them names and say they made a dumb decision.

Member Garber observed that Mr. Thrush said he did not expect answers tonight.

Member Garber stated Mayor Seagraves comments to Mr. Thrush were excellent and observed this is new to us to as we have never searched for a manager.

Mayor Seagraves stated Council is working extremely hard despite how it appears. John Wright informed Council of his retirement six months ahead of time, and everyone agreed they did not want the City Manager to overlap as that would not be fair to either one of them. Mayor Seagraves stated Council did not purposely misbehave or do something out of line to draw this out, they just want to get the best candidate, and he believes that is what the citizens want.

Member Apgar agreed Council did not want to rush it as they have to get the right person.

Mayor Seagraves stated it could be a living hell for staff if Council does not make the right decision.

Mr. Letner commented when you are hiring someone to sling shingles you can hire right off the street, but finding someone to replace John Wright is different.

Member Kirklin observed when a person does not have all the pieces of the puzzle, it is easy to sit on the outside and be critical of what is happening on the inside. At the end of the day, all of those folks sitting on the bleachers criticizing the umpire are not willing to get on the ball field and put on the gear and call the ball. Member Kirklin stated her point is simply that there has been a great amount of time, energy, money, effort and discernment put into this process because it is a critical decision. Everyone involved has gone through painstaking lengths because of their passion for our City to ensure that we use discernment and wisdom in the decision that we make. Member Kirklin stated it is easy to stand on the outside and criticize without having all the pieces of the puzzle.

Acting Manager/Law Director Stephan reported with John Wright’s retirement effective on May 31, 2015, he has commenced his duties as Acting Manager. Acting Manager Stephan commented he hopes John is enjoying his first few days of retirement and thanked him for

many years of great service to the City of Brookville. Acting Manager/Law Director Stephan reported he met with Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton this morning to discuss ongoing projects and other day-to-day items that need to be completed while he is Acting Manager. All of the other Department Heads are handling their day to day operations and all City services will continue as normal while we continue the City Manager search. Acting Manager/Law Director Stephan reminded Council of the Special Council Meetings on June 3 and June 4, 2015 for the second interviews of the finalists for the City Manager position. Acting Manager/Law Director Stephan requested an Executive Session on a Personnel Matter regarding hiring a new City Manager.

Mayor Seagraves also requested an Executive Session on a Personnel Matter regarding hiring a new City Manager.

Member Cantrell commented the BMX sign is still missing the X and asked that the B and the M be removed so it does not say BM Association?

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton presented the May 31, 2015 Fund Balance for Council review and approval.

Motion by Cantrell, second by Apgar to accept the May 31, 2015 Fund Balance as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton requested Council authorization to purchase portable digital radios and mobiles for the Police and Fire Departments through the State of Ohio, Department of Administrative Services, State Term Schedule as we budgeted for. The State pricing is good through June 30, 2015. The Police Department total cost of \$52,154 came in \$1,846 less than budgeted for and the Fire Department total cost of \$106,845.20 came in \$7,155 less than budgeted for.

Motion by Apgar, second by Kirklin to authorize the purchase of portable digital radios and mobiles for the Police and Fire Departments through the State of Ohio, Department of Administrative Services, State Term Schedule as budgeted for. All yeas, motion carried.

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton advised Council received a copy of the draft audit report of the City of Brookville for year ending December 31, 2014 and asked if Council would like to hold a post-audit conference or waive the post-audit conference prior to submission to the Auditor of State.

Motion by Letner, second by Kirklin to waive the post-audit conference prior to submission to the Auditor of State. All yeas, motion carried.

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton advised Council is invited to the Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce Cookout on June 11, 2015 and requested they inform her by this Thursday if they plan to attend.

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton presented a request for a Proclamation for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in September and asked if Council would like the Office Staff to prepare the Proclamation as requested?

The consensus is to have Office Staff prepare the Proclamation as requested.

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton reported Council has been provided a copy of the Certified Issue 12 results along with the precinct maps.

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton reminded Council of the Car Show to benefit the Special Wish Foundation on Sunday, June 14, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in Golden Gate Park.

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton reported there will be a Cub Scout Day Camp in Golden Gate Park from June 15 through June 19, 2015 and a Girl Scout Day Camp in Golden Gate Park from June 15 through June 17, 2015.

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton advised the Electronics Recycling Day will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Englewood Government Center.

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton reported that Life Line Screening will be at the Christena Leiber Center on Thursday, July 2, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required and registration forms are available in the City Office.

Member Cantrell inquired if we are participating in the OpenGov.com which makes all of our financial documents available to the public?

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton she is looking into the cost and time involved to participate and stated in the meantime our books are always open.

Member Letner requested an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton reported everything is proceeding according to schedule. There is a meeting with the engineer and contractors on June 9, 2015 and the HVAC will be turned on sometime between June 10 and June 12, 2015. The estimated completion date is still mid-July.

Fire Chief Fletcher reported the Brookville Fire Department has handled 127 EMS and 27 Fire Incidents during the month of May, for a total of 154 Incidents, compared to 148 during this same time period last year. There were three passenger vehicle fires and one tractor fire which resulted in approximately \$12,950 dollars of loss during the month. The Fire Department also responded to several Mutual Aid Incidents with our neighbors.

Fire Chief Fletcher reported the Fire Department continues to flow test fire hydrants, and have reaffirmed the importance of the testing by finding several fire hydrants that are barely open. Finding these flow issues now allows time for them to be repaired before they are needed in an emergency.

Police Chief Jerome reported the Brookville Police Department has handled 236 Incidents year-to-date, compared to 244 during this same time period last year. Police Chief Jerome reported Citations are up a total of 44 Citations over last year, for a total of 255 Citations issued year-to-date. The Police Department made 236 Traffic Stops during the month of May, an increase of 74 over this same time period last year. Police Chief Jerome reported this includes the Click It or Ticket campaign, and gave Council a breakdown of the tickets issued during the campaign.

Police Chief Jerome reported the Police Department has taken delivery of the new 2015 Ford Interceptor SUV Cruiser, which will be the new Supervisor vehicle.

Acting Manager/Law Director Stephan had no report under the Law Director's report.

Mayor Seagraves proclaimed June 15 through June 19, 2015 as Scout Week in the City of Brookville, Ohio.

Member Cantrell encouraged Council and citizens to review Bill Price, of McMakens IGA, receiving the IGA Retailer of the Year in a You Tube video that also includes a very nice representation of the City of Brookville.

Mayor Seagraves thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their help with the Ride to the Wall event and stated the participants could not say enough about our Police and Fire Chiefs. Mayor Seagraves also thanked the AmVets and VFW for everything they did to make the event a huge success. The participants stated no one makes them feel like Brookville does and it was refreshing to be welcomed by the entire community.

Member Duncan commented he was in Washington D.C. when the Ride to the Wall riders rolled in and it was quite a site to see.

Member Cantrell reported she attended a “For the Love of Cities” conference today along with Assistant Manager/Finance Director Keaton and Zoning Officer Snedeker. It was an eye opening experience to see what other cities are doing at very little cost to create engaging and fun cities where people want to live. Member Cantrell stated there is another presentation of the same seminar in Richmond, Indiana soon.

Mayor Seagraves asked everyone to take a second to remember Clay Township Trustee Robin Lehman, who recently passed away. Mrs. Lehman loved Brookville and was on a mission of change. The Township, City and Trustees lost a great individual. Mayor Seagraves expressed sympathy to her family, friends and the community.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

Motion by Cantrell, second by Apgar to go into Executive Session on a Personnel Matter to consider the hiring of a City Manager as requested by Acting City Manager/Law Director Stephan and Mayor Seagraves. All yeas, motion carried.

Mayor Seagraves called Council back into Regular Session.

Motion by Duncan, second by Apgar to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.

Sonja M. Keaton, Clerk

David E. Seagraves, Mayor