

CITY OF BELLEVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 16, 2022 - 7:30 pm
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

The regular meeting of the City Council was held via a hybrid of in-person and virtual access through ZOOM.

The regular meeting of the Belleville City Council was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Henry	Present
Council Member Jones	Present
Council Member Bates	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. APPOINTMENTS, PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS

A. Presentations

1) Police Week Proclamation & Resolution

- a) Proclamation recognizing the service of Belleville's police personnel in honor of Police Week was presented to members of the Belleville Police Department.

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to approve **Resolution #22-039**, proclaiming May 15 – May 21, 2022 as Police Week.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Council Member Bates	Aye
	Council Member Henry	Aye
	Council Member Jones	Aye
	Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
	Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

2) Public Service Recognition Week Proclamation & Resolution

- a) Proclamation recognizing the service of government employees, in honor of their service to the community, was presented to the City of Belleville staff.

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Jones to approve **Resolution #22-040**, proclaiming May 1 – May 7, 2022 as Public Service Recognition Week.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Council Member Bates	Aye
	Council Member Henry	Aye
	Council Member Jones	Aye
	Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
	Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

B. Council Follow Up List

- 1) Council Member Henry inquired about the status of the Charter Revision Committee.
- 2) Council Member Bates inquired about the status of the DPW lot clean-up, as it had been removed from the list.
- 3) Resident Mike Renaud inquired about the involvement of the Belleville Yacht Club in the topping of vegetation, and asked what the city is doing from a liability standpoint.

C. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

- 1) Tom Fielder
 - a) Mr. Fielder stated that he had recently attended a Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network meeting, and learned that addictions are on the rise, with alcohol being the number one addicting substance.
 - b) Inquired about the possibility of patrons refilling BORA DORA cups with alcohol purchased from a store, and asked if the liabilities still apply if someone was overserved in that cup at an establishment.
 - c) Noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the amount of staffing in regards to mental health services.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Jones to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of item E: Discussion – BORA DORA District, as requested by Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Council Member Bates	Aye
	Council Member Jones	Aye
	Council Member Henry	Aye
	Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
	Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 2, 2022, Regular Meeting of the City Council

MOTION: Motion by Jones, supported by Voigt to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Monday, May 2, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Council Member Bates	Aye
	Council Member Jones	Aye
	Council Member Henry	Aye
	Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
	Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A. None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A) Resolution to Request Funding from the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Jones to approve the submission of an application for \$250,000 in MDOT funding to remove and replace concrete roadways within a portion of Harbour Pointe, and to also approve matching funds and coverage of engineering costs on the city's behalf in the total amount of \$320,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Council Member Bates	Aye
	Council Member Jones	Aye
	Council Member Henry	Aye
	Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
	Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

B) DPW Log Updates

1. Updates to the activity logs utilized by the Department of Public Works were presented to Council by Deputy City Manager McLean.

C) Discussion - Sanitation Fund Rates

1. The proposal to increase resident sanitation rates was presented by City Manager Robinson
2. Resident Chris Lauth stated that the sanitation services provided to the city's residents are much more convenient than other communities', and at a lower rate.
3. Resident Mike Renaud stated that he believes that competitors don't come in with competitive bids because they don't want to encroach on other companies' territories.
4. Resident Tom Fielder stated that the city has always had a good relationship with Republic Waste Services, the city's sanitation service provider.

MOTION: Motion by Jones, supported by Voigt to approve a sanitation rate increase beginning July 1, 2022, with future rate changes to be assessed annually.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Council Member Bates	Aye
	Council Member Jones	Aye
	Council Member Henry	Aye
	Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye

Motion Carried.**D) Discussion – Possible Rescheduling of June Budget Meeting**

1. Council Members discussed and agreed to reschedule the June Budget Meeting to Monday, June 6, 2022, at 6 p.m.

E) Discussion – BORA DORA District

1. Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt re-opened a discussion regarding the BORA DORA district in reference to Pastor White of Grace Baptist Church's concerns, and wanted to make it clear that the City Council Members were listening.
2. Pastor White reiterated his concerns about the district:
 - i. People enjoying the district are often cutting across his property and leaving litter behind
 - ii. Doesn't understand why the district has to run alongside area churches and a public park.
 - iii. Stated that the Belleville First United Methodist Church is in agreement with his views.
3. Resident Chris Lauth inquired as to how similar districts in other areas are working, and if they are having any issues.
4. City Manager Robinson made the following comments:
 - i. Other communities with outdoor refreshment areas are not having any issues.
 - ii. No citations for violations or arrests for disorderly conduct have been issued or taken place in Belleville's BORA DORA district since its establishment.
 - iii. Understands the churches' viewpoints, but noted that the feelings of the community as a whole must be taken in to consideration.
5. Council Member Henry agreed that the churches should be exempt from being a part of the district, but believes removing Horizon Park from the district would have a negative impact on Lake Fest.
6. Resident Tom Fielder questioned why the city is okay with allowing Horizon Park to be a part of the district, when they had previously declared the city's parks as alcohol-free zones.
7. Fire Chief Loranger noted that shutting down the BORA DORA district would not prevent someone from becoming intoxicated at a local establishment and then walking to the park.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

MOTION: Motion by Voigt, supported by Jones to approve **Resolution #22-042** authorizing Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Council Member Bates	Aye
	Council Member Jones	Aye
	Council Member Henry	Aye
	Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt	Aye
	Mayor Conley	Aye

Motion Carried.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- City Manager Robinson noted that he did follow up on all of the items asked of him by Council.
- Noted that it appears the city will once again receive the Summer Youth Grant from Wayne County Mental Health, in the approximate amount of \$40,000. He hopes to hire around 10 workers, ages 14-26.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- Council Member Jones
 - Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
 - Noted that the last day of school for Belleville High School seniors is Thursday, May 19th, with their graduation ceremony being held on Thursday, May 26th at Eastern Michigan University.
- Council Member Henry
 - No comments.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt
 - Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
 - Commented that the discussions at the meeting were good.
 - Noted that a new batch of Belleville High School senior banners are expected to be hung around June 4th.
- Council Member Bates
 - Noted that good conversation was had at the meeting, and believes that discussions like those had are beneficial to the community.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Mayor Conley provided an update in regards to the Highland Park/GLWA water debt situation, stating that the State has stepped in and made progress, such as informing Highland Park that they are solely responsible for the repayment of their debt(s) to GLWA. She also noted that several other communities, in addition to Belleville, have held their water payment funds in escrow accounts.
- Congratulated all graduating seniors, and noted that over \$850,000 in scholarships were given out to seniors at Belleville High School last week.
- Noted that the Lacrosse Senior Night is Tuesday, May 17th, and it will also be the lacrosse team's last home game of the season.
- Sought input from residents on the possibility of changing water billing cycles from the current bi-monthly schedule.
 - Residents in attendance responded that they are pleased with the current cycle, but many stated that they would like to have an auto-pay option for their bills.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Tom Fielder
 - Reminded everyone that the due date for the Belleville Area Museum survey is June 1st.
 - Reminded everyone that the Monday Night Car Show and the Belleville Farmer's Market both begin on June 6th.
- Mike Renaud
 - Reminded everyone that the flag placement for Veteran graves in Hillside Cemetery will take place on Saturday, May 21st at 8:30 a.m.
- Chris Lauth
 - Mentioned that he had heard that State Senator Erika Geiss is holding a Pagan festival in Belleville.
- Council Member Bates
 - Asked if DPW Director Rutherford managed to get anyone to come out and speak at a meeting about PFAS in Belleville Lake.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- None

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Bates, supported by Voigt to adjourn at 9:09 p.m.
No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Briana Hootman / City Clerk

Approved: 6/6/22

Posted: 6/7/22

Published: 6/9/22