

BEXLEY CITY COUNCIL
Jeffrey McClelland, President
Ben Kessler, Matt Lampke, Mark Masser,
Jed Morison, Richard Sharp and Rick Weber

MINUTES
Tuesday, December 20th, 2011
7:00 p.m.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance**
 - II. Roll Call of Members:** President McClelland, Ben Kessler, Matt Lampke, Jed Morison, Richard Sharp and Rick Weber. Mr. Masser was absent.
 - III. Others Present:** Lou Chodosh, Beecher Hale, Bill Harvey, Bruce Langner, Michael Price, Chief Rinehart and Gary Qualmann.
 - IV. Correspondence:** Letter from Ed Remlinger regarding the excellent job the Service Department did to clean up Havenwood Park.
 - V. Presentations/Special Guests:** None
 - VI. Ordinances and Resolutions:**
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A. Finance Committee – Ben Kessler, Chair

Third Readings.

Ordinance 53-11 to amend Chapter 262 (Employees Generally) Sections 262.01 and 262.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bexley, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on November 29, 2011).

Mr. Jeff Storer, 804 S. Remington Road – Mr. Storer said as an employee of the City of Bexley, he understands that Council is under pressure to balance the budget. He asked, once the union negotiations are completed, will the cuts Council are making this evening to the “non-union” employees be made whole and equal?

Mr. Lampke said they could not comment since they are currently in the negotiation process but Council does hear him. Mr. Kessler said there is no standard going forward. We need to re-adjudicate the budget and he realizes it does contain changes that affect the employees. Mr. Weber said he wanted to compliment Mr. Storer in his confidence to go before Council with your concerns. President McClelland asked when the negotiations would be completed. Mr. Chodosh said he is hopeful the process will be complete by February. Mr. Lampke said he did have some concerns regarding the possible reduction

of vacation days. Mr. Kessler said he would like to have further discussion on all of the issues.

262.01 -Bonds – Mr. Kessler said the change reflects eliminating the wording “bonds for employees” since our current property and casualty insurance covers this liability.

262.02 (b) Definitions – added number 9 for “Service Department Supervisors”.

(c) **Bereavement** – discussed possible changes for the future. Mr. Price suggested the possible consideration of employees who have “ex-spouses” who have had children together. He said one of his staff members ran into this situation. Mr. Harvey suggested it be left up to the discretion of the Mayor to handle on a situation basis. Mr. Keyes said there is the need for a “definitive” guideline.

(2) **Clothing Allowance** -Deleted “Police Chief and Captain” uniform limit not exceeding \$1,000 per calendar year.

(C) – Changed wording for Police Executive Assistant to “an annual clothing allowance of \$250.00).

(5) – (B) **Health**- deleted “PPO” definition; changed percentage from 8% to 20% in relation to employee’s portion of premium costs.

(7) (A) – **Longevity pay** – Elimination of the longevity pay schedule and payments for all employees beginning in 2013. All final longevity payments will be made in 2012.

Mr. Morison said he was troubled with the differences in employees’ benefits from an “equity” standpoint. He is concerned about the employees who will not benefit from this section and thinks it is definitely an “equity” issue. Chief Rinehart stated this is an earning potential. Mr. Morison said he is not referring to the police department but he is concerned with the other employees who will definitely lose this benefit. Mr. Kessler said they can’t achieve their goals without parity issues. Chief Rinehart said the City actually consists of three groups: union employees; non-union employees who will be affected now; and the third group would be the F.O.P. Mr. Morison said he is confident that City Council members are concerned with the equity issues. Mr. Kessler said he understands that at the time being it is a breach in equity and hopefully the City will have more parity in the future.

(12) (B) **Sick Leave** – Deleted language allowing employees to receive paid benefits for more than 1,920 hours if not used per calendar year beginning on their anniversary date in 2012.

(13) (A) – **Vacations** – Deleted 1; 2.

Council had previously proposed to change the vacation day accumulation schedule, but Mr. Kessler and other Council members decided after much discussion to **not** change the actual accumulation schedule. Mr. Kessler said he is a firm believer in vacation days are a necessary part of maintaining a healthy, quality life. Mr. Morison suggested “grandfather” in the current employees and leave number of days and payout the same. Mr. Kessler said he thinks the

proposal is reasonable to retain the number of days and add a different schedule for those employees hired after January, 2012. Mr. Qualmann said he thinks this charge is encouraging employees to take time away from work. A lot of these employees are supervisors and they won't be able to get their jobs done. Mr. Chodosh said the administration can come back as well to discuss it if it becomes a problem.

(13) (F) – Council had proposed to eliminate the Tuition Reimbursement for employees. Mr. Weber confirmed with Chief Rinehart that this elimination would not affect the F.O.P. since it was part of their negotiated contract. Chief Rinehart said this assumption was correct. President McClelland stated he had concerns about eliminating this benefit. Mrs. Maynard addressed Council regarding the affect of the elimination of this benefit. She said the “Tuition Reimbursement” benefit requires approval from the supervisor and must be from an accredited college in a program which would benefit the employee’s current position. Mrs. Maynard said she has participated in this program for two years. She asked City Council to reconsideration the elimination of this benefit. Mr. Lampke stated they were working with the budget in order to achieve a goal and unfortunately this is a benefit that needs to be eliminated. Mr. Keyes agreed with Mr. Lampke’s statement and suggested Council continue their discussion in Executive Session. Mr. Kessler did not see a need for Executive Session. Mr. Weber stated that although he did think the benefit needs eliminated, perhaps we could “grandfather” the current employees. All new hires as of 2012 would not be eligible for this benefit. Mr. Kessler agreed and suggested adding a “cap” of \$10,000 to be paid out annually as a total maximum obligation on the part of the City. This would be distributed on a “first come, first serve” basis for employees who are eligible for a maximum of \$4,000 per year. Council members agreed.

The final change was to “grandfather” current employees with a total maximum liability to the City of \$10,000 per year.

(B) Accrual and Carry Over – Eliminated the payout for vacation days not used by the employees. All vacation days must be used by the anniversary date or be lost. No employees will receive compensation in lieu of vacation time. The final payout for unused vacation days will be completed on their anniversary date as of 2012 and will cease effective 2013.

(15) Wellness payment – Elimination of all wellness payments effective after the last earned payment in January 2012.

(16) Fitness Incentive for Police Chief and Police Captain – Eliminated the payment for fitness incentive to Police Chief and Police Captain.

(18) (B) Option to decline group health insurance coverage – Corrected typographical error of “waiverform” to “waiver form”; corrected “Citysupplied” to “City supplied”.

(20) (e) **Part-time, Temporary and Seasonal Employees** – Corrected minor typographical errors.

Mr. Kessler made a motion to amend per discussion. Mr. Lampke seconded the amendment. **Vote 6-0 – AMENDED**

Mr. Kessler made a motion to pass Seconded Amended Ordinance 53-11. Motion was seconded Mr. Weber. **Vote 6-0 PASSED**

Mr. Qualmann said some cost savings have been initiated but when we have a settlement and receive extra revenue that will buy us one additional year. Mr. Kessler said for the first time in 4 years is feels the budget is actually “sane”.

Ordinance 54-11 to substitute Chapter 244, of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Bexley to amend building permit and related review fees pertaining to construction of residential and commercial buildings upon approval of the Building Department, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on November 29, 2011).

Mr. Kessler made a motion for adoption. Motion was seconded by Mr. Weber. **Vote was 7-0 Approved.**

Amended Ordinance 55-11 authorizing appropriations for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2012, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on December 6, 2011).

Mr. Kessler made a motion to approve Amended Ordinance 55-11. Motion was seconded by Mr. Weber. **Vote 6-0 – Amended**

Mr. Kessler made a motion to adopt. Motion was seconded by Mr. Weber. **Vote 6-0 Approved.**

Second Readings.

Ordinance 56-11 to reduce appropriations in the ARRA Fund by \$509,000, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on December 13, 2011).

Mr. Qualmann said this Ordinance is based on a recommendation received from the State Auditor regarding expenditures. Mr. Kessler made a motion to suspend the three reading rule requirement. Motion was seconded by Mr. Weber. **Vote 6-0 Suspended.**

Mr. Kessler made a motion to adopt, Mr. Weber seconded the motion. **Vote 6-0 Approved**

Resolution 23-11 forming and endorsing the Bexley Alternative Revenue Task Force, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on December 13, 2011). **No Action**

First Readings.

Ordinance 57-11 to make supplemental appropriations and to reduce appropriations to various accounts within the Recreation Fund, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on December 20, 2011).

Mr. Price explained this Ordinance was to cover expenses on wages and programs in order to prevent using new monies. He said Mr. Hale said this needed to be in Ordinance form for Council's approval.

Mr. Kessler made a motion to suspend the three reading rule requirement. Mr. Sharp seconded the motion. **Vote 6-0 Suspended**

Mr. Kessler made a motion to adopt Ordinance 57-11. Mr. Weber seconded the motion. **Vote was 6-0 Approved.**

B. Parks and Forestry Committee – Matt Lampke, Chair

Third Readings.

None.

Second Readings.

None

First Readings.

None.

C. Safety Committee– Mark Masser, Chair

Third Readings.

None

Second Readings.

None

First Readings.

None

D. Service Committee – Jed Morison, Chair

Third Readings.

None

Second Readings.

None.

First Readings.

None.

E. Water, Sewer & Drainage Report – Richard Sharp, Chair

Third Readings.

None

Second Readings.

None

First Readings.

None

F. Zoning and Development Committee– Rick Weber, Chair

Third Readings.

None

Second Readings.

None

First Readings.

None

V. Tabled or Referred Legislation –

Ordinance 52-11 to amend Section 232.08 (b) (1) and (2) of the Bexley Codified Ordinances regarding the Budget Stability Fund, introduced by Mr. Sharp (Introduced on November 29, 2011). Tabled 12-20-2011

Mr. Sharp said this Ordinance was not “technically” tabled. He said it was actually the third reading tonight. He did make a motion to Table Ordinance 52-11.

Voice Vote 6-0 Tabled.

VI. Committee Reports

Zoning and Development –Rick Weber, Chair- No Report

Finance & Judiciary – Ben Kessler, Chair - No Report

Parks, Forestry and Recreation- Matt Lampke, Chair- Mr. Lampke said he had no report but wanted to add what a great effort Mr. Kessler and the rest of the Council members and administration had done in achieving \$325,000 toward reducing the deficit. He also wanted to add that both President McClelland and Mr. Morison have done an excellent job over the course of their years as Council Members.

Safety- Mark Masser, Chair- Not present.

Service – Jed Morison, Chair- No Report. Mr. Morison said he has enjoyed his time on City Council and Mr. McClelland provided outstanding leadership. He welcomed Mr. Keyes and Mr. Madison and said he thinks they will be a true asset to the Council.

Water, Sewerage & Drainage- Richard Sharp, Chair – Mr. Sharp said there will be a public meeting to be held on January 4th at 6:00 p.m. concerning the storm water management. He reminded Council of the Menorah Lighting to take place December 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Drexel Circle. He thanked Mr. Morison for his kind words and consistent calmness through his years as a Council Member. He thanked President McClelland for his outstanding leadership.

President's Report – Jeff McClelland- Mr. McClelland wanted to thank the residents of Bexley for supporting him through 5 different elections. He felt honored every day to have the privilege to serve as a City Council member. He congratulated Mr. Keyes and Mr. Madison on their election. He said Council is very lucky to have the citizenry to have people wanting to serve. He said we are just stewards and it is the residents who make the difference. He wanted to thank the private citizens for the passage of Issue 24 and he has been fortunate to serve 20 years as a Council member. He said every year he thinks, "This is the best City Council" group but he truly believes this year truly was the best one yet. He said the intelligence, fortitude and endurance has been superior and he appreciated everyone's hard work this year.

VIII. City Official Reports

John M. Brennan, Mayor- Not present.

Gary Qualmann, Auditor – Mr. Qualmann said that he and Mr. Hale checked to make sure everything was submitted to R.I.T.A. regarding the passage of Issue 24.

Lawrence Rinehart, Chief of Police- Chief Rinehart thanked Council for putting the Detective position back into his budget and doing their due diligence. He wanted to state how much he has enjoyed working with Mr. Morison and Mr. McClelland. Chief Rinehart said they have both represented the residents well and he thanked both of them for their service.

Lou Chodosh, City Attorney- Mr. Chodosh said it has been a pleasure to serve both Mr. Morison and Mr. McClelland.

Bruce Langner, Development Director – No Report.

Mike Price, Parks and Rec. Director- Mr. Price thanked City Council members for their support for the full-time position along with Mr. Morison and Mr. McClelland's service.

OLD BUSINESS- None.

NEW BUSINESS- Mr. Chodosh reminded everyone of the January 3rd meeting at 7:00 p.m. He said he would be more than happy to swear any the new members but if they want to bring someone to swear them in, that is fine too.

REMARKS FROM AUDIENCE:

Adjourned