

BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026
7:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Ben Stahler
PLEDGE & INVOCATION:
ROLL CALL: Palmer *First Chair*
Reser - absent
Springs
Davis
Easton
James
Lile *Minister*

Motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Reser moved by Springs, seconded by James *V Ayes*

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS: none

SUSPENSION READING OF MINUTES: Moved by Springs, seconded by James V Ayes

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mayor - Another police officer was sworn in today.
Fireworks are a week from Friday. Rick Reed is heading up activities. He is having a dunk tank and would like volunteers from City Council. Let Rick know if you are willing to participate.

S/SD- Asks that Council would convene early at next meeting (6:45 pm) for a follow up from our strategic planning. This is the final presentation of the Facilities Master Plan.
Developers are looking at rehabbing some existing multi-family in the city and would like to address Council. They will give a small presentation at the next meeting. (during Service-Safety report)
Continuing the update on recent rainfall and heavy flooding. Heather Harpst has put together an interactive map for the community. It will be on social media and on the website with a link with hotspots of heavy rain issues. Residents can go to the map if they have issues that are not identified on the map, they can fill out a survey with their address. This is information that we can share with the consultants we will have reviewing our storm water system. Will also ask news media to post the link.
Community Market on N. Main St. is closing. As there is not much on that end of town within walking distance north of Sandusky and west of Main, have reached out to Fresh Encounter (parent company) to see what the issues/challenges are for their closing. We will see if we can work along with the Chamber of Commerce to try and recruit some type of market for that part of the community.
Encourages all to come out to the fireworks festivities starting at noon.

Law - No report

Auditor - No report

Police Chief - The department had two dispatch positions open. One dispatcher will still fill that role if needed. The other is Officer Tackett who is retiring. We extended offers to two individuals who are working through remaining steps of the process which include polygraph, background check and psychological testing. Officer Harris graduated from Delaware County Police Academy and is in field training. Zach Trout is also in field training. Will Kelly is graduating soon and will be in field training the end of July. Re-swore in Jade Sheeley who decided to come back full time.
Two are leaving for Highway State Patrol Academy in August. All said, with movement/hiring, we will just break even in the department and there are multiple retirements coming up.
The 3 cruisers ordered in March have been delivered and will be outfitted at public safety. One cruiser had a tree come down and it was destroyed. The officer was uninjured. Order for a full replacement has been ordered through insurance.
Will miss the next meeting to be at a training fully paid for by the government for a command course at the FBI Academy in Quantico.
Chicken dinner tickets will soon be available for August 15th.

Fire Chief – Not present

Engineer- Not present
Utilities- Not present
Parks & Rec- Not present
Code Enf- No report
Downtown Dir- In two weeks we will have sidewalk sales. Raffle basket will be available.
Pineapple Palooza will be on July 25th. We will be sharing downtown with the Holland Theater Film Festival event. Always looking for volunteers.
August 6th will be the Taste of Bellefontaine. East Columbus, North Main to Madriver, for off site location and also store front locations.
Economic Dev- Not present

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance – Explained resolution and ordinance on the agenda.
Rules - Explained ordinance on the agenda.
Safety - No report
Utilities - Committee will meet at 8:30 am tomorrow in Council Chambers to continue discussion on city trash/recycling as well as any other issues that come before the committee.
Streets - No report
Sidewalks, Curbs & Parks -No report
Audit – No report

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS: Cathy Williamson, 1709 Cythia Lane, Maris Park, lived there for 7 months with constant ponding and flooding in her back yard. Jeremy LeVan is the only one who has tried to help. Concerned that the ground is so saturated that a dump truck got stuck in the driveway. Spent \$400,000.00 on the home. No one will help. Water keeps draining on her property. Was told to put fence up high or made of vinyl because the water needs to run through her property. Her 90 year old mom lives with her. Has contacted Arbor Homes and the city and no one cares or will help. Two older dogs who need a yard and need a fence. Sent email to Jim Bischoff. More emails, more ignoring.

Howard Traul, 1324 Omaha Rd, here to speak in opposition to ordinance allowing golf carts on city streets. 15 years ago, as the Law Director along with the former Police Chief, helped keep these off the city streets for significant safety concerns. The safety of our streets has gotten no better, in fact has gotten worse with more trucks, more traffic and kids on electric bikes. We are not a small resort town and we do not need people driving golf carts from one end of town to the other end trying to cross busy streets and highways. Are the golf carts supposed to be on the side of the road or are we going to be following golf carts around at 15-20 mph? The police have better things to do than police golf carts and golf cart accidents. Police Chief and Service Safety Director also have concerns about the safety matter and would vote no on this ordinance. Asks that Council have common sense regarding these safety issues and keep golf carts and slow moving vehicles off the streets.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. ORDINANCES FOR 1ST READING

R26-30	A.	A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE POLICE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A 2026 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT TO PURCHASE REPLACEMENT TASERS.	FINANCE
	Adoption-	Moved by Springs, seconded by James	V Ayes
26-31	B.	AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SECTION 331.46 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO AUTHORIZING LOW-SPEED, UNDER-SPEED UTILITY VEHICLES AND MINI-TRUCKS WITHIN SAID CITY.	RULES
3RR-		Moved by James, seconded by Springs	V Ayes, Easton-no

Passage-
Adoption-

2. ORDINANCES FOR 2ND READING

- 26-28 A. AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR PURPOSES OF PARKS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

3RR- Moved by Springs, seconded by James
Passage-
Adoption-

V Ayes

3. ORDINANCES FOR 3RD READING

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CLERK: Received a transfer liquor request from Speedway 3540 649 Midlothian Blvd, Youngstown, OH to 7 Eleven Speedway, 1330 US Hwy 68 N, Bellefontaine

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: Mrs. Palmer comments that the Parks Department did a great job with the Chieftain Classic this weekend. The fields looked pristine and groomed. Mr. Reed and his teams presence made a big difference.

Mr. Stolly adds congratulations on the Chieftain 13U and 14U tournament wins.

Mr. Lile attended the Senior Center meeting. Someone had run over their parking sign and he replaced it for them.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:05 moved by Lile, seconded by Palmer

Bonnie Campbell, Clerk of Council

Ben Stahler, President of Council