

BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026
7:30 pm

7:15 PM – PUBLIC HEARING-To consider a rezoning request submitted by Robert and Lanetta Crockett, owners of 514 W. Sandusky Ave., parcel #17-091-11-04-011-000. The northern half of the parcel is currently zoned R2. Asking for the property to be zoned B1.

Mr. Dodds speaks to the rezoning request and adds that the Planning Commission is in favor of the rezoning request.

Mr. Bishoff handed out a map of the property (copy att to clerk's official minutes) The zoning is split half B1 and half R2.

No one here in opposition of the rezoning.

CALL TO ORDER:

Ben Stahler

PLEDGE & INVOCATION:

ROLL CALL:

Springs

First Chair

Davis - absent

Easton

James

Lile

Palmer

Reser

Minister

Motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Davis moved by James, seconded by Reser

V Ayes

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS: In the Code Enforcement report, the 4th demo should have been listed as W. Jay Street, not Jennings Street.

SUSPENSION READING OF MINUTES:

V Ayes

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mayor - Recommendation for Joe Antram and Sherry Wilkins to a 3 year term on the Shade Tree Commission, *Motion to appoint Joe Antram and Sherry Wilkins to a 3 year term on the Shade Tree Commission moved by Palmer, seconded by James*

V Ayes

Recommendation for Jacob Schroeder to a 5 year term on the Board of Building Code Appeals *Motion to appoint Jacob Schroeder to a 5 year term on the Board of Building Code Appeals moved by James, seconded by Easton*

V Ayes

S/SD- In 1991 a friendship agreement was signed by Mayor Vicario, City of Bellefontaine and Mayor Ibi of Suzuka, Japan. Reads the pact that was signed. This our 35th year of the friendship pact and Wednesday students of Japan will be here to visit. They will be at the city building on Thursday. All are invited to attend at 8:45 am. Hands out a challenge coin to Council that will be given to the students.
Speaks to Resolution R26-33 concerning the CRA agreement project application for Christina Bellefontaine LLC and the city, requesting a tax abatement for significant renovations that will be done at Deercreek Apartment Complex. Invites Mr. Justin Spillers, 143 Northcrest Drive, Minster, Ohio, here to explain his company and CRA agreement for 15 years use to make improvements. Questions are answered.

Law -

No report

Auditor -

Not present

Police Chief -

Swore in one new officer that started this week. He is completing administration work and will start field training soon.

Mayor will swear in two candidates within the next two weeks that will then go to the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy in late August. Lost one officer to retirement and will lose two more officers to retirement in January.

Received one unmarked car back. The cruiser that was crushed by a tree has a build date of September and will be updated/received by the end of the year.

Missed the last council meeting for National Command Course Session 9 in Quantico, Virginia.

Completely paid for by them. It was a busy week, great training with great instructors.

Concerning the ordinance for golf carts that was tabled by Mrs. James, receiving comments daily from citizens. Can see both perspectives but not in favor of this as overall it will be a lot to manage and take care of as we are struggling with staffing.

Canine Chicken BBQ, August 15th, tickets are \$15.00. Last week for pre sale.

National Night Out will be held August 4th at Brown Park at 6:00 pm. Thanks the Citizens Police Academy for their leadership/planning this event.

Fire Chief – Update on the ladder truck that will be down for quite some time. Leak test was done on cylinder 1 and 6. Exhaust valve on cylinder 6 was broken off and cylinder 1 had glazing issues. These are Cummins issues and will be taking care of under warranty.

Engineer- No report

Utilities- Not present

Parks & Rec- Not present

Code Enf- No report

Downtown Dir- Downtown was busy with Pineapple Palooza on Saturday. Sold over 500 tickets with visitors from Logan County, all across Ohio and out of state. Positive feedback from retailers and the community. Thanks volunteers who helped with the event.

August 6th will be Taste of Bellefontaine with 13 restaurants and retailers participating. Tickets are available.

Economic Dev- Not present

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance – Explains resolution on the agenda

Rules - Explains ordinance on the agenda

Safety - No report

Utilities - No report

Streets - No report

Sidewalks, Curbs & Parks -No report

Audit – No report

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS: Barry Clayton, 121 Maple, here concerning E bikes and explains the State laws involved including helmet requirements, engines on sidewalks, age requirements and speed limits. His concern is kids riding on sidewalks, no helmets, speeding/driving reckless, riding double. His golf cart has been inspected by the sheriff department. It has headlights, brake lights, seat belts, turn signals, a horn, tags and registration. There are lawn mowers on streets and there is an ordinance against this. Suggests E Bikes should be inspected. His cart is street legal and not asking to drive on 68. Side streets only. Marysville, Kenton, Sidney, Urbana all allow golf carts with no problems.

Maria Bonzs, 9835 Cemetery Rd, DeGraff, registered nurse employed by MRH in the emergency room. Here concerning assault by emergency room patients. Incidence of violence is increasing. No one is helping to change this. Asking for collaboration by law enforcement, council and members of the MRH board to help change this.

Morgan Watkins, 417 Bell Meadows Dr., here as an emergency nurse employed by MRH asking for basic protection, meaningful security measures, adequate staffing, multiple security personnel, effective screening processes, clear zero tolerance policies for workplace violence enforced, accountability and resources to protect both staff and patients.

Tara Davis, 110 E. Buckeye St., Belle Center, here as an emergency nurse employed by MRH, asking for basic protection and to stop workplace violence. As a union leader, reaches out to colleagues to offer comfort and concern to make sure they have the resources they need following an incident of workplace violence. Over the last 6 months have had to make far too many of these calls and have witnessed local police and prosecutors refusing to take action after these assaults. Police have said they have been instructed by the prosecutors not to arrest any patients who assault nurses unless they cross a line because they want hospital staff to do their jobs. There is only one security officer for all MRH buildings. ONA has repeatedly asked to meet with the Prosecutor, but those requests have been ignored. Asks for Council help to bring together our front line nursing staff, hospital security staff, hospital leadership, police and prosecutors to work together to identify and implement

changes.

Mayor Stahler comments that we can all relate to the stories, issues and concerns. The legislative body that you have come before makes rules for the city but we do not have a tie to MRH. These are great suggestions, but MRH has to add more security. This legislative body does not control any of the people that you have listed in those solid suggestions. Before anymore shared remarks, this body cannot legislate or make a local law that would change this environment. These are very well prepared and heart felt remarks, it is our job to point you in the right direction to get the best action.

Rick Lucas, 3510 Sulfur Rd, Columbus, President of the Ohio Nurses Association., handed out a packet including MRH Workplace Violence Incident report and the 2026 ONA Workforce Safety Report (att to Clerk's official minutes) With all due respect, city council can pass an ordinance around workplace violence as a possible solution like the City of Cleveland has done. The nurses at MRH are facing an unacceptable level of work place violence. On February 5th ONA notified MRH Chief Operating Officer of serious safety concerns in writing including inadequate screening and about the lack of coordination between the hospital leadership, hospital security, law enforcement and the prosecutors office. We have repeatedly reached out seeking collaboration and solutions. Instead we have been met with silence and inaction. Asking City Council to convene a meeting within the next two weeks and to insure hospital leadership, front line nurses, health professionals, their union representatives, law enforcement, prosecutors, city administration are at the same table to develop a coordinated plan that improves communication, strengthens prevention, insures timely responses to violent incidents and restores confidence that these care givers will be protected. Asking that the leaders of this community do their part.

Mayor Stahler asks if Mr. Dodds or Police Chief Marlow will respond to their invitation to meet. Mr. Dodds responds that safety and well being are paramount concern for everyone, nurses as well as our first responders. We take these concerns seriously. Prosecutor Welsh did respond, asked for more details to investigate the incidents and none were given. We remain willing to have a conversation with the hospital. One meeting has already taken place with Chief Marlow's staff and hospital administration. Mr. Dodds will gladly meet with the hospital to understand what the concerns are on each side and how we can best protect one another and the community.

Cathy Williamson, 1709 Cynthia Lane, here to hand out documents concerning water issues at Maris Park (copy att to clerk's official minutes). Arbor Homes responds that the reason there is not proper storm drainage is that the city did not approve Arbor Homes to connect to city storm water system. Have submitted the approved Logan County Civil Engineering plans for Maris Park. Have sent 15 pages of warranty claims to Arbor Homes. Asks that the city work with Arbor Homes to correct the storm water issue. Asks for the development to stop. Also hands a copy of petition with signatures to Council.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. ORDINANCES FOR 1ST READING

R26-33 A. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BELLEFONTAINE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA PROJECT APPLICATION OF KRISTINA BELLEFONTAINE LLC AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT WITH SAID APPLICANT AND DIRECTING THE HOUSING OFFICER AND CITY AUDITOR TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO EFFECTUATE THE TAX EXEMPTIONS GRANTED THEREIN.

FINANCE

Adoption- Moved by Springs, seconded by James

V Ayes-Easton-no
Lile-no
Palmer-no
Reser-no

26-34 B. AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 709.38 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE APPROVING AND ASSENTING TO THE DETACHMENT OF CERTAIN TERRITORY OWNED BY LOGAN COUNTY FROM THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RULES

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

V Ayes

2. ORDINANCES FOR 2ND READING

3. ORDINANCES FOR 3RD READING

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CLERK:

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL:

ADJOURNMENT – 8:37 pm moved by Lile, seconded by Palmer

Bonnie Campbell, Clerk of Council

Ben Stahler, President of Council