BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026
7:30 pm

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

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS: none
SUSPENSION READING OF MINUTES: Moved by Springs, seconded by James V All Ayes

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mayor - Went to Hilliard along with Councilman Easton, Davis and President Stahler to visit their Data Center and Economic Development. Handed out a packet from Ohio Contractor magazine (copy att to Clerk's official minutes) with claims and facts regarding data centers.
One week until voting day. Encourages all to get out and vote.

S/SD- Mitigation efforts include working at the retention pond at White Pines and Red Pines to remove a berm between the two ponds**.** Removed approximately 1800-2000 cubic yards of dirt to add substantial water holding. Also reworked the outflow.
Construction on the earthen dam is underway on Michigan Ave. Where the existing wall had failed, we will put an earthen dam 10 feet wide by 7 feet tall. Also, will do drainage work on the resident side.
Leaf pick up started this week through November 4th and until snow removal begins.
Asks for an Executive Session, after the regular session, to discuss the potential sale of city owned real estate.
Passed out United Way donation forms and invites all to the Annual Chili Cook Off in Fire Station Bay on Thursday at 11:30 am.

Motion to have an executive session following our regular session to discuss the potential sale of city owned real estate moved by Reser, *seconded by* James *V All Ayes*

Law - No report
Auditor - No report
Police Chief - The replacement cruiser has been delivered and is at Public Safety. It will be 6-8 weeks to get it fully upfitted.
Sergeant's process is ongoing with 8 applications. After the written portion, 5 remain and move on to an assessment conducted by the Ohio Association of Police Chiefs on November 7th.
Lieutenant process has begun, with 2 of 4 eligible applicants. They are still in the first phase, written phase concludes Nov. 3rd then onto the interview phase.
Officer Walters is officially retired as of last Friday the 23rd.

Fire Chief – Truck 21 is home and in service as of yesterday evening.
Picked up our new Medic 23. In process of pulling radios and equipment from old Medic 23.
No updates on Engine 21. The head is off of the engine and updates should come soon.
Zach Verigo, newest firefighter, is getting through his probationary packet.
Questions answered.

Engineer- The berm at Michigan Ave. is 10 feet wide at the top slopes to 5 feet at the ground. This will go between the existing wall and the current pond. We will remove the water barrier after completion of the barrier.
Utilities- Not present
Parks & Rec- Not present
Code Enf- Not present
Downtown Dir- Pumpkin Walk successful with 350 tickets sold. 400-500 visitors came to the event downtown.
The Santa Shed is opening November 20, 21, 22. Santa is coming to town on November 22nd. Our

Christmas Parade is on December 4th. Still accepting parade float entries. Carriage rides will start after.

Economic Dev- Tomorrow we will be submitting for the next phase of the Site Ohio Program with 3 properties that were asked to participate in this next round, Peak Industrial Park, Link Industrial Park and the land just south of the railroad off CR 32. The list of properties will be shared with Jobs Ohio and their consultant. We expect to hear back by the end of this year.
Columbus will be receiving its first direct flight to Europe. Lufthansa Airlines will be flying to Frankfort. This comes as Bayer, a large German Company, is making a $2 billion investment in New Albany.
Encourages all to sign up for the Regional ED 411 event on December 2nd at the Hyatt Regency, downtown Columbus. Link was sent this afternoon for sign up.
Questions answered.
Also, Center Point was purchased by National Fuel and working on getting a meeting with them.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance – Explained ordinances on the agenda.
Rules - Explained ordinances on the agenda
Safety - Explained ordinance/resolution on the agenda
Utilities - Regular scheduled meeting for tomorrow has been rescheduled for November 4th at 8:30 am in Council Chambers for continued discussion of refuse and storm water drain issues.
Sidewalks, Curbs & Parks -No report
Streets - No report
Audit – No report

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS: Shawn Stevens, 1601 Raymond Ave., here to offer a sincere thank you to Mr. Dodds, City Council, Mrs. Palmer, and Mr. Bischoff for the work done on the water solutions at Maris Park and Whispering Pines.
Howard Traul, 1324 Omaha Rd., here concerning Ordinance 26-50 for low speed/golf carts. Believes Council should not pass this ordinance due to concern for the general public and the undue work put on the Police Department. We should not endanger the vast majority of our citizens to pander to a small minority of recreational activity. Asks Council to vote no on this ordinance. Commends the Administration and Law Director for the revision of this ordinance to make it more restrictive. On the map of collective streets that are not to be used by golf carts, Garfield Ave. is shown in red but not referred to in the text of the ordinance. Also, should add some other collective streets, such as Lake, Columbus and other main streets if this is passed to limit to only neighborhood activity. Asks that the committee tighten the ordinance a bit more.
Bernie Ivan, 1009 N. Park St., here to thank Mr. Bischoff for coming to their neighborhood and being very responsive to the flooding issues. Also concerning the golf cart ordinance, people who own golf carts usually own a car. So for the people that own golf carts they already have the means to get around town. But this comes with the expense/risk to other citizens. Asks Council respectively to vote no on Ordinance 26-50.
Sarah Warren, 1705 TR 185, here as a candidate for family court judge.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. ORDINANCES FOR 1ST READING

26-52 A. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES FOR USE IN 2027 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

3RR- Moved by Springs, seconded by Davis V Ayes, James-abstain
Re: affects family business

Passage-
Adoption-

26-53 B. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO FLOOD MITIGATION EFFORTS AND AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INCREASED WATER STORAGE CAPACITY OF THE MICHIGAN DETENTION FACILITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

3RR-	Moved by Springs, seconded by Davis	V All Ayes
Passage-	Moved by Springs, seconded by Davis	V All Ayes
Adoption-	Moved by Springs, seconded by Davis	V All Ayes

26-54 C. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SERVICE SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR FIRE CHIEF TO ENTER INTO A GRANT WRITING AGREEMENT AND TO APPLY FOR A FISCAL YEAR 2026 SAFER GRANT FOR THE HIRING OF SIX FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

3RR-	Moved by Springs, seconded by Davis	V All Ayes
Passage-		
Adoption-		

R26-55 D. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE LOGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LOGAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, VILLAGE OF RUSSELL'S POINT AND THE VILLAGE OF WEST LIBERTY REGARDING LOGAN COUNTY UNIFIED DRUG TASK FORCE AND MUTUAL AID AND DISTRIBUTION OF FORFEITED PROPERTY AND MANDATORY FINES. **SAFETY**

Adoption-	Moved by Palmer, seconded by Reser	V All Ayes

2. ORDINANCES FOR 2ND READING

26-50 A. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SECTION 331.46 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO AUTHORIZING LOW-SPEED, UNDER-SPEED UTILITY VEHICLES AND MINI-TRUCKS WITHIN SAID CITY. **RULES**

Motion to amend in Section 1B at the end of the paragraph that ends in Route US 68 by pass to add the sentence "for purposes of clarification, Main St. between Sandusky Ave. and Palmer Ave. is not a prohibited route" moved by James, *seconded by* Davis *V All Ayes*

3RR-	Moved by James, seconded by Springs	V Ayes, Reser-no Easton-no Lile-no
Passage-		
Adoption-		

26-51 B. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 509.11 SOUND AMPLIFYING DEVICES AND LOUD NOISES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO. **RULES**

3RR-	Moved by James, seconded by Springs	V All Ayes
Passage-		
Adoption		

3. ORDINANCES FOR 3RD READING

26-45 A. AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT THE 2026 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **RULES**

Adoption-	Moved by James, seconded by Springs	V All Ayes

26-46 B. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PAY RATE FOR BELLEFONTAINE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SEASONAL SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER **SAFETY**

Adoption- Moved by Palmer, seconded by James V All Ayes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CLERK: none

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: Mrs. Palmer-the Shade Tree Commission met this past week to sift through their nominees for the 2026 Beautification Award and they have made a selection and will be announcing this week.
Mr. Lile has tickets for this Saturday for the Logan County Republican Pancake Breakfast, $10, from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. Kids under 16 are free. At the Masonic Lodge.
Law Director Stolly reminds all that Council will historically only have 3 meetings remaining for the year. There will be a lot of legislation for the next 3 meetings. Next agenda will be packed with year end legislation including compensation packages for city employees for 2027. Points out for the media and for the public you will hear that administration salaries and elected official salaries that will be on there because every year they need to be repassed but elected officials cannot vote in pay raises for themselves. Most have had the same pay rate for the last 4 years and there will not be pay raises for those individuals. But there will be pay increases for the hard working men and women in the various departments of the city.
President Stahler asks that any members of Council please let him know if you are unable to attend a meeting.
Mr. Davis states he will be absent for the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-8:10 pm
Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of sale of city owned real estate to include Administration, Council and Clerk moved by James, *seconded by* Palmer *V All Ayes*

Motion to return to regular session for the purpose of adjournment moved by Reser, *seconded by* James *V All Ayes*

ADJOURNMENT – 8:25 pm moved by Lile, seconded by Reser V All Ayes

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Bonnie Campbell, Clerk of Council Ben Stahler, President of Council