

**BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025
7:30 pm**

CALL TO ORDER: Zeb Wagner
PLEDGE & INVOCATION:
ROLL CALL: Baker *First Chair*
Davis
Fitzpatrick
James
Reser
Springs
Aler *Minister All Present*

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

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mayor - A week ago presented Jason Duff a key to the city recognizing his efforts to invest and promote Bellefontaine and investing in our downtown. At that meeting store owners asked if council has visited many of the stores downtown. They are inviting all to visit stores and meet with the store owners. They also want to have a possible meet and great with council and business owners. Friday there will be a team building picnic from noon to 2:00 pm. Council is invited.

S/SD- Busy agenda with ordinances for utilities and Utility Committee. Several for staffing for the Tax Department concerning bringing income tax back in house after getting rid of RITA. Conducted interviews for this last week and had two very qualified candidates. So will ask for 1st and final on the first 3 ordinances to get things going and offers made. Amber Palmer, Code Enforcement Officer has been busy. There are demolitions for condemned buildings including 101 N. Elm, 300 N. Detroit and 305 E. Sandusky. Parking issues that warrant further discussion including Lot #6 on the corner of W. Columbus and Detroit. One suggestion is to consider what is free vs rentals. Numerous complaints from residents on Terrence Dr. visibility issues due to on-street parking. Asks that President Wagner assign to committee.
President Wagner assigns these two issues to Mr. Aler and the Street Committee

Law - Had a call today with RITA Tax Authority. As Council knows we have elected to move away from them effective the 1st of 2026. We need to get going as soon as possible to make those critical hires. Urges Council to pass on 1st and final. In the conversation with RITA it was discussed concerning the 185 open cases that they have for judgements against past due income tax. We are working to resolve how the city will take over those cases and move forward. These new employees will be critical in that department.

Auditor- No report

Police Chief - Previously had conducted a round of candidate interviews for police officer. We have extended conditional offers to two candidates. These were conditional on the successful completion of the remaining process which includes background check, polygraph and psychological and physical examination. They are both moving through this process. It was a very successful Canine Chicken Dinner. Thanks to everyone for their support. A little over \$8000.00 was raised to support the Canine Unit.

Fire Chief – Two firefighters were graduating the academy. One did not complete testing successfully. So one has moved through the academy. Engine #22 is out of service. It is currently at Stoops in Lima with wiring issues. This is the primary engine, but due to some issues, we have made it the secondary engine. Updates are due from Stoops on Engine #22 shortly. Swore in Vince Wolf as our newest Asst. Chief. He has been serving this role as an intern since December. We have two new paramedics who have passed their exam in the National Registry and 1 still to take his exam in the next week or two. Made a conditional offer to one of our interview candidates.

Engineer- No report
Utilities- No report
Parks & Rec- Not present
Economic Dev- Thursday is the Joint Union, Logan, Dublin Impact Breakfast 8-9:30 in Marysville at their Economic Development office. Speakers include Transportation Research Center, Honda and the Beta District 33 Smart Corridor will be providing updates.
Downtown Dir- Not present

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance – Explained ordinances on the agenda
Rules - Explained ordinances on the agenda
Safety - Explained ordinances on the agenda
Utilities - The Utility Committee met last Wednesday. Explained ordinances on the agenda
Streets - The Committee will meet and follow up on parking lot #6 and the Terrence St. situation.
Sidewalks, Curbs & Parks -No report
Audit – The 2024 Audit Report was filed on August 14th. We are waiting for it to be approved and then it will be released.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS: Diane Hager, 1105 Milligan Rd., here to question the plan to co-mingle the sheriff and police department dispatchers. This would not be in our best interest to do so. The citizens will get better, quicker response if we keep the dispatchers separate. Another concern is raising taxes to pay for this group to support the city and the county. Response time is very important and we need to keep them separate.

Annexation is great but a lot of homes are getting built and these new areas are getting a 10 year tax abatement on their properties. These homes that are being built will not be paying tax for the schools for 10 years. Asks Council why are we doing this for these new homes?

Katheren Clark, 337 Colton Ave., concerned about the traffic on Colton. Appreciates the police presence on their street. There are a lot of speeders and they use this for a cross street from Main Street to Ludlow. There are small children, disabled citizens, teens riding skateboards and young bicyclists that don't wear helmets. A red SUV came within less than a foot and almost hit a child on a tricycle. Asks for Council consideration for a stop sign at the corner of Colton and Clark like there used to be.

Her second concern is downtown parking. It is difficult to back out on Main Street because of the angle parking. There are large trucks and mini vans that make it hard to see and back out. Asks Council to consider large vehicles should have their own parking lot instead of parking on Main St.

Ben Volrath, 132 Lakewood Dr. speaks to the Tax Abatement issue. Our city has worked hard to track more housing in. It was a 12 year abatement if you built more than 6 homes. The City revised that back in December so that future developments are 5 years tax abatement for individuals and multiple builds. This is available to any resident. There is an abatement for remodeling also. Lots of communities in Logan County are asking how we got housing started. West Liberty, Lakeview, Russells Point and a portion of Stokes Township have approved residential property abatements to attract new housing.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. ORDINANCES FOR 1ST READING

25-59 A. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CREATING A SECOND FULL-TIME TAX SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE BELLEFONTAINE TAX DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR AND SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO HIRE SAID SECOND TAX SUPERINTENDENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

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

25-60 B. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CREATING A NEW FULL-TIME REVENUE COLLECTION SPECIALIST FOR THE BELLEFONTAINE TAX DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR AND SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO HIRE SAID REVENUE COLLECTION SPECIALIST AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

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

25-61 C. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SERVICE WORKERS PAY SCALE TO INCLUDE COMPENSATION FOR REVENUE COLLECTION SPECIALIST. **FINANCE**

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

25-62 D. AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY/ REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO, CONTAINING 143.138 ACRES, OWNED BY ANDREW G. DETRICK AND BARBARA DETRICK, LOCATED IN HARRISON TOWNSHIP ADJACENT TO THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO, ESTABLISHING ZONING CLASSIFICATION THEREFORE, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **RULES**

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

25-63 E. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISION OF CHAPTER 923 WATER OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **UTILITIES**

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

25-64 F. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISION OF CHAPTER 925 SEWERS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **UTILITIES**

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

2. ORDINANCES FOR 2ND READING

25-54 A. AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR PURPOSES OF BELLEFONTAINE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **FINANCE**

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

25-55 B. AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT THE 2025 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **RULES**

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

- 25-58 C. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE SAFETY DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE TO ENTER INTO AN EMERGENCY REPAIR AGREEMENT WITH LEVAN'S EXCAVATING, INC. REGARDING A RUPTURED STORM WATER LINE UNDER CANBY STREET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **UTILITIES**

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

3. ORDINANCES FOR 3RD READING

- 25-50 A. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY AUDITOR TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOGAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO. **FINANCE**

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

- 25-51 B. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CREATING NINE NEW FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC POSITIONS IN THE BELLEFONTAINE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND FIRE CHIEF TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION FOR THE HIRING OF SAID NEW FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDICS. **SAFETY**

Adoption- Moved by Reser, seconded by Davis V Ayes, James-abstain
re: family involvement

- 25-52 C. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CREATING NINE NEW POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS IN THE BELLEFONTAINE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION FOR THE HIRING OF SAID NEW POLICE OFFICERS. **SAFETY**

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

- 25-53 D. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT SET FORTH IN ORDINANCE 86-105 GRANTING TO LOGAN COUNTY COOPERATIVE POWER AND LIGHT ASSOCIATION, INC., ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, THE RIGHT TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE IN THE STREETS, THOROUGHFARES, ALLEYS BRIDGES AND PUBLIC PLACES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO, LINES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY TO PARTS OF SAID CITY AND THE INHABITANTS THEREOF FOR LIGHT, HEAT, POWER AND OTHER PURPOSES AND FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF SAME. **UTILITIES**

Adoption- Moved by Davis, seconded by Fitzpatrick V All Ayes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CLERK: Received a new liquor license request from Bellefontaine Hospitality LLC. Cobblestone Hotel & Suites, Bellefontaine, 171 Dowell Avenue. No objections, this will be mailed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: Mr. Aler speaks to comments on downtown parking concerning vehicles. Mr. Stolly is working on legislation to include ticketing of large vehicles that stick out in traffic and long vehicles should park in lots instead on streets.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick shares that the Farmers Market will be open for 5 more weeks from 8:30 am to noon.
President Wagner will be absent for the 1st meeting in September

ADJOURNMENT – 8:07 pm moved by Fitzpatrick, seconded by Aler

Bonnie Hosier, Clerk of Council

Zeb Wagner, President of Council