

**BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026
7:30 pm**

6:45 PM – FACILITIES MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION

CALL TO ORDER:	Kyle Springs, President Pro Tem
PLEDGE & INVOCATION:	
ROLL CALL:	Reser <i>First Chair Minister</i> Springs Davis -absent Easton James Lile Palmer -absent

Motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Davis, Mrs. Palmer and President Stahler moved by Reser, seconded by James V Ayes

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS: None

SUSPENSION READING OF MINUTES: Moved by Lile, seconded by Reser V Ayes

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Mayor -	Fireworks went off well. Many good comments received including a letter from the school thanking us for the condition that we left the grounds and parking lots. Thanks all the departments that helped out. Our plan is to have fireworks again next year and we will have a planning committee. Success for the community. Thanks for all who helped.
S/SD-	Appreciates all the hard work from all departments, Mr. Reed, Parks Department, Service Department and Safety Services that went into fireworks planning. Thanks them all and the community for coming out to support this. Economic Development work continues. Planning Committee met this afternoon to hear the preliminary plat for the Detrick Property at Lake and 216. The decision was made, at the developers request, to table this until next month to digest information including a traffic impact study. This will give time for learning from previous developments. Questions answered.
Law -	No report
Auditor -	Not present
Police Chief -	Not present
Fire Chief –	New medic unit is still on schedule for August. Have been three weeks without the ladder truck. Completed a round of hose testing, ladder testing and pump testing. As the ladder was returning from this the stop engine light came on. The engine was misfiring and had to be towed to Cummins in Columbus. Replaced cylinders one and six. This did not fix the problem. The head must be removed. The \$4000.00 plus bill is all covered under warranty. <i>Mr. Easton thanks the department for helping his uncle who was overcome by heat at the fireworks.</i>
Engineer-	No report
Utilities-	Not present
Code Enf-	Voluntary Demos that were to happen in June will now start in August. Four in total. Two on S. Detroit, one on E. Chillicothe and one on Jennings.
Parks & Rec-	Fireworks went well. Harmon Field opening was a great success with 200-300 people and continues to be busy. Fred Carter Park is getting a lot of usage. Terry Luntz has spent 100's of hours volunteering to take care of this park. Vineyard Church went above and beyond building foot bridges here also. Excited to see what can be done at this park in the future.
Park Board-	Pat Ellis thanks all for the support of Harmon Field. Next project is the pool. Ready to start taking bids for the first phase of this project.

Mr. Springs adds that it was a nice event and how great it is to see the park when you come into town from that direction.

Downtown Dir- Not present

Economic Dev- Thursday, August 27th is the Annual Joint Business Impact Breakfast with Union County Chamber and Dublin Chamber. Held at the OU Dublin campus from 8:00 to 9:30 am. Contact Mr. Volrath to register. Last week was the deadline to submit to the Ohio Department of Development for Opportunity Zone nominations. We have had an Opportunity Zone covering downtown to US 33 for the past 10 years. This is a federal designation of the United States Treasury Department based on certain demographics and socio economic status of census tracts. These expired at the end of this year. A new wave is up for approval. There are about 1000 eligible census tracts in Ohio, 25% which are able to be certified by the Governor. Columbus region took this on as a project to collect local input, objective data to say which of our census tracts in the region are most likely to be able to obtain investment over the next 10 years. There are two eligible census tracts in Bellefontaine, one on the west side south side and downtown to 33. Both were in the 50 that were submitted. Expectation is one per county but due to the development activity that has been happening in downtown and the purposed committed investments in both census tracts, the region said both were good to go. Appreciate support from Mayor Crissman and SSD Dodds to help move this along. The State of Ohio was announced as the number 1 state for doing business by CNBC. Before Jobs Ohio was formed in 2010 we were number 34 and gradually has improved year after year. Jobs Ohio has made a difference and they will be using this as a major marketing tool.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance – Explained ordinance on the agenda

Rules - Explained ordinances on the agenda. Will ask to table both ordinances (26-32 and 26-31) to make clarity changes.

Safety - No report

Utilities - No report

Streets - Have received several calls from residents and businesses on Sandusky about semi brakes.

Mrs. James adds that this is part of the noise ordinance (Ord. 26-32)

Sidewalks, Curbs & Parks -No report Thanks Mr. Reed and Mr. Ellis for their hard work. Also thanks the Kris Myers family for the ribbon cutting at Harmon Field.

Audit – No report

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS: Curt Peterson, 102 E. Glen, here to speak against the golf cart ordinance. As a retired insurance agent he has experience with golf carts and the consequence of golf carts and vehicles on the roads. Over 23,000 accidents with injuries occur in the United States every year. 40-50% of these drivers are under 16. The average weight of a golf cart is 800-900 pounds while the average weight of a car is 4400 pounds. The typical speed of a golf cart is 12-15 mph with the State of Ohio max speed of a golf cart at 25 mph. Our streets were not built for golf carts. Only 2% of residents on a Peak of Ohio survey are in favor of it. Hands out to council, a petition from citizens against the ordinance. Asks Council to reconsider and vote no.

Cathy Williamson, 1709 Cynthia Lane, Maris Park, here with a petition from her neighborhood residents asking for immediate action for the flooding and drainage problem in Maris Park. Reads the petition. Shows pictures of standing water and property damage from various neighbors. Asks that the city require a permanent, professional engineered drainage solution. Respectfully asking the city for an independent review and to pause any more approvals from the developer. Additional residents have reached out to her from Superior Street who are getting massive flooding from the Ludlow Project. Asks if the city will commit to direct their engineering staff to inspect these drainage problems and determine whether these developments were built accordingly to the approved storm water drainage code and publicly report the findings to the affected residents.

Mr. Lile adds, after looking at the pictures, that this is unacceptable

David Martin, 121 N. Hayes, here to discuss the golf cart issue for safety reasons. We cannot control E bikes let alone golf carts. E Bikes are a huge problem for underage kids and it is becoming a nuisance. We need to take care of the problem of E bikes. Children are at risk. Drivers and parents do not want this. We need to reeducate young people. We are becoming a larger city fast with many more drivers and this is a major concern. Hayes St. is a major problem already as a straight away to the pool and Dairy Queen. Asks that council look into traffic flow issues before we have golf carts driving through town.

Howard Traul, 1324 Omaha Rd., here to ask Council to vote no on the golf cart ordinance. After reviewing a copy of the ordinance this is a proposed solution looking for a problem. If allowed this will be a big problem. There is a good reason that previous councils and administrations did not allow this to move forward. Traffic is much worse now than it was then. Golf carts will go putting around at 15-20 mph with large trucks trying to get around them. Nothing in the ordinance about keeping to the side of the road. This will endanger the whole community's safety. It is the responsibility of Council and Administration to protect the safety of the entire community. Police have higher priorities than to police this situation. Asks that Council not table the ordinance, but to vote no.

Jeremy LeVan, 4198 St. Rt. 68, here as the developer that is getting a lot of calls about the water issue. The storm water was put in with drainage per plan. We are not the ones that are creating the yards after the houses are built. After we leave it in the condition that everything is draining in the catch basins that are there, they dig foundations and throw dirt everywhere and bring in landscapers that move things around, then it is what it is when they leave. After several complaints they brought in a landscape contractor to attempt to rectify the problem, but he bailed on them. They since reached out to Mr. LeVan and he told them he is not a landscaper but would help facilitate them. Found them a contractor to try to help. When the homeowners were shown the lots the swales were already in the lots before any work was done. For anyone to say that the swales were not there is not true. Water has to run through and for someone to think that water is not going to run through a yard is fooling yourself. A lot of people are watering lawns and the water is going to flow behind their homes. Have contacted every resident who has reached out. Home builders are aware but it is a huge corporation. Doing what he can to help. Questions answered.

Travis Erving, 310 S. Main St., Health Commissioner for Logan County Health District, here to speak about the golf cart ordinance and offer a public health and injury prevention perspective for consideration. The primary concern is crash risk. Golf carts are not built with the same safety protections as standard passenger vehicles. When these vehicles share the road with larger vehicles, the occupants of the smaller vehicle are at a significant disadvantage. Adding golf carts and low speed vehicles will create a real potential for serious injury or worse. We recently saw the tragic consequences of a collision involving a slow moving Amish buggy and a distracted driver on a much less crowded county road that resulted in a fatality and multiple injured children. When slow moving vehicles interact with regular traffic those consequences can be devastating. Recognize that the ordinance contains many positive safety measures however the ordinance could be strengthened even more. Recommendations include approved route maps, prohibit these vehicles from truck routes, clarify the language of crossing higher speed roads, seatbelts for every passenger, prohibiting passengers riding in cargo bed or in laps, stronger visibility requirements, headlights in use at all times and no pets. Also recommend a 1 year time period to see how it looks and take a look back on it.

Pat Ellis, 800 Allison, here to acknowledge Jeremy LeVan for all the work he did on Harmon Field.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. ORDINANCES FOR 1ST READING

- 26-32 A. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 509.11 SOUND AMPLIFYING DEVICES AND LOUD NOISES OF THE CONDIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **RULES**

Motion to table for further clarity moved by James, seconded by Reser

V Ayes

2. ORDINANCES FOR 2ND READING

- 26-31 A. 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**

Motion to table for further clarity moved by James, seconded by Reser

V Ayes, Lile-no

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3. ORDINANCES FOR 3RD READING

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

Adoption- Moved by James, seconded by Reser

V Ayes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CLERK: Received a liquor license transfer from Gallery 2 Ten LLC, 684 Fair Rd, Sidney, Ohio to Robbins Nest Home Décor and Gifts LTD, 112 S. Main St. Ste 3, Bellefontaine. If no objections, this will be mailed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL:

ADJOURNMENT – 8:23 pm moved by James, seconded by Lile

Bonnie Campbell, Clerk of Council

Kyle Springs, President Pro Tem