

BELLBROOK CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2009

PRESENT: Mr. Denny Bennett
Mrs. Pat Campbell
Mr. Ralph Fussner
Mr. Joe Ritzel
Deputy Mayor Mike Schweller
Mayor Mary Graves

ABSENT: Mr. Bob Baird

NOTE: This is a summary of the City Council meeting held on Monday, January 12, 2009. A tape recording is kept on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council and is available for review.

Mayor Mary Graves called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll. Mr. Baird was absent this evening.

Mr. Bennett moved to excuse Mr. Baird. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll: Mr. Bennett, yes; Mrs. Campbell, yes; Mr. Fussner, yes; Mr. Ritzel, yes; Mr. Schweller, yes; Mayor Graves, yes. **The motion carried 6-0 and Mr. Baird was excused.**

Mrs. Campbell pointed out that Mr. Fussner was listed as absent from the November 17 meeting rather than herself. There being no additional corrections or additions to the **City Council Meeting minutes of November 17, 2008,** Mr. Bennett moved they be approved as corrected. Mr. Ritzel seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll: Mr. Bennett, yes; Mr. Ritzel, yes; Mrs. Campbell, abstain; Mr. Fussner, yes; Mr. Schweller, abstain; Mayor Graves, yes. The motion carried 4-0 with two abstentions.

There being no corrections or additions to the prior minutes of **December 8, 2008,** **Mr. Bennett moved they be approved as written.** Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll: Mr. Bennett, yes; Mrs. Campbell, yes; Mr. Fussner, yes; Mr. Ritzel, abstain; Mr. Schweller, yes; Mayor Graves, abstain. The motion carried 4-0 with two abstentions.

SPECIAL GUESTS/SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Graves issued the following **Oaths of Offices** to reappointed Board and Commission members:

- **Daniel Brown, Planning Board, 5-year term**
- **Tim Lee, Village Review Board, 3-year term**
- **Dan Tieman, Village Review Board, 3-year term**

Mayor Graves expressed appreciation to all the people who take their time to serve on our boards. Mr. Bennett thanked them for filling difficult jobs.

Mayor Graves presented **Eagle Scout John K. Stevens** with a Certificate of Achievement for his advancement to Eagle Scout. Mayor Graves commented that more Eagle Scouts seem to come out of Bellbrook than any other city. Mr. Bennett said Council was very impressed with John's credentials.

Dale Wilson, Street Superintendent was present to bring City Council and the public up to date on their approach to salt usage for the current winter season. He stated the price of salt had increased this year by 122% and said they were trying to find ways to decrease the use of salt while keeping roads as clear and safe as possible. He reviewed his history and experience and stated that snow removal was not an exact science but rather there were a lot of variables from snow to snow. He said some of the salt savings he could predict would be in cases of large snows, those he would consider plowable. He said the department runs three trucks, dividing the City up into three sections, the north side, the south side and the downtown area and they have enough manpower to run two crews so if there is an enduring snow they can run two crews for 8-10 hours each. He said their policy was to plow curb to curb and plow the streets "until they are black." He said each truck has its own set of streets assigned to it so the drivers know exactly where they are going, what streets are important, where the hills are, where the major roads are and they know they have to get on those first and look after those streets more than anything else they're doing. He said when snow starts to subside they then get on secondary streets and work their way through the City. He said the staff running the salt trucks is very experienced and they also understand the price of salt. Mr. Wilson said they try to get a layer of salt under the snow on every street which allows them to clean the road better once the snow stops. He said that step is what they are going to change to try to save some salt. He said he was never an advocate of pre-salting because of the geographics of Bellbrook being hilly but compact. He said they can get to wherever they need to be quickly. He said he recently got behind each of our trucks and helped the drivers adjust the equipment so they could check the quantity and spread of the salt. What he learned was that they were set very low proving that they have always been conservative with salt. He commented that our City has hills everywhere.

He said what they can do to try **to save some salt is to not put a layer under every snow** on every street ahead of time but rather wait until the snow plowing is done. He said they can cover the entire City with 25 tons or less, which is not that much salt. He said 80% of our salt is used on the main roads.

Mr. Bennett said he felt very privileged to be the Service Committee Chair. Mrs. Campbell also said she appreciates everything the Service Department does.

Mr. Fussner asked if there were different kinds of salt that could be purchased. Mr. Wilson said what we see a lot now is salt brine and he said he wasn't in favor of it because if it is spread on streets and then we have rain vs. ice conditions, the brine simply washes away. Mr. Fussner said cinder ash used to be used as well. Mr. Wilson said they did that, too, years ago but it makes a mess. Mr. Fussner asked at what temperature was salt no longer effective and Mr. Wilson said at 20 degrees the effectiveness dropped off. Mr. Ritzel asked if sand causes the same problem. Mr. Wilson said they had used sand a couple years ago and mixed it with salt but it leaves a mess behind. He said they use sand to weigh the trucks down. Mr. Ritzel asked if not applying salt under a snow would cause more damage to the roads. Mr. Wilson said that would vary under different conditions.

Mr. Schweller said some communities have had a tough time getting salt and asked how our inventory was. Mr. Wilson said we have a good problem in that we have committed to 1000 tons of salt and there are other communities that would like to buy from us if we have a surplus.

Mayor Graves asked if the salt brine was harder on cars than salt and Mr. Wilson said it was not. Mayor Graves asked about beet juice treatment. Mr. Wilson said beet juice was sticky and was supposed to help the salt sticking to the road. He said if the salt was applied correctly, beet juice was not necessary.

Mr. Wilson commented that he has the best crew right now that he has ever had.

Mr. Schlagheck said the only comment he's heard since he's been here is that the department does a great job.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Graves recommended **representatives to Council Committees and Community Boards and Commissions** as they existed for 2008. The Council Committee members and community appointees are on a list that are attached hereto and made a part of this record. Mrs. Campbell moved for approval of the appointments recommended by the Mayor. Mr. Fussner seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll: Mrs. Campbell, yes; Mr. Fussner, yes; Mr. Bennett, yes; Mr. Ritzel, yes; Mr. Schweller, yes; Mayor Graves. The motion passed 6-0.

The delegate for the **Greene County Regional Planning Commission** was tabled until the next meeting of Council.

Mayor Graves congratulated the **Bellbrook High School Band** who recently marched in the Citrus Bowl Parade in Orlando on December 30. They also marched in the Disney Parade on New Years Eve. The band was required to audition and be chosen to participate.

Mayor Graves said she hoped everyone had a **great Christmas and New Years.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES: NONE

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Schweller read **RESOLUTION 2009-A AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO FILE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR REQUEST(S) FOR TADVANCES OF TAXES COLLECTED.**

Mr. Schweller read this Resolution in its entirety. Mr. Schlagheck said tax bills will go out from the County in the next week or so and we won't get final settlement until April so this Resolution allows us to get some of our money up front to spend.

There being no further discussion, **Mr. Schweller moved for the adoption of Resolution 2009-A.** Mr. Ritzel seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll: Mr. Schweller, yes; Mr. Ritzel, yes; Mr. Bennett, yes; Mrs. Campbell, yes; Mr. Fussner, yes; Mayor Graves, yes. The motion carried 6-0.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Schlagheck said we received a letter from the **Greene County Emergency Management Agency** asking us to vote for a candidate for their advisory board to replace James Phipps from Cedarville whose term expired. He said there were three people up for election including Mark Ferrell, Mayor of Jamestown; Gloria Graziano, Village of Spring Valley; and James Phipps, Mayor of the Village of Cedarville. It was the consensus of Council to place our vote for Mark Ferrell, Mayor of Jamestown. The Clerk will submit our vote.

Mr. Schlagheck explained that **State Route 725 has been closed** for about 24 hours because of an accident where somebody struck a utility pole. He said it is still closed but DP&L is working to get it repaired.

Mr. Schlagheck reported that the **Merger Study Commission** had their third meeting last Wednesday night and their next meeting will be February 4 at 7 p.m. at the Sugarcreek Township building. He said they are working toward hiring a consultant for the financial study. He said they are making progress. Mayor Graves thanked Mr. Schlagheck and Mr. Bennett for taking time to go to those meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SERVICE: NONE

SAFETY: NONE

FINANCE/AUDIT: NONE

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Campbell said the Executive Committee of MVRPC, of which she is a member, endorsed the **rankings of the Federal Transportation and Government Services earmarks to be submitted to the Dayton Priority Department and Advocacy Committee** which in turn will present the approved projects to the Dayton Federal Legislation Delegation on March 2, 2009. She said on that list is the Bellbrook/Sugarcreek/Spring Valley Bikeway. She explained that earmarked funding did not mean we would get it right away and the projects would have to have matching funds and would also be part of the transportation bill which will depend on the appropriations passed by Congress.

She said the Committee also sent a letter of support to the State of Ohio for a **primary seatbelt law in Ohio** which means a driver can be ticketed for not having his or her seatbelt law. She explained right now we only have a secondary seatbelt law which means a driver can only be cited if stopped for another reason. She said by doing this, the State will receive a grant of \$26.7 million through the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act Section 406 Committee. She said they will receive that money, if passed, by July 1, 2009 and could enforce it by September, 2009.

Mrs. Campbell said she presumes most people have read that the State of Ohio is also considering passing a **law prohibiting cell phone use while driving**.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Mr. Bennett said the **trails at Sugarcreek Reserve** are in good shape.

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Mr. Ritzel asked for the time of the Merger Study Commission. Mr. Schlagheck said it was at 7 p.m. Mr. Bennett said information was also on the Web site www.mergerstudy.com.

Mr. Louie Schatzberg, 4082 Ridgetop Drive, commended Dale Wilson for the job he and his department do and for the information he provides to Mr. Bennett for our meetings. He said citizens know the Service Department works hard but most never get to see it because they work themselves. He thanked Council for supporting Mr. Wilson and the job he does.

Mayor Graves **thanked the viewing audience** and **Louie Schatzberg**, cameraman, for his service.

There being no further business to come before this regular session of Bellbrook City Council, **Mr. Bennett moved to adjourn**. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll. Mr. Bennett, yes; Mrs. Campbell, yes; Mr. Fussner, yes; Mr. Ritzel, yes; Mr. Schweller, yes; Mayor Graves, yes. The motion passed 6-0 and the Regular Session of City Council was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Mary C. Graves, Mayor

Jill D. Rosner, Clerk of Council