

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Bellbrook City Council Regular Meeting
November 22, 2021

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Schweller called the Regular Meeting of the Bellbrook City Council to order at 7:00pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Present: TJ Hoke; Ernie Havens; Dr. David Van Veldhuizen; Forrest Greenwood; Elaine Middlestetter; Mayor Schweller

Absent: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Rob Schommer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Schweller asked if anyone had any comments or corrections to the minutes of November 8, 2021 work session and regular meetings. Hearing none he declared the minutes approved.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Mayor Schweller read a statement regarding the "No Petition Filed" council seat on the November 2 ballot. "On November 2, 2021 the Municipal Election Ballot read "No Valid Petition Filed" for an unexpired term of a City Council candidate. That seat is currently held by T.J. Hoke, an appointed member of Council. Upon Mr. Hoke's appointment April 27, 2020, he signed an Oath of Office with a term listed through December 31, 2023. Previous members of City Staff provided the interpretation of the Charter process for the appointed term and reviewed it with the Board of Elections. Their interpretation was incorrect. The Charter indicates that the appointee "shall hold office and serve until the next regular Municipal election when a new Council member shall be elected to complete the unexpired term". In September of 2021 when the 46 day Federal Write-In Ballot notice was issued, the City became aware the Board of Elections listed the seat as "No Valid Petition Filed". The result was no candidate on the ballot, including Mr. Hoke. The City will be following the Charter process to fill the vacant position in January of 2022."

Mayor Schweller announced and presented the 2021 Employee service recognition awards with recognition to: Stephen Lawrence of the Fire Department for 5 years' service, Jason Harris of the Fire Department for 15 years' service, Brett Woeste of the Service Department for 15 years' service, Ryan Pasley of the Service Department for 25 years' service, and Jerry Burgan of the Service Department for 35 years' service. Mayor Schweller recognized many long-term employees of the City noting that is what makes Bellbrook what it is today, and thanked all employees for their service.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES - none

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INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- Ordinance 2021-10. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF BELLBROOK FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Dr. Van Veldhuizen)

Dr. Van Veldhuizen read the Ordinance and noted the previous three open, public meetings were held to discuss the elements of the budget and this Ordinance is scheduled for its public hearing December 13.

Mayor Schweller explained the work sessions over the past few meetings involving meeting with all the department heads putting the puzzle pieces of the budget together. He added the revenue of the budget is limited, and efforts are made to fit the necessary expenses into the budget. The Mayor noted the budget Ordinance will be forwarded to the December 13 meeting for its public hearing and vote for passage at that time. He thanked Council and staff for the efforts put into the budget.

RESOLUTIONS - none

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

- Ohio Fireworks Law Change

Mr. Schommer reviewed the recent changes to the Ohio Fireworks law through a summary provided by the Ohio Legislative Services Committee. He noted the City has an opportunity to pass modifications to existing ordinances. There was one resident who provided feedback urging the City to prohibit fireworks. No other feedback had been heard or noted at the time of the meeting.

Mayor Schweller noted the feedback was minimal at this point and asked Council to reach out to residents and residents reaching out alike to provide what feedback and information possible for future discussions and decisions on the topic.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Schommer reported the following:

- Kleinger's study will be made available prior to the next meeting and a work session will be scheduled prior to the meeting for a discussion and presentation of the final draft report.
- Still searching for employment positions

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Service – Mr. Greenwood provided information about cold weather preparation of outdoor water lines and hoses, reminding everyone to drain and disconnect hoses for winter.

Safety – Mr. Hoke simply wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and be cautious if deep frying a turkey. He also noted the tragedy in Waukesha Wisconsin stating that safety for Bellbrook events is a critical part of planning.

Finance – Dr. Van Veldhuizen noted the budget development process is complete and the Ordinance will be presented for voting next meeting.

Community Affairs – Mrs. Middlestetter reminded everyone about Christmas in the Park and the Museum making the Red Rider Sleigh available for pictures on Saturday December 11.

CLERK'S REPORT

- December 13 - Public Hearing of 2022 Budget Ordinance
- Process for filling council seat

COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood noted the Community Resource Center has a website and it is the time of year where donations are needed.

Mr. Havens noted in the years past there were more decorations downtown for the holidays and reasons out of our control they have been minimized. He stated it is noticed and we are working on it.

Mr. Hoke_ addressed the Mayor's announcement regarding the council seat. He noted it was a situation that caught everyone off-guard including himself and stated he will be completely transparent regarding it and if anyone has questions, he would be happy to speak to them about it. He also congratulated the football team for their success in the 2021 season.

Mrs. Middlestetter noted the garden club decorates trees and pots in the streetscape downtown. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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Dr. Van Veldhuizen also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He thanked the employees recognized for tenured service noting it is not common to hear about employees celebrating 25, 30 years of employment. He appreciated their dedication and their knowledge they bring to the City.

Mayor Schweller also wished the City a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. He added that as the holiday season starts, everyone should remember Small Business Saturday and support local businesses and communities.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Mr. John Goffinett noted his concern about traffic flow in front of Bellbrook High School. He recommended a traffic signal in place of the staff directing traffic as a safer option.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:33PM.



Michael Schweller, Mayor



Robert Schommer, Clerk of Council