

City of Bowling Green

Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 14, 2019

Present: Mayor Fite, Commissioner Durastanti, Vice-Mayor Tucker, Commissioner Spinks, Commissioner Gardner, City Manager Lawrence, Police Chief Scheel, City Clerk Silva, Attorney Buhr, and members of the audience.

Absent: None

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Fite.
2. **Prayer** – Commissioner Spinks
Flag Salute – Mayor Fite
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting April 09, 2019**

Vice-Mayor Tucker made a motion to approve. Commissioner Spinks seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **Proposed Charter Revisions**

Attorney Buhr provided two (2) charter revisions. He stated that he needed final approval by September to be able to submit the information to the election's office. Commissioner Durastanti brought up the election dates. City Manager Lawrence mentioned that he will be meeting Friday morning with the Supervisor of Elections. Attorney Buhr asked to get a day of the month to include in any changes to the election dates if any. He also stated that he would work on the ordinance and ballots as well. Vice-Mayor Tucker stated that she did not have an understanding last month on what was being voted on. She asked to revisit the changes. Attorney Buhr stated that he included the two charters, one with the changes to the City Clerk position and the other without. Vice-Mayor Tucker made a motion to have the City Clerk hired and supervised by the City Manager. Commissioner Spinks seconded the motion. Mayor Fite stated that smaller municipalities have the City Clerk under the City Commission for checks and balances as compared to larger cities. He stated that he was in favor of leaving it as is. Commissioner Spinks stated that if there is a reason to change it then they should. He doesn't think that tradition is a reason to hold to a particular way of doing things. He stated that since the City Manager is going to be working with that person every day, that he/she should have a good relationship with that person. He stated that with the supervising, the City Manager will also be doing the evaluations. He mentioned that it is very difficult for him at the end of the year to evaluate City Clerk Silva because the City Commission is not at the City office every day, they do not see all the things that the City Manager does. Commissioner Durastanti stated that he is in favor of doing it either way because the City has good people involved. City Manager Lawrence mentioned that everywhere he has worked the City Clerk is under the City Manager. He stated that he agrees with Commissioner Spinks that he works with staff very closely and that if he is going to be responsible for them that then the decision on hiring should go to him. He did mention that if they want to take the responsibility of the City Clerk away from the City Manager then he would be fine. Mayor Fite asked Attorney Buhr if the voting would

be on individual ballots or the entire charter. Attorney Buhr responded that each item will be voted on individually. Roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried. Dee Williams-Tatis asked when the change would take effect. Mayor Fite stated that it will remain the same until the voters vote on the change. Attorney Buhr stated that he needed to get the ordinance for the next meeting so that the City Commission could vote on it.

4. New Business

a. Police Department Social Media Policy

Chief Scheel stated that he needed rules and regulations for the police department. Commissioner Spinks made a motion to accept and Vice-Mayor Tucker seconded. All in favor, motion carries. Attorney Buhr asked City Manager Lawrence about a general social media policy. City Manager Lawrence stated that it is being worked on.

5. Mayor Fite

Mayor Fite stated that the railroad crossing on county line road got a temporary paving today. He stated that the past 30 days have been a pleasure working with City Manager Lawrence. He stated that he met with Taylor Sanchez, Senator Rubio's aid. June 6th is the Ridge League of Cities dinner in Lakeland. Deadline for the conference scholarships is June 1st. The annual conference will be August 15-17. He stated that Thursday morning coming before the County Commission is a rezone to the West of the City. It will be 240 multi-family dwellings, 655 single family homes, 400 RV sites, and 330,000 square feet of non-residential use building. He stated that their mode of access will be County Line Road, Main Street, and Doc Coil. Attorney Buhr asked where they would be getting their water and sewer from. Mayor Fite responded that they have created their own LLC to develop their own water and wastewater operations. Jim of Avion Palms asked where it would be located. Mayor Fite responded that it would be about ½ mile West of Avion Palms. Jim asked when the meeting for this development was. Mayor Fite responded that it would be at 8:30am Thursday at the County Commission Chambers.

6. Recreation Committee

Jean Kelly, Chair of the Recreation Committee, met at the depot and they did have quorum tonight. They made plans for the upcoming year since they have to submit a budget. She asked City Clerk Silva what their expenditure budget for the year. City Clerk Silva responded that it was \$5,000.00 this year. Mrs. Kelly stated that they are recruiting more volunteers. She also mentioned that the people using the soccer field are very happy to be able to use our fields. Mayor Fite mentioned the flags set out. Jean Kelly introduced Tommy Griffin, a representative of Melony Bell.

7. Commissioners

Commissioner Durastanti stated that he is glad to have City Manager Lawrence on board now. Vice-Mayor Tucker also mentioned that she is glad City Manager Lawrence is here. She stated that she has been in a few times to meet with him. She also mentioned that she got answers as to the work on the water tower. Commissioner Spinks asked if anyone else was having problems with their City e-mail. City Clerk Silva stated that it was a Spam e-mail. Commissioner Spinks stated that he really likes the City Manager reports. He also brought up the Resolution passed back in October on the way that the City Commission should conduct the meetings and mentioned that it hasn't been changed yet. Attorney Buhr stated that the Public Participation Policy is a good idea. He stated that it is in place so nevertheless it can be used. He did recommend using the 3-minute time limit. The City already has a timer in place that can be used. Commissioner Gardner stated that he does not like being bombarded with information that he is not prepared to

answer. Attorney Buhr stated that when public comment is open, you don't have to have a conversation with them. Commissioner Gardner raised his concerns about fake flowers in the cemetery. Mayor Fite stated that rules were adopted by the Cemetery Committee and the City Commission. He mentioned signs that were to be placed at the cemetery. Vice-Mayor Tucker stated that all the information was put in the rules. Mayor Fite stated that it was put in the rules but it was never enforced by the City. City Clerk Silva stated that at the time of purchase, the customers get a copy of the Cemetery Rules & Regulations. Commissioner Spinks mentioned the monuments.

8. City Attorney

Attorney Buhr reminded everyone that they must file their Financial Disclosure (Form 1) by July 1st.

9. City Manager

City Manager Lawrence thanked everyone for the kind words. He stated that he has instituted a bi-weekly team meeting. He also mentioned the City Manager reports that he has been providing to the City Commissioners. He stated that he will be working with City Clerk Silva on getting them online that way the people in the community can see what is going on. He has spent the last few weeks learning the system and he mentioned that staff have been great working with him. He mentioned that the City has a lot of projects going on. He stated that he and City Clerk Silva will be meeting with the Supervisor of Elections on Friday and that he will get Attorney Buhr the dates he needs. Attorney Buhr asked about the website and the progress with making it ADA compliant. City Clerk Silva responded that it is up and running. City Manager Lawrence stated that he will be meeting with Kristine Roy of USDA on Wednesday to work with him on the USDA Grant. He stated that the SCOP agreement with DOT is ready for the design phase. He stated that Cobb Construction was supposed to show up Thursday for the roof repairs relating to Hurricane Irma. He stated that they were not able to work on it due to the weather. He mentioned the construction meetings and the work that will be taking place.

10. Police Chief

Nothing to discuss.

11. City Clerk

City Clerk Silva mentioned that she received an e-mail today about the Service Line program. She stated that letters were mailed out today.

12. Public

Dee Williams-Tatis stated that she brought her concerns to the last meeting. She stated that she met with the County yesterday and that her goal is to correct the problem.

Mayor Fite adjourned the meeting.

Robert S. Fite, Mayor

Maria Carmen Silva, City Clerk