

Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

Call the meeting to order at 6:01. Meeting is recorded, and the recordings belong to the City of Bellechester.

Oath of Office

Pledge to the flag

Roll call was taken: The council in attendance: Mayor Jody Gordon, Council people Mark Gerken, Kyle Blattner, Jacob Gilsdorf, Nick Keller and Rich Majerus as well as City Clerk Lisa Redepinning, Treasurer Kyle McKeown, and City Engineer Matt. Goodhue County Sheriff's Deputy Sullivan was also present.

Minutes of the January 15, 2025 meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Jake Gilsdorf to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills were reviewed with a motion by Nick Keller with a second by Rich Majerus to approve and pay the bills as presented except for the esri GIS renewal. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Update – Sewer Lining Project – no update. Progress meeting will be in March. Next steps will be discussed at this meeting. Sewer later lines will be discussed for spring work.
 - PA #3 (retainage reduction). Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Jake Gilsdorf to approve the payment of \$17,731.58 for pay application #3. Motion carried.
- Update – Water Meter Project – there is a leak in a home. Contact is being made to the home owner. Installs are all done. Transfer of date has been completed and steps are complete.
- Update – Water meter billing set-up – additional training is available.
- Junk Ordinance – we will discuss further in March on how to move forward. Letters will be sent.

New business:

- New Dumpster at old Feed Store – we will monitor if there are any issues with this during the summer.
- Determine Water and sewer rates based on water usage (\$ per 1000 gallons) – we will look at rates from other cities to compare and what type of billing we will use.
- GIS for Lead Service Lines – Renewals - Matt recommended not to renew the esri GIS mapping software. We are small, so management will not be difficult.

Engineer Report – Lead Service Line project – Matt discussed the guidance received from State on next round of funding for this and how to proceed. The next step for funding would be for 9 unknown lines on the residential side and 1 on the city owned side. 8 Galvanized lines were determined. ADA walkthroughs report has not yet been received. Recommended upgrades and changes will be on this report.

Clerk Report – none.

Treasurer Report – past due list was distributed under the new software. The format is different than the old system. Council discussed what they wanted to see on the report under the new software. Past due letters were sent and a few payments were made. Certified letters will be sent.

Water/Wastewater/Facility Report – quarterly samples will be done next week. Pumps that were replaced are not functioning properly.

Mayor Concerns: There was an issue at the Tavern with a water backup. Has not since occurred. AG Partners will be putting in blacktopping and green space and will start this spring to address dust concerns. Established a 1-3 year black top schedule/plan.

Council Concerns: Raises for city employees was discussed. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Jake Gilsdorf to increase the pay for city employees. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Jake Gilsdorf to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37. Motion carried.

Submitted by Lisa Redepning – City Clerk
