

Bellechester City Council Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021 @ 5:00 PM

Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jody Gordon at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge to the flag.

Roll call was taken: The council in attendance: Mayor Jody Gordon, Council people Jered Buxengard, Rich Majerus, Mark Gerken, Kyle Blattner as well as Lisa Redepenning, Treasurer Kyle McKeown and City Engineer Matt Mohs.

Minutes of April, 2021 meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Jered Buxengard to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills were reviewed and a motion by Rich Majerus with a second by Mark Gerken to approve and pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Setup up Mowing for summer – No one contacted council regarding opening. Jered and /or Owen Buxengard can do it for the summer. Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Kyle Blattner to set them as the mowing service for the 2021 summer season. Motion carried.
- Portable Generator – update progress – parts are in for electrical and Cummins will be contacted to fire up new generator and have it ready. Leveling of ground and grass seed was put down as a community service project.
- Sewer Grant – update progress.
- ADA bathroom for Community Center/Raffle – update progress. Waiting on electrician, which should be next week. Raffle is sold out and set for June 5th.
- Playground Maintenance – Update – Pending weather, this Friday woodchips will be purchased and a clean up the equipment. Picnic tables have issues. Lions asked about how to proceed. There was also discussion on the use of the ball fields and if we can repurpose into other function. We do have a park fund certificate that was considered. Motion was made by Mark Gerken with a 2nd by Rich Majerus to close out the Park Fund and deposit into General Fund for the specific purchase of new picnic tables and other necessary equipment to improve the park. Motion carried.

New business:

- Set Public Hearing for June for Rural Development/Sewer Grant – 6:00 at June meeting. Matt will be present to discuss the need for this. Motion was made by Kyle Blattner with a 2nd by Jered Buxengard to set a public hearing for June meeting @ 6:00. Motion carried.
- Street Sweeping – Kyle will inquire with City of Goodhue and doing this for us again.
- Non-stop barking dogs – what can be done with this.
- Brush pile burning-wind direction – Wind conditions will be better monitored next time.
- Tavern Liquor License Renewal – Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a 2nd by Kyle Blattner to renew the Tavern liquor license. Motion carried.

- Garbage Service Changes – There was issues this week with Waste Management, which took over from Countryside Disposal. Lake City Disposal quote was discussed and to see if some commercial accounts can be changed to residential based on their usage. We will follow up on this and discuss at June meeting.
- City Cleanliness Complaints – Complains on yards. Reminders will be in utility bills on yard cleanup and verbal reminders will made by council to residents.

Engineering Report - Update on RD Apply - Matt discussed the online application that was started for the RD grant. Jody will need to be authorized on this system for signing. TEDI grant discussion – this would be grant money for improvements for sewer and water expansion for industrial park. We will discuss further. American Recovery Plan discussion / update – approx. \$20,000 is bookmarked for Bellechester. We can put this money towards the current sewer project that is current in progress. At the June meeting, we would have to pass a resolution to accept this money.

Clerk Report – Garbage Bill – We received \$1208.98 in and paid \$1473.24 out for April. Liquor Licenses – received back from Tavern and forwarded to County for approval. Xcel Energy – I filled out Auto Pay form to make this payment setup too. I don't believe there are any more standard bills that we receive each month left. So far now Garbage, Phone, Electric are paid directly each monthly. Rural Development Grant Forms – Due to possible changes in the census numbers, we have been advised by Laurie at USDA that we may want to get our application in as soon as we can. Matt has started the process and I have been available when needed for forms to expedite this. It appears that we will benefit more starting it now then waiting until new numbers are formalized. Website – Municipal Impact redesigned their website format. Ours was updated in looks, but it's still the same information.

Treasurer Report – List was reviewed.

Water/Wastewater/Facility Report – Leak is still being looked at. Chlorine tank needed a new regulator. New compressor is on and running. Pond 3 is being discharged now. Will look into finding someone to bail at the ponds to cut down on mowing.

Mayor Concerns: Possible meet and greet put on by Lions July 24th in park. More info and confirmation on this will follow.

Council Concerns: Easement issues with sewer project was discussed and will be looked into on what we need to get them recorded. Culvert is exposed on Cty 2. County will be contacted. Gas can spouts are needed for gas cans. Gopher traps are needed at ball field. Mark has one. Garbage can is full at ball field. Removal of snow fencing.

Resident Concerns - Norm Blattner brought up vehicles and boats in yards complaint.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Rich Majerus with a second by Kyle Blattner to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm. Next meeting is May 19 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Bellechester Community Center.

- **Yard Cleanup** – Please take the time to clean up anything stored on your property. Please be mindful that other people may not enjoy your lawn storage – please help to make our city tidy.
- **Fee Change for Utility Bills** – Shut off fee was eliminated with a single reconnect fee of \$100, a 10% interest fee after 90 days and returned check fee of \$25.
- **Burn Pile** – Please remember that burn pile is for brush and leaves only. We can get fined for all other items left here. The burn pile is for Bellechester City residents only. If you witness any dumping of unauthorized items or non city resident use, please call us.
- **Recycling** - Please recycle whenever you can. There is a recycling bin located on the north end of town by GB Feed and Supply. By recycling, this will keep our garbage rates from rising.
- **Power Outages** – If you have power outage in your home, please check Xcel’s website for an update on current outages and contact them directly as they provide the power for Bellechester.