

**MINUTES OF THE BEATRICE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION**

A work session of the Beatrice City Council was held on the 25th day of January, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the BPS Administration Meeting Room, 320 North 5th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

Attending: Mayor Wirth, Councilmembers: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde.

Absent: Councilmembers: None.

Mayor Wirth announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is available in the meeting room and is accessible to members of the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve agenda as submitted.
- b. Receive and place on file all notices pertaining to this meeting
- c. Receive and place on file all materials having any bearing on this meeting.

Moved by Catlin, seconded by Morgan, that the items listed under the consent agenda be approved, accepted, and/or ratified as presented.

Roll Call: Yea: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde
Nay: None MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/BIDS

There were no public hearings/bids.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions.

ORDINANCES

There were no ordinances.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one appeared at public forum.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Oktoberfest

Lora Young, Executive Director of Beatrice Chamber of Commerce, informed the City Council that on October 8, 2016, the Chamber would like to host an Oktoberfest event in the Chautauqua Park Tabernacle. The event will feature food and music and be geared towards adults. They are looking at approximately 2:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. for this event. The Chamber has formed a

committee for the event, which features a number of their executive board members, as well as Bruce Lang, Chief of Police. They are looking to have local bands and some other music, along with ethnic food vendors. There will be a fence around the perimeter of the event and they will use armbands to distinguish 21 and over patrons. Drink tickets will be offered and there will be close review of alcohol consumption. Councilman Parde inquired about parking. Young noted that parking will be a struggle, but they are looking at the potential of having a shuttle to transport patrons from other sites that have the appropriate parking available. Councilman Morgan inquired whether the City could have breathalyzers for people as they are leaving the event. Young noted there will be off duty police officers on site, as well as assistance from the Gage County Sheriff's Office. Mayor Wirth noted that this item will continue on in the planning phases and Young will be filling an application with the City for use of the park.

Adjoining Building Ordinance

Tobias Tempelmeyer, City Administrator, introduced the ordinance and noted recent changes regarding this current draft. The changes included language to notate that the inspections will be limited to structural elements of the buildings and also added a three (3) year grace period for buildings which meet all of the inspection requirements. Councilman Parde inquired about other inspections that may need to take place during the three (3) year grace period. It was noted by Tempelmeyer that any inspections that were required pursuant to complaints or observed by building officials, would be investigated, even in the grace period. Councilman Fairbanks inquired about the process if a building owner would disagree with an opinion of the building official. Greg Butcher, City Attorney, noted the appeals process. Councilman Kerr inquired how the City will let property owners know about this new ordinance. Tempelmeyer noted that he will be working with the media, members of the Chamber, Main Street. Tempelmeyer also noted that a delayed start for the ordinance in June 2016 would allow the City enough time to contact property owners and inform them of the changes. Councilman Cook noted he liked the changes that were added to the most recent draft. Rob Mierau, Building Inspector, appeared and noted he had some concern with the amount of time it may take in regards to inspections of these buildings. Mierau's recommendation would be to see a full time code enforcement officer should this ordinance be implemented. Councilman Parde inquired if the ordinance included residential property. Tempelmeyer noted that it does not. Mayor Wirth noted that this item will likely come back at the second meeting in February for initial hearing and vote.

Vacant Building Ordinance

Tobias Tempelmeyer, City Administrator, introduced the most recent draft of the vacant building ordinance which included changes to allow for a three (3) year grace period for properties which had a clear inspection. Councilman Cook inquired that should a building be cleared for the three (3) year grace period, would they also need to pay vacant building fees. Greg Butcher, City Attorney, notated that pursuant to the draft, a property owner would still need to pay the annual vacant building fee should the building meet the requirements for vacancy. Mayor Wirth noted that this item will appear at the second meeting in February for further consideration by the City Council.

Removal of One-Way Streets

Greg Butcher, City Attorney, noted the recommendations of the Beatrice Traffic Committee. The Committee reviewed this item and all materials previously looked at in their prior recommendation in the Spring of 2014. It is the recommendation of the Traffic Committee that the one-way streets on 7th and 8th Street be removed from Ella Street, North to Monroe Street. Councilman Kerr inquired about a poll conducted by the City online. Tobias Tempelmeyer, City Administrator, noted that the City conducted a non-scientific poll that received 1,233 responses, 78% of which recommended keeping all one-way streets, 10% recommended eliminating all one-way streets, 9% recommended keeping Ella and Market, and 1% recommended keeping only 7th and 8th Streets. Councilman Kerr did his own poll by calling residents that he could identify on 7th and 8th Streets. Councilman Kerr was able to contact fifty-four (54) residents, three (3) of which would like to see the one-ways removed, three (3) of which did not care one-way or the other, and forty-eight (48) which did not want to see a change to the current one-way system. Councilman Kerr denoted the cost that would be incurred in making these changes and does not understand why we are considering this matter again. Councilman Kerr noted that the City has a speeding problem on 7th and 8th Streets and this was identified in his phone interviews with residents. The prior week Councilman Kerr also inquired with the City of Beatrice Police Department regarding speeding tickets issued in the last six (6) months along 7th and 8th Streets, no tickets were issued. Councilman Fairbanks noted that residents would still be able to use the streets, should they be converted to two-way traffic. Councilman Fairbanks only received three (3) calls in relation to this matter, one (1) in favor of removing the one-way streets, and two (2) against the item. Councilman Fairbanks felt that by converting the one-ways the City would address a number of safety issues, including a recent issue concerning through traffic on alleyways. Mayor Wirth inquired whether the City Council wanted to move forward on this. Upon his review of the feelings of the City Council, Mayor Wirth felt there was not enough support and this item will not appear again at any upcoming City Council meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Catlin, seconded by Billesbach, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Roll Call: Yea: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde
Nay: None MOTION CARRIED.

Erin Saathoff, City Clerk

Stan Wirth, Mayor