



**City of Powell, Ohio**  
City Council

**MEETING MINUTES**  
July 19, 2016

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A regular meeting of Powell City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Lorenz on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 7:36 p.m. City Council members present included Jon Bennehoof, Frank Bertone, Tom Counts, Jim Hrivnak, Brian Lorenz, Brendan Newcomb and Daniel Swartwout. Also present were Steve Lutz, City Manager; Eugene L. Hollins, Law Director; David Betz, Development Director; Karen J. Mitchell, City Clerk, and interested parties.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Lorenz opened the citizen participation session for items not on the agenda. Hearing none, he closed the public comment session.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 5, 2016**

MOTION: Councilman Hrivnak moved to adopt the minutes of July 5, 2016. Councilman Bennehoof seconded the motion. By unanimous consent of the remaining members of Council, the minutes were approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Item

Monthly Reports – June 2016

Action Requested

Receipt of Electronic Report

MOTION: Councilman Bennehoof moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Councilman Bertone seconded the motion. By unanimous consent of the remaining members of Council, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Development Committee:** *Next Meeting:* August 2nd, 6:30 p.m.

**Finance Committee:** *Next Meeting:* August 9th, 7:00 p.m. Our meeting last week was cancelled.

**Operations Committee:** *Next Meeting:* July 19th, 6:30 p.m. We met this evening and discussed a variety of topics, including potential Lechler building improvements, Jade Track was here to discuss energy efficiency opportunities for the City, and we had a quick review of capital projects.

**ONE Community:** *Next Meeting:* July 19th, 6:30 p.m. We met this evening. We had a very good presentation by a graphic designer who discussed our logo opportunities and came up with a couple of solutions that he is going to present back to us electronically. We moved on and discussed a tent for ONE Community. We might be coming to council to ask for a couple hundred dollars to acquire a tent to put up at various Powell events (e.g. Powell Fest, farmers markets, etc.). It may have a logo on it if we are approved. We are waiting to get the logo to put on that [tent] as well as on our communication materials. On our communication materials, it will consist of a map of the bike paths at first. We also discussed OPAL and ONE Community approaching the zoo because once the bike path extends to the zoo, perhaps there is an opportunity to convince the zoo to do a bike barn. We only spoke a little bit about beautification because we spent most of the time on the previous subjects.

**Planning & Zoning Commission:** *Next Meeting:* August 10th, 7:00 p.m. The current proposals are available for viewing on the website. The special meeting that was scheduled on July 27<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

**Powell CIC:** *Next Meeting:* July 27th, 6:00 p.m.

**Zoning & Building Code Update Diagnostic Committee:** *Next Meeting:* Our meeting in July has been cancelled. We will meet again in August.

**2016 POWELL COMMUNITY ATTITUDES SURVEY – Marty Saperstein, Saperstein & Associates (Exhibit 1: PowerPoint Presentation)**

Mr. Saperstein presented the results of the 2016 Community Attitude Survey.

Methodology:

- Conducted telephone interviews with over 400 random registered voters living in Powell.
- Margin of error for this survey is +/- 4.9%.
- Fewer people refused to take survey as a likely result of the City's efforts to inform residents of the survey's timing. Mr. Saperstein believes this is attributed to Megan [Canavan, Communications Director]'s efforts in getting the word out. Mr. Saperstein stated that this was huge because when fewer people refuse to participate, it improves the quality of the data.

Takeaways:

- Most residents consider Powell an exceptional community. They praise the services and amenities the City provides as well as the small town atmosphere.
- Fewer residents agree that Powell is heading in the right direction and cite traffic and residential development as the primary reasons.
  - Although these concerns have been voiced for years, they appear to be growing.
- Residents have little enthusiasm for a tax increase tied to capital improvements, even to mitigate traffic. However, if pushed, an income tax trumps a property tax.

Other Findings:

- A revitalized downtown should include a broader assortment of restaurants, new pedestrian-friendly features, and more parking.
- The City should continue its efforts to communicate with residents in a variety of digital formats.
- Council should engage in informal listening sessions during which residents may engage in a dialogue with individual members of Council regarding issues of concern. These sessions should be scheduled on a continuing basis and be publicized on social media.

**ACTION PLAN: Council asked the Operations Committee to put together an action plan to enhance the City's digital/social presence as a way to increase its outreach to the community.**

Councilman Hrivnak: Marty you've talked about a phenomena that happened between 2012-14. Did your data point to what that was?

Mr. Saperstein: Other than something related to traffic?

Councilman Counts: My sense of it is that this is when the economy changed such that there was increased development and increased construction of public improvements. That's when everything started to happen. From my experience of being on Council, that's when you saw the most dissatisfaction of people - when you saw a great increase in development that was going on in the City of Powell at that time. My view of it is that growth of any type, construction of any type, creates dissatisfaction. People's lives are disrupted.

Councilman Bertone: I agree with Tom on the observations of what happened. I firmly agree that in 2010 we were coming out of an economic downturn and then in 2012 things are starting to percolate from a development perspective, and it is disrupting people's lives. It's certainly something we can improve upon – communications - and I think each and every one of us are open to that conversation as opposed to using this forum for that which is difficult. I don't have a lot of questions, but I'm anxious to get it going in Operations Committee and see what we can come up with for several tangible, actionable items that we can relay back to Council.

Councilman Bennehoof: I don't have any further questions. I appreciate your very thorough review. If there is anything ONE Community can do in conjunction with Operations, let us know.

Councilman Bertone: I think it's safe to say it is all hands on deck.

Councilman Hrivnak: We will be going over it in Development as well.

Mayor Lorenz: Marty, I have one question I was asked during the polling. About 3-4 people asked me why we don't do a web based survey, e.g. Survey Monkey, or something similar.

Mr. Saperstein: One thing that's in the public domain is phone numbers. What's not in the public domain are email addresses. So you can't do a random survey. That's one reason. The other reason is we don't want people who are interested only to participate. We want to have a bigger say in who chooses. Survey Monkey surveys tend not to be random because there is no published listing [Mayor Lorenz: You can't validate] there is no community list. That's the big problem. Finally, the response rates are very low.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Steve Lutz, City Manager: There is just one item. You saw in your packet there was a liquor permit application. This is for a business located just south of our business incubator. It's in the red barn building. There is a new yoga studio on the second floor. They are requesting a permit for package beer and wine and consumption on the premises. They do gifts and gift-type baskets, and as long as Council doesn't object to it, we don't need to request a hearing.

Council unanimously indicated by *all thumbs up* there was no need to request a hearing.

**OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS**

There were none.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.R.C. SECTION 121.22 (G) (3) PENDING LITIGATION.**

Councilman Bennehoof moved at 8:55 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with O.R.C. Section (G)(3) Pending Litigation. Councilman Hrivnak seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 7 N 0

MOTION: Councilman Bennehoof moved at 9:35 p.m. to adjourn from Executive Session. Councilman Bertone seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 7 N 0

MOTION: Councilman Bennehoof moved at 9:35 p.m. to reconvene in Regular Open Session. Councilman Counts seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 7 N 0

MOTION: Councilman Bennehoof moved at 9:35 p.m. to adjourn from Regular Session. Councilman Counts seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 7 N 0

**MINUTES APPROVED: August 2, 2016**

  
Brian Lorenz  
Mayor

8/2/16  
Date



  
Karen Mitchell  
City Clerk

8/3/2016  
Date

Jon Bennehoof

Frank Bertone

Tom Counts

Brian Lorenz, Mayor  
Jim Hrivnak

Brendan Newcomb

Daniel Swartwout

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