



**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular Zoom meeting of Powell City Council was called to order by Mayor Frank Bertone on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. City Council members present included Jon C. Bennehoof, Frank Bertone, Tom Counts, Heather Karr, Brian Lorenz, Melissa Riggins and Daniel Swartwout. Also present were Andy White, City Manager; Yazan Ashrawi, Law Director; Megan Canavan, Assistant City Manager; Stephen Hrytzik, Chief of Police; Karen Sybert, Finance Director; Jeffrey Tyler, Community Development Director; Claudia Husak, Planning Director; Elise Schellin, Development Planner; Aaron Scott, Assistant City Engineer; Karen J. Mitchell, City Clerk; and interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 19, 2021

MOTION: Councilmember Lorenz moved to adopt the minutes of January 19, 2021. Councilmember Swartwout seconded the motion. By unanimous consent of the remaining members, the minutes were adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee: *Next Meeting: February 2, 2021, 6:30 p.m. We took on two items tonight. Development Committee is working on a short-term rental ordinance. The group consensus was to start with a registration and couple it with a bed tax. Both pieces will be coming to you at the same time in the future. As we have many attractions, golf tournaments, zoo, etc., homes are being rented out and this will raise a level of awareness and some structure. We are going to implement some sort of registry. Then the Development Department, specifically Jeff Tyler, went over a proposed regulation for fees for shared use parking of city-owned lots. That will be developed and brought back in a more formal fashion after some additional research.*

Finance Committee: *Next Meeting: February 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m.*

Operations Committee: *Next Meeting: February 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m.*

Planning & Zoning Commission: *Next Meeting: February 24, 2021, 7:00 p.m.*

Powell CIC: *Next Meeting: February 23, 2021, 6:00 p.m. We met last Tuesday night and discussed a number of things, including some incentive agreements that were brought forward from last year. We also discussed the possibility of allowing the leaser of our 44 N Liberty location to enter into a sublease.*

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/CITY CALENDAR

Andy White, City Manager: It is odd to have an agenda with no business items. It is a rarity so I thought I would use this opportunity to go over a few items with you.

We had our first significant snow maintenance effort in 2021. We have all of the material we need, but we did run into some operational issues. I do not know if any of you have had many contacts, but I would say the volume of inquiry has been elevated based on what my office, and what some of the Staff have been dealing with today. Dan, perhaps this is something we might want to review at Operations Committee level.

However, for the benefit of everyone here, Staff breaks the City down into six districts. I think there are assigned individuals that operate within each district. There is a familiarity with each district, which is great for that specific district, but I think that sometimes we can run into some system-wide operational issues. I am working with Jeff and his office to

come up with alternatives and look at best practices in other communities. I talked to a couple of individuals this morning. The early morning commute was effected because the roads were somewhat treacherous. It seems an error in judgment was made to release the crews early last night. We then had an additional accumulation period and our crews did not get back out until 8:00 a.m., so it made that early morning rush difficult. This was a result of a missed opportunity. We had a briefing with all the players to break down what happened, to discuss the costs that go into the application of salt, the man-hours, but also having the availability of Staff to dispatch from our services complexes as opposed to when they are home and have to come back. That generates some problem areas for us and this is something we are looking at tightening up.

Today I learned about some issues, especially with residences in cul-de-sacs. It presents a unique problem for the plow operator in that you are creating somewhat of an obstacle for people to get in and out of their driveways after the road has been cleared. In the past, we have elected to opt out of those maintenance operations. I wanted to be clear with Council; our first primary responsibility with the snow maintenance is to clear the roads. Obviously, I am sympathetic and understand what it is like to go and plow your driveway yourself for an hour and then have a blade come through and put it all back. That is our first and foremost responsibility and there is a significant amount of liability associated [with that]. Therefore, we are taking that under advisement.

There are communities around us that have more resources and crew to be able to attack this issue. I am hopeful, as we move into to 2022, and if we are successful with the restructure, that we would have additional resources available to deploy. In the meantime, for the remainder of 2021, we would expect to have a few more storms, and we are going to try to put together a program that is more responsive and change things up a little bit. I will keep you posted on that. In the event you do get any inquires about snow removal, we did have a couple of communication errors that we have sorted through and are working on right now. Jeff and I will continue to monitor that situation. Chief Hrytzik's officers have been great by helping us out as well. We are determined, moving forward, to make a better effort on snow maintenance.

Thankfully, it seems that society is opening back up. I think we have gotten better at managing some of the safeguards that are inherent in providing people access to public facilities and operations. The private industries have been coming back online. The state has reduced its curfew by an hour and hopefully that is portending of things to come. As it relates to our committee structure, I understand the benefit of legislating in person as opposed to the online Zoom profile and that is something I wanted to address. I am not sure that this is an Operations Committee item. I do believe that there is a path forward. I think we can competently provide everyone within their individual degree of comfort the opportunity to come in person. I think with some of the different profiles and technology we are bringing online, that there is probably an opportunity to afford individuals that may not be feeling well the opportunity to participate through the Zoom meeting profile. I think Staff would like to consider that with Council and I wanted to open that up for conversation. I think we have some good ideas, but I think we could implement a path forward to begin to meet in a hybrid fashion that we would prefer to meet in person but have an option for individuals and the public to join online. We are still going to be operating under our temporary orders until they are lifted at the state level. However, I think we can still have the legislative body meet in person, so let us plan to talk about that at the committee level.

The next piece I wanted to talk about was the income tax restructure, specifically some of our communication strategy. We have the mission statement that I think is going to be the driving factor in the ideals that we push going forward. We have put together this outline. I have talked to many of you who are concerned about connecting. I appreciate the feedback I have gotten and I would acknowledge that if you have ideas relative to us putting together the strategy that will become effective policy, we would be all ears.

Earlier today, the legislation that we are required to put on file to ask this question of our electorate was furnished to the Board of Elections. That was due to be filed by 5:00 pm tomorrow. A week from today, the Board of Elections will congregate to take action to proceed and that really puts this item of communication strategy in full view. I will go through this generally, and then I will turn it over to Megan [Canavan, Assistant City Manager] for some of the communication strategy. I think she did a very nice job. Frank had provided some additional outline insight as to how we want to move forward.

Mr. White reviewed the mission statement and team goals and Ms. Canavan reviewed the communications strategy for the income tax restructuring initiative and next steps. (Exhibit 1 – PowerPoint Presentation)

Mayor Bertone: Thank you Andy and Megan for the update. It is very informative, well organized, and thank you for laying it out for us all to see what is expected of us over the coming weeks. We will hear more at the upcoming Finance Committee meeting.

Councilmember Counts: I would note that because we need to do this after the first reading, that essentially the Finance

Committee will be what I would call the first reading. Anyone that is interested needs to participate at the Finance Committee meeting because it has to be voted on at our next Council meeting so things can move forward.

Mr. White: We are continuing to compile stakeholders for the Wellness Feasibility Center discussion. That will continue.

Mayor Bertone: You were concerned, Andy, that there was no business tonight yet this has been a fantastic conversation. Thank you and Staff for all of your efforts.

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Mayor Bertone: Andy, Jeffrey, thank you and the team for the follow up with the folks that are having issues with the snow removal. I just appreciate the recognition. That is step one. More importantly, is how we move forward from here. Clearing snow is not an easy task and we have many road surfaces to take care of. I commend you and the team for working hard to keep the roads clear. It is great to see your excellent approach to it. Keep us posted as we go forward. Dan, I am certain you will want to pick that up at Operations going forward.

Councilmember Swartwout: We will definitely pick this up in two weeks and move forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Ohio Rev. Code §121.22(G)(1) Personnel Matters – Appointment of Board & Commission Members and Ohio Rev. Code §121.22(G)(8) Economic Development.

MOTION: Councilmember Bennehoof moved at 7:57 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code §121.22(G)(1) Personnel Matters – Appointment of Board & Commission Members and Ohio Rev. Code §121.22(G)(8) Economic Development. Councilmember Lorenz seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 7 N 0

MOTION: Councilmember Bennehoof moved at 9:04 p.m. to adjourn from Executive Session into Open Session. Councilmember Counts seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 7 N 0

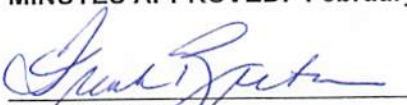
OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Councilmember Lorenz moved to appoint Ryan Brickner to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilmember Bennehoof seconded the motion. By unanimous consent of the remaining members, the motion was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT


MOTION: Councilmember Bennehoof moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Councilmember Lorenz seconded the motion. By unanimous consent of the remaining members, the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES APPROVED: February 16, 2021



Frank Bertone
Mayor

Date



Karen J. Mitchell
City Clerk

Date

2/17/2021



City Council

Frank Bertone, Mayor

Jon C. Bennehoof

Tom Counts

Heather Karr

Brian Lorenz

Melissa Riggins

Daniel Swartwout