

BRYAN BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 2, 2024

Board of Public Affairs Chairman Karen Ford opened the meeting of the Bryan Board of Public Affairs with the following members present: Annette Schreiner, Richard Long, James Salsbury, and Robert Eyre. Also present were: Director of Utilities Derek Schultz, Mayor Carrie Schlade, Human Resources Director Tricia Lyons, Bryan City Council Member John Betts, and Clerk-Treasurer John Lehner.

Mr. Long moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to amend the agenda to add a resolution to authorize a letter of commitment for AMP's GRIP application. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Long moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 19, 2024, as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Bryan resident Bill Metz again voiced his concerns over the discontinuation of video recordings of the Bryan Board of Public Affairs and Bryan City Council meetings. He disputed claims that equipping and operating video recordings would be too costly and present potential security issues. He disagreed with the Board's interpretation of viewership numbers. He questioned the Board's motivation. Further discussion was held.

Board Member Salsbury defended the decision to end video recordings as a sound business decision.

Resolution No. 4, 2024, titled,

**ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING
BRYAN BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS MEETINGS**

was presented and read by title only. Director of Utilities Schultz explained this resolution establishes a 5-minute limit per speaker during the public concerns portion of each Bryan Board of Public Affairs meeting.

Mr. Long moved, Mr. Eyre seconded, to pass Resolution No. 4, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 5, 2024, titled,

**REVISING THE BRYAN COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS SECTION III. RATE
ADDENDUM, SPECIFICALLY FOR EXHIBITS A THROUGH C**

was presented and read by title only. Director of Utilities Schultz explained that the recommended changes identified in the resolution effectively end the provision of cityofbryan.net email service. Customers will receive ample notification that the service will terminate on July 31, 2024. Board Chairman Ford offered regret that the service was no longer able to support itself, and added that Bryan Municipal Utilities staff will provide guidance to customers who might need help migrating to a new service.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Mr. Long seconded, to pass Resolution No. 5, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Director of Utilities Schultz provided follow-up information on free-utility services provided for the Bard Centennial Fountain, including historical hours of operation, seasonal operation, and various components of the fountain (pumps, lighting, etc.). As a follow-up to the 5-year review of the cost of service discussed at the last Bryan Board of Public Affairs meeting, he suggested three options for the Board to consider: amending the 20-year agreement to allow for up to \$7,000 worth of annual free service, offering unlimited free service for the life of the fountain, or taking no action on the existing agreement and proceeding as in the past (not billing for overages). Other options could be considered, as well.

Lengthy discussion was held. Board Member Eyre expressed the results of his research about the establishment of a fountain maintenance fund at the Bryan Area Foundation, and wished to see the current terms of the agreement remain intact, but billing for any future annual charges above \$5,000. He also suggested shifting the hours of operation further to achieve additional savings. Others agreed to seeking greater efficiencies, if possible, but also increasing the dollar threshold to \$7,000; all agreed that due diligence required the Board to continue to monitor usage, regardless of the decision going forward.

Two alternate resolutions were prepared to address the fountain topic, but neither were read into the minutes. The Board chose to bring the topic back for further discussion at a future meeting.

Resolution No. 6, 2024, titled,

**AUTHORIZING THE BRYAN DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES TO SUBMIT
A LETTER OF COMMITMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN AMERICAN
MUNICIPAL POWER, INC. (AMP'S) GRID RESILIENCE AND
INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP (GRIP) TOPIC AREA 1 APPLICATION**

was presented and read by title only. Director of Utilities Schultz explained that a letter of commitment to the U.S. Department of Energy is necessary for continued participation in the American Municipal Power (AMP) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) grant application for the Lorntz Substation improvements project. A draft copy of the letter was attached.

Mr. Long moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to pass Resolution No. 6, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Mr. Eyre seconded, to pay the bills. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Board Chairman Ford thanked Mr. Metz for his comments on video recordings. Board Member Eyre commended staff who helped with the unloading and placement of playground equipment at Lincoln Park. Mayor Schlade thanked Bryan Municipal Utilities employees who put together swag bags for the Williams County Bicentennial selfie stands. Director of Utilities Schultz offered congratulations to Water Distribution Operator Stuart Martin who recently passed his Ohio Class II Water Distribution operator license examination. He also offered congratulations to Power Plant Operator Trainee Richard Baer and Lineworker I Noah Landel for each advancing from probationary to regular employment status.

A brief recess was taken.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to go into Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of property and the employment and compensation of a public employee at 6:00 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Asked to attend: Director of Utilities Schultz, Mayor Schlade, Clerk-Treasurer Lehner, Human Resources Director Lyons.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Mr. Long seconded, to adjourn the Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ms. Schreiner moved, Mr. Eyre seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Chairman of the Board

Clerk-Treasurer