

BRYAN BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

February 6, 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 Salisbury, and Robert Eyre. Also present were: Director of Utilities Derek Schultz, Mayor Carrie Schlade, Operations Manager Jimmy Dunning, Communications Superintendent Joe Ferrell, Human Resources Director Tricia Lyons, and Clerk-Treasurer John Lehner.

Mr. Long moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 16, 2024, as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Bryan resident Bill Metz addressed the Board with his concerns for the diminished capability of the City's internet/email service to properly filter spam and other unsolicited emails. He is aware this had to do with Bryan Municipal Utilities' decision to not renew its Barracuda filtering software, but questioned why. He is also unhappy with the recent decision to no longer provide video of the Bryan Board of Public Affairs and Bryan City Council meetings. He believes there should have been an opportunity for public input before the decision was made. Lengthy discussion followed.

Communications Superintendent Ferrell explained the incompatibilities between the updated version of Barracuda and existing Bryan Municipal Utilities equipment for which an immediate fix is cost-prohibitive and further complicated by other long-term issues in the system, for which possible solutions are under consideration.

As to the video recording of meetings, Communications Superintendent Ferrell explained that the existing equipment was outdated and was increasingly unreliable. The quoted cost of replacing camera equipment in both meeting rooms exceeded \$40,000; and since the decision was made, the related mixing equipment has been disposed of, which would significantly increase the cost of re-establishing video capabilities.

Board Member Long expressed his thanks to Mr. Metz for raising the issue, that the Board and City Council each struggled with the decision to eliminate video recording, and that the Board and staff could reevaluate its current options and provide follow-up information.

Director of Utilities Schultz requested the Board sign a letter of support for the Fountain Creek Senior Villas project and the efforts of the Williams County Port Authority and Frontier Community Services to secure a \$1.0 million grant from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) to help fund the project.

Mr. Long moved, Mr. Eyre seconded, to authorize and sign a Letter of Support for the Fountain Creek Senior Villas project. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2, 2024, titled,

AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HV507 SFA TEREX 4X4 DIGGER DERRICK FROM TEREX UTILITIES, INC.

was presented and read by title only. Director of Utilities Schultz explained that this vehicle was originally ordered in 2021 at a cost of \$273,479, but that due to lengthy supply delays, is now seeing its second change order, raising the cost to nearly \$310,000. He requested the Board authorize the change order and proceed with the necessary purchase.

Mr. Eyre moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to pass Resolution No. 2, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Director of Utilities Schultz requested that the Board of Public Affairs reclassify Probationary Operations Manager Jimmy Dunning to Operations Manager at the current annual salary of \$94,517.80 effective February 7, 2024, as he performs all the essential functions of the job and meets all requirements.

Mr. Long moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to reclassify Probationary Operations Manager Jimmy Dunning to Operations Manager at the current annual salary of \$94,517.80 effective February 7, 2024. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Director of Utilities Schultz led a discussion on the appointment of Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA) representatives for 2024. Mayor Schlade and Board Member Long agreed to serve as Delegate and Alternate, respectively. A resolution authorizing the appointments will be presented at the February 20, 2024 meeting of the Board of Public Affairs.

Board Chairman Ford distributed a slate of potential board committee assignments for 2024. Discussion followed. A recommendation was made to eliminate the Technology Committee, as it did not meet in 2023 and may no longer warrant a separate committee. All agreed. There were no other objections to the rest of the recommended slate. The matter will be brought back for consideration at the February 20, 2024 meeting of the Board of Public Affairs.

Director of Utilities Schultz provided the 2023 Year in Review for the Communications Department, beginning with a detailed review of operations and finances. A slideshow and handout presentation were provided. Communications Superintendent Ferrell provided a review of capital projects completed in 2023.

Director of Utilities Schultz then provided the 2023 Year in Review for the Water Department, beginning with a detailed review of operations and finances. Operations Manager Dunning provided a review of capital projects completed in 2023.

Further discussion followed.

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

Board Chairman Ford and others welcomed Mr. Eyre to the Board, and commended the year-in-review presenters. Director of Utilities Schultz reported on the recently awarded farm lease bid and offered to follow-up on Mr. Metz' concerns.

A brief recess was taken.

Mr. Long moved, Ms. Ford seconded, to go into Executive Session to discuss employment and compensation of a public employee at 6:45 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Long moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to adjourn the Executive Session at 6:59 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Director of Utilities Schultz requested the Board authorize him to advertise for the vacant positions of Water Superintendent and Engineering Supervisor.

Ms. Schreiner moved, Mr. Long seconded, to advertise for the vacant position of Water Superintendent. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Ms. Schreiner seconded, to advertise for the vacant position of Engineering Supervisor. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

Chairman of the Board

Clerk-Treasurer