

BRYAN BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SPECIAL MEETING

AUGUST 29, 2025

Bryan Board of Public Affairs Chairman Annette Schreiner opened the Special Board of Public Affairs meeting with the following members present: Karen Ford, Robert Eyre, Jim Salsbury and Richard Long. Also present were: Mayor Carrie Schlade, Director of Utilities Derek Schultz, Power Plant Production Superintendent Jim Coressel, Water Superintendent Jimmy Dunning, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Chad Fitzenrider, Communications Superintendent Joe Ferrell, Administrative Assistant Sylvia Ramos, Bryan City Council Member F. John Betts and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Patricia Buda.

Board of Public Affairs Chairman Schreiner called the Special Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the Special Meeting was to discuss the important role of the Bryan Board of Public Affairs in local government.

Board of Public Affairs Chairman Schreiner began the discussion on the importance of the Bryan Board of Public Affairs. She and other board members asked Mayor Schlade about the timing of the proposal to bring Bryan Municipal Utilities (BMU) under the direction and supervision of the Bryan mayor and city council, what plans are in place should the proposal pass and what efficiencies would this bring to the city.

Mayor Schlade explained that City Council had not met on this issue which will take place at the meeting to be held September 2, 2025 and that more information should come out on Tuesday night in response to the Board of Public Affairs members' questions. She did point out, that in regard to efficiency, the city council needs to approve applying for water grants and the timing of that approval could take up to three weeks to get permissions from both Council and Board of Public Affairs. She also pointed out that Bryan's Board of Public Affairs is the only remaining elected board in the State of Ohio. Other communities and cities have advisory boards to make recommendations to council.

Vice Chairman Eyre pointed out that the Board's experience in utilities is invaluable when making decisions in regard to cost savings, user rate reviews and utility projects. He stated that the cost savings for eliminating the board would equate to about \$1 of savings per resident and said that the members of council would not have the expertise and time to focus on electric and water issues. He also felt that there should be independence between the Board of Public Affairs, utilities and Council.

Mayor Schlade felt that the City Council does manage a budget and utilities in regard to wastewater and are capable of reviewing and dealing with utility projects. She stated if the measure would pass, the Director of Utilities and employees for BMU would remain the same but would be under the direction of Council.

Board Member Salsbury felt that the Board of Public Affairs needed to hear what Council had to say at the Tuesday meeting and had confidence that the voters would make the right decision as he has gone through this issue in the past, but glad that this meeting was set up.

Board Member Ford wants the Board of Public Affairs to remain so that they can focus on what is needed for the electric and water rate users noting that the BMU employees do not want a change. She stated that this is a direction that should not be pursued.

Board Member Long said that he has gone through this issue before which caused a lot of hard feelings between the Board of Public Affairs and Council but would like to hear what will be presented at the Tuesday meeting.

Board President Schreiner reiterated that this meeting was set up so that the Board members could vocally state the importance of the Board of Public Affairs to Council and Bryan citizens.

Citizen Brian Davis, who is on the November ballot to run for a seat on the Bryan Board of Public Affairs, advised the Board to seek outside legal counsel, and that the only way to reduce expenses is to reduce employees which would result in loss of jobs.

No further discussion was held.

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

Chairman of the Board

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer