

**City of Belle Meade
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Belle Meade City Hall
May 18, 2022**

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Haley Dale at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner's present

Haley Dale, Vice Mayor Louise Bryan Jim Hunt Bob Weigel

Staff members present

Beth Reardon, City Manager	Charles Williams, Chief of Police
Leigh Mills, Director of Finance & HR	Mack Mangrum Lieutenant
Larry Smith, Public Works Director	Lyle Patterson, Building Official
Rusty Terry, City Recorder	Doug Berry, City Attorney

I. Pledge of Allegiance - led by Vice Mayor Haley Dale

II. Public Comments - Vice Mayor Dale asked that anyone who wished to comment on the walkway demonstration project on Belle Meade Boulevard, to hold their comments until after Commissioner Bryan gives her report.

Kay Lang, resident at 420 Lynwood Boulevard inquired about the traffic calming and when they would be implemented; would speed limits be lowered before chicanes were installed.

Commissioner Bryan: We can propose to reduce the speed limit, this will need to be proposed by a commissioner, receive a second from another commissioner and the motion would need to be carried. No one commissioner would make that decision. We will defer the discussion of reducing speed limits on streets that connect to Metro streets, due to the long agenda for today's meeting and Jeff Hammond from Metro Nashville traffic calming is going to speak to us about the things Metro is doing in addition to speed reduction, such as eliminating yellow lane striping changes.

Lang: The section of Lynwood where my home is has no intersecting streets, and it is a stretch where cars seem to go faster.

Vice Mayor Dale: Will we be discussing speed reduction across the board or for specific streets? Do we need to hear complaints from residents?

Commissioner Bryan: We know where there are hotspots, certainly Lynwood and Jackson, and we know Metro has reduced speed to 25 miles per hour on certain residential streets, and right now our speed on those streets still remains at 30 miles per hour which is not logical. We also know that some streets have design issues which could benefit from a speed reduction. While we always look for community engagement, we don't need a complaint to look strategically at making changes for safety.

Public Comments Closed

IV. Minutes - Regular meeting held April, 2022

Motion to approve: Hunt **Second:** Bryan **Vote:** All aye

V. Public Works

1. Staff Recognition - National Public Works

City Manager Reardon recognized Public Works employees, Larry Smith, Nathan McVay and Dylan Hood for their work, noting they are always on call and doing their jobs 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

2. Monthly reports - no questions

3. Update on BMB Median Pathway Demonstration Project

Commissioner Bryan reported:

In October 2020, the city manager and commissioners kicked off the first series of community engagement programs designed to protect, preserve, prepare and enhance Belle Meade. A resident steering committee chose this description, for a detailed background please see the city's website.

The recurring themes that citizens present to commissioners have always been safe walking, traffic calming, beautification and stormwater management. For one year, 13 different meetings in different formats were hosted to ask residents what is important to them, and to seek their input on possible solutions.

Throughout the process demonstration projects were a tool used to show by installation, examples of traffic calming, a chicane on Linwood, a traffic island on Jackson and most recently, a median trail on Belle Meade Boulevard. Demonstration projects are cheap, easy, fast and reversible. They are not meant to show what something will be like. They are meant to show what something feels like. They are never an endorsement or recommendation. They are usually accompanied by a survey. They always generate attention because they are real, not a photo and not an illustration.

The median path demonstration project was a huge success. Why? Because it generated attention and feedback. Thank you all for taking the time to be part of this project.

Please know a couple things. These are things that came up again and again, that I answered many times during phone conversations, by email and in person. The Median Path Demonstration Project was approved by the unanimous vote of the board of commissioners, and it was always intended to be low cost, short term and reversible. The week of June 19 is the take up date after the Cheekwood antique car parade. The commissioners have not considered any recommendations, proposal or motion to make design changes to Belle Meade. No one had ever recommended that a gravel path be installed on Belle Meade Boulevard.

The Civic Design Center is an organization that advocates for design and quality of life. They are in the business of creating a more beautiful and functional Nashville. They work with communities and cities all the time to test ideas. They were hired for a total fee of \$5,000 which was approved by a unanimous vote by the commissioners. The Ceres Society voted unanimously to contribute half of the total amount, \$2,500, because they've been trying for a long time to get some ideas in motion about plantings to replace the mature trees on the Boulevard. For the demonstration project the commissioners have worked on every single detail in collaboration with the Ceres society. Public Works installed the project and they worked very hard. Larry, Nathan and Dylan shared ideas about the installation and materials and every single one

of their recommendations was put into place. Thank you all so much, I really appreciate it.

The City of Belle Meade communicates through a website, newsletter and email blasts. Please sign up to receive information. The commissioners work emails are all on the website. Most people don't have my cell phone number and you can always call City Hall to talk to someone in the department.

Why me? Real work is done in City Hall. In order to keep Belle Meade beautiful, safe and fiscally sound the commissioners work with department heads on many projects. To work efficiently we actually distribute the workload by category. Haley has a great deal of government experience, and she has taken the lead in compensation studies and analysis and the hiring of a search firm for our new city manager. Rusty is a real estate closing attorney. He's a lawyer. He works in real estate. He takes the lead in zoning and real estate issues. Bob has a wealth of knowledge in engineering. He leads up our work in public works and the city sewer. Jim has worked very effectively with the police department. He created a resident committee, he hired the new chief, implemented one of the most innovative programs called the Blue Light Program to connect residents and deliver necessary items during COVID. He was also instrumental in the day-to-day contact with NES during the power outages last year. I work with Metro Parks in project development and planning, I meet private donors every single week and discuss their ideas and their strategy. So, I work with Belle Meade in community engagement. And I try to find ways to make solutions multi-purpose across issues. If you've ever received any suggestion that the demonstration project is my original idea and that I acted alone, you have been misled. This is false. The demonstration project was a conspiracy among all the commissioners, and it received unanimous approval for installation. And that is the truth.

Why not give more tickets? The average daily traffic on Belle Meade Boulevard in 2020 was 7,736 vehicles; this is down. In 2021 the number decreased to 5,876, with this lower number of vehicles the Police Department issued more citations in 2021 than 2020. The police cannot police the behavior of driving in the left-hand lane.

What's next, the Civic Design Center will compile the survey results and those results will be published on our city website. Just like every survey we've ever done has been published. It's on the website. The survey helps to answer the question of why, not just yes and no. I've been very happy to include the petition to the survey materials. I was happy to have the petition on the table at the farmer's market. I have answered questions of how to sign the petition. The petition doesn't give us enough information on the why and the how, we'd like to get to the underlying issues, understanding what people really feel. We will read and discuss the survey. We will talk to residents, and we will listen. Community engagement never ends.

No Public Comment on the Belle Meade Boulevard Median Demonstration Project

4. Request to extend Creek Debris Removal Contract

Public Works Director Smith stated that the current Creek Removal Maintenance contract with JR & Associates expires on June 30, 2022. Smith noted they do a great job and recommended extending their contract for one year.

- Bryan: Is it for the same dollar amount?
- Smith: Yes.
- Weigel: How long have they been doing this work for the city?
- Reardon: Since the mid-1990's.
- Smith: There are very few people who will do this kind of work.
- Dale: For everyone that does not know; you have to remove debris, rocks, everything by hand; you cannot use machinery.

Motion to extend the Creek Debris Removal contract with JR & Associates
Weigel Second: Bryan Vote: All aye

VI. City Services

A. Public Safety

1. **Monthly Reports** - submitted by Police Chief Williams

Statistics Summary March 2022

<u>377</u> Citations Issued	<u>8</u> Traffic Crashes	<u>29</u> Alarms
<u>0</u> Burglary	<u>1</u> Theft of Property	<u>3</u> Arrests

License Plate Recognition (LPR) Report

<u>4</u> - Stolen Vehicles	<u>1</u> - Stolen License Plates
<u>0</u> - Missing Person	<u>0</u> - Wanted Person

2. **Update on Peer Support Program** - presented by Chief Williams
 Chief Williams introduced Officer David Read, stating that Read had completed a 40-hour Billy Graham program in Evansville, Indiana. The program uses real-life scenarios teaching how to talk with people who are grieving. Williams stated that Officer Read, with his tenure and background, was the best candidate for this program, as well as a great officer.

B. Health and Sanitation

1. **Monthly Reports** - submitted by Dylan Hood

C. Building/Zoning/Planning

1. **Monthly Reports** - submitted by Building Official Lyle Patterson, reviewed

<u>9</u> Permits Issued	\$6,412,400.00 estimated construction cost
<u>1</u> Permit Closed	
<u>0</u> Grading/Soil/Disturbance Permits	
<u>0</u> Stormwater Complaints Filed	

2. **Appointment of Jim Hunt to BBCA**

Motion to appoint Jim Hunt to the Board of Building Codes and appeals: Weigel
Second: Bryan Vote: All aye

D. Waste Collection - No Matters

E. Beautification/Landscape

1. **Monthly Report** - Laura Katherine Wood

Wood stated that as of the end of April, the Ceres annual campaign had brought in \$93,000. She noted that for the same period last year they had raised \$80,000. She praised her committee and attributed the increase to their work on getting the committee's name out to the public and what they do for the city. She stated that she does have a full committee, new members are Jeffrey Ezell, with the Compost Company, and will be on our Education

committee; Chip Wilkison, a realtor with Engel and Volkers, will be on the Events committee. Wood stated that the spring/summer plantings are in the ground. Wood also thanked Public Works for all their work noting that what the Ceres Society does also depends on Public Works and presented thank you gifts to the Public Works Department staff.

F. City Communications

1. Demonstration of GoGov push notification program - Building Official Patterson

Patterson provided information on GoGov, a branded mobile app, push notification system which would be designed specifically for Belle Meade to alert residents across social media platforms and as text and email messages. Patterson stated that the system would make it simple for City Hall administration and the police department to engage citizens across these multiple channels instantly. Patterson provided information on how the system would work, noting that the geofencing was included with the system. Patterson stated the cost of the system would be \$200 per month, which would include what the city would need to do push notifications to the residents.

- Vice Mayor Dale: How does a resident's email get on the notification list.
- Patterson: The resident can choose how they want the push notification, most people would choose an alert directly to their phone, you can also choose to have it sent to your email, Twitter, Facebook, whichever you would like to do. Currently we do not have it priced for residents to use the app to contact us, but on the site/app we could also choose to add website pages allowing payment of bills.
- Vice Mayor Dale: Is there something they could send us that would provide exactly what services they offer?
- Patterson: I will send the commissioners the entire demonstration video and I can provide a direct contact if you would like to call and ask specific questions.

2. Other communication methods for City information

City Manager Reardon: Commissioner Bryan had mentioned we needed to look at other methods to communicate. Everything we think of requires someone on the other end to sign up. There is nothing out there that you can blanket contact every single resident.

- Dale: This isn't necessarily communication, but I would also like to look at recording our meetings with a camera. Metro Council does a good job with this, they have the option of clicking on an agenda item and only watching that portion. It is very helpful. I think people have become use to doing this type of thing in other areas, and what we do feels antiquated. I think adding different ways to communicate in all areas would be great.
- City Recorder Terry: There is a company that is local that I met at the TAMCAR Conference that provides this. Oak Hill just installed the system.
- Dale: Beth, can we look into this?
- Reardon: Yes.

VII. Administration

A. Finance

1. Financial Statements - January 2022 presented by Leigh Mills

- Weigel: I notice that the amount for building inspections is way down.

- Mills: Last year we had discussed hiring someone to assist, we put that in the budget but did not hire anyone.
- Bryan: Patterson, do you feel you need any assistance?
- Patterson: We have hired someone out of Steve Casey's group to do Storm Water Inspections. We currently have 44 projects going on in the city, in March there were 33 violations, during the last inspection that had dropped to 10, so this is working, and that was the help that was needed.

2. Investment Schedules - reviewed

3. Approval of Invoices over \$5,000:

Wascon, Inc.	\$ 13,498.64
LSI (Landscape Services, Inc.)	\$ 14,525.00

Motion to approve invoices: Weigel Second: Bryan Vote: All aye

B. Facilities - NO MATTERS

C. Human Resources / Personnel

1. Progress Update on Baker Tilly Executive Search - Reardon stated that she had talked with the consultant from Baker Tilly, Patti Heminover, she has sent all the information to her to prepare the brochure; once done, Reardon stated she would review the first draft, make changes/corrections and following those changes Heminover would send a copy to all the commissioners. Reardon provided information that would be in the brochure. The commissioners will make comments, suggest changes and then the final brochure would be published and sent out.

VIII. LEGISLATION

1. Ordinance 2022-2, Amending Section 12-302 (5) of the Belle Meade Municipal Code to Increase the Stormwater User Fee from \$7.47 per Equivalent Residential Unit ("ERU") to \$22.41 per ERU, on second reading

Motion to approve: Bryan Second: Weigel

- Vice Mayor Dale: Before we vote we have an amendment to the ordinance that Building Official Patterson will explain.
- Patterson: The original Ordinance 2022-2 did not include the condominiums in Belle Meade, we thought it best to treat each single unit as an individual residence as opposed to one residence. Each unit will be charged the lowered tiered \$134.41. This is a fair assessment, as we have assessed single family homes throughout the city. There are some who own two units at the Belle Meade Condominiums they will be charged for two units.
- Vice Mayor Dale: I have a concern about this increase for the condominium owners, how will we communicate this to those owners?
- City Administrator Reardon: City Recorder Terry and I will identify those condo owners and we will send a letter to them explaining the new legislation before we mail the invoices in August.
- Bryan: I would like for us to say in the letter that our current rate does not cover our expenses.
- Reardon: We will also send a letter with all the invoices explaining the reason for the increase when those invoices are mailed in August.

Motion to include the amendment to Ordinance 2022-2: Bryan

Second: Weigel

More discussion followed regarding the need to communicate the purpose of the amendment. Commissioner Bryan asked that this information be included in the next newsletter.

Move to defer until the June Board of Commissioners meeting: Dale

Second: Bryan Vote: All aye

2. Ordinance 2022-3, Budget Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, on first reading

Motion to approve: Bryan Second: Hunt Vote: All aye

3. Ordinance 2022-4, Fix Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, on first reading

Motion to approve: Weigel Second: Hunt Vote: All aye

3. Resolution 2022-06, Amending User Charges for Users of Wastewater Collection System of the City of Belle Meade

Finance Director Mills explained the sewer user fee will increase by 2% as per the Sewer Rate Study completed in 2021 and adopted by the Board. The new monthly rate will be \$3.20 per 100 cubic feet of water consumed with a minimum of \$29.45 per month.

Motion to approve: Weigel Second: Hunt Vote: All aye

VIII. Other Matters - None

Meeting Adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Vice Mayor Haley Dale

City Recorder Rusty Terry