

Bethel Village Council January 12, 2009

Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers in the Bethel Municipal Building on Monday, January 12th, 2009 with Mayor John Swarthout presiding.

The meeting was video taped, to be aired on cable television.

Mayor Swarthout called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Cherry delivered the invocation followed by Mayor Swarthout leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Upon roll call, the following were counted as present: Council Members Alan Ausman, Joe Houlihan, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, Tim Cherry, James Dick. Also present: Village Administrator Travis Dotson, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton and Solicitor George Leicht.

A motion to approve the minutes from December 15, 2008, as written, was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Swarthout

Mayor Swarthout thanked the Public Works Department for the Village holiday décor, noting the comments the Mayor of Hamersville made regarding how nice the Village looked.

Mayor Swarthout called for nominations for the 2009 President Pro-Tempore.

A motion to appoint Donna Gunn as the President Pro-Tempore was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All ye -- Ms. Gunn abstained. Motion carried.

Mayor Swarthout gave the December 2008 Mayor's Court report, announcing the court brought in \$8117.66 to the Village during the month.

President Pro-Tempore, Donna Gunn

Ms. Gunn announced the only change to the 2009 Committee Appointments is that she will now serve as the Finance Committee Chairperson, with Gary Hutchinson remaining on the committee. All other committee appointments are the same as 2008.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

The Public Works Department is working to keep the Village streets clear with their limited resources.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Nil.

Solicitor, George Leicht

Requested an executive session to discuss pending litigation at the end of the meeting.

Police Chief Planck

Nil.

Zoning Administrator, Ron Dunn

The recession is apparent in the limited Village development, considering Mr. Dunn only issued 34 zoning permits in 2008, compared to 51 in 2007.

Mr. Dunn has been in contact with the other 8 zoning administrators in the County, hoping to coordinate quarterly meetings, and he is also evaluating the zoning fee schedule.

The old Blue Haven Restaurant is being demolished.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Gary Hutchinson

The Committee met this evening, and discussed a number of matters.

The former police chief, John Wallace, has obtained other employment, therefore meeting the terms of the Village's severance offer. The severance payments are terminated.

A motion to terminate future severance payments to former Chief Wallace, due to his new employment, was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All ye.

The committee discussed two ordinances before Council this evening – ORD 1616 authorizing a transfer of funds and ORD 1618 amending 2009 appropriations. The committee also reviewed IRS regulations related to fringe benefits, such as uniforms and cell phones. The personnel committee will be reviewing the Village's policies on fringe benefits further.

The committee discussed designating Chief Planck as a salary employee, instead of hourly, due to the requirements of the job, and his limited road patrol. Mr. Leicht is fine with the move, though he would like a memo from the Chief, for the Chief's personnel file, stating his typical daily duties.

A motion to designate Chief Planck a salary employee, effective the next payroll period, with a salary equal to his hourly rate times 2184 hours due to the police department's 12 hour shifts, was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All ye.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Monday, February 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The county is currently demolishing the old sewage treatment plant, which has been a while in the making.

The pad has been poured at the skate park, and will remain covered for a couple more weeks, to allow time for the concrete to cure. The obstacles will be placed and the signs mounted before the tentative grand opening of January 26, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

Mr. Houlihan read the police departments 2008 statistics: 5973 Calls, 647 Reports, 220 Arrests, 883 Citations, 127 Crashes, 680 Mutual Aid. The number of mutual aid calls caused surprise, but Chief Planck noted the department also receives mutual aid from other departments.

Mr. Houlihan wanted to put an end to any rumors that the Police Department is being dissolved, with a local county taking over patrol. The rumors simply aren't true.

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Monday, February 2, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The committee met last Thursday, January 8, 2009. They approved the following expenditures from the Bethel Events Fund: reimbursement of \$60 to the Village Administrator for gift cards given to the students that painted the office windows for the holidays; up to \$75 for the purchase of WebKinz, to give to the first grade coloring contest winners.

The committee discussed having all hourly personnel use time clocks, and the final draft of the employee handbook is ready for Council review.

The committee discussed the operation of a pop machine. Their recommendation is the maintenance of the machine is done on employee time, and a disclaimer should be placed on the machine stating the proceeds go to the Bethel Events fund. Solicitor Leicht agreed to the disclaimer.

Ms. Gunn has a personnel matter to discuss in executive session.

The next personnel meeting will be set at the January 24, 2009 Council meeting.

Burke Trust Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

2008 Burke Scholarship recipients have been submitting their grades to the Village, for the next installment of their tuition. All but one of the recipients has met the grade guidelines, and that student will be eligible for the remainder of the tuition if the grades are brought back up.

Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick

The next Planning Commission meeting will be Thursday, February 5, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. A seat is open on the commission, and anyone interested in the position should apply. The Mayor will make the appointment.

Call of Members:

Mr. Ausman: Nil

Mr. Houlihan: Nil

Ms. Gunn: Nil

Mr. Hutchinson: Nil

Mr. Cherry: Nil

Mr. Dick: Nil

Public Input:

Nil.

Legislation:

ORDINANCE 1609 GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO POLICE PENSION FUND FOR 2009, 3rd Reading

A motion to adopt Ord 1609 General fund transfer to Police Pension was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

ORDINANCE 1610 GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO POLICE COMMUNICATIONS FUND FOR 2009, 3rd Reading

A motion to adopt Ord 1610 General fund transfer to Police Communications was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea.

ORDINANCE 1611 WATER REVENUE FUND TRANSFER TO WATER EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND FOR 2009, 3rd Reading

A motion to adopt Ord 1611 Water Revenue fund transfer to Water Extension and Replacement was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All yea.

ORDINANCE 1613 ELECTRIC REVENUE FUND TRANSFER TO ELECTRIC EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND, 3rd Reading

A motion to adopt Ord 1613 Electric Revenue fund transfer to Electric Extension and Replacement was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All yea.

ORDINANCE 1616 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE STREET AND BRIDGE FUND, THE GRANT MEMORIAL FUND, THE WASTE FUND AND THE UTILITY DEPOSIT FUND, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion to waive the three readings of ORD 1616 General fund transfer to Street and Bridge, Grant, Waste and Utility Deposit was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. By roll: Mr.

Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion Carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1616 General fund transfer to Street and Bridge, Grant, Waste and Utility Deposit was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. By roll: Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 1617 PROVIDING CONSENT TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO RESURFACE A PORTION OF SR 232 IN THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL FROM THE WESTERN CORPORATION LIMIT TO SR 125, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The resurfacing of the small section of SR 232 will not require any local funds.

A motion to waive the three readings of ORD 1617 Providing consent to ODOT to resurface a portion of SR 232 in the Village was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By roll: Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1617 Providing consent to ODOT to resurface a portion of SR 232 in the Village was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By roll: Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 1618 AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009 (Increase Skate Park Appropriation to \$1000)

The construction of the park is done – the money is for signage.

A motion to waive the three readings of ORD 1618 Amending 2009 Appropriations was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By Roll: Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1618 Amending 2009 Appropriations was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By Roll: Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills:

A motion approving the payment of the presented expenses and bills was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

December Financial Report:

The Village funds are balanced and reconciled, and the Village ended the year on a positive note. The finance committee discussed the report at tonight’s meeting.

A motion to enter executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By roll: Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”. 7:27 p.m.

A motion to enter regular session was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All yea. 8:10 p.m.