

Bethel Village Council August 11, 2008

Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers in the Bethel Municipal Building on Monday, August 11th, 2008 at 6:30 pm with Mayor John Swarthout presiding.

The meeting was video taped and will be aired on cable television.

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 Leicht.

A motion to approve the minutes from July 28th, 2008, as written, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Swarthout

Nil.

Village Administrator

The Village online auction will be ending this Thursday, at 9:00 p.m. The site is villageofbethelauctions.com.

Duke Energy has paved the walk path damaged by storms. They will also be seeding grass and completing the necessary repairs.

The public works employees have completed grinding tree stumps at Burke Park.

The utility department is in the process of implementing the ability to make online payments. The option should be available within 2 weeks, in time for the next billing. Interested customers should contact the utility department for a pin number.

Fiscal Officer:

Nil.

Solicitor:

The first reading of Ordinance 1598 Adopting the 2007 Ohio Fire Code is before Council this evening. There is little change from the last version of the fire code adopted by Council.

Nick Grammas attended the meeting, regarding the annexation of his family's property into the Village.

Carl Hartman addressed Council on behalf of the Grammas family. The Grammas are interested in annexing their property located at 136 Starling into the Village, and are willing to open negotiations with the Village. They are concerned about the zoning of the property. They want to be able to continue using the property for farming, thus request the property be grandfathered in, or rather, be zoned as a non-conforming use. Mayor Swarthout stated the Village is open to discussions, and if the property was zoned as non-conforming, the Village's hope is that the property would revert to conforming if it ever changed hands or was developed. Mr. Hartman stated the ultimate goal is for the property to be developed into housing for senior citizens. Mr. Leicht and Mr. Dotson will continue discussing the annexation of the property with Mr. Hartman and the Grammas family.

Mr. Leicht mentioned the Village's Chase credit card account. Both Ms. Burton and Mr. Dotson have been in contact with Chase regarding the change in administration. Because the account has Mr. Shiverski listed as the primary account holder, Chase will not discuss transaction details. Ms. Burton has refused to pay for expenses on the account that she does not have details on. Mr. Leicht believes Ms. Burton is right in doing this, and will contact Chase in writing regarding the account.

Police Department:

Chief Wallace thanked those that participated in the National Night Out. The beer goggle corn hole, Karaoke Bob and smoked dogs were all a hit.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Hutchinson spoke on behalf of the Finance committee. The committee met this afternoon, and discussed various items to explore in order to cut expenses.

The committee recommends Council adopt Ordinance 1594 Amending 2008 Appropriations and approve the July 2008 Financial Report.

The next finance meeting will be Monday, September 8, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Public Works:

Mr. Cherry spoke on behalf of the Public Works Committee. The next meeting will be Monday, August 25th, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Safety Committee:

Mr. Houlihan spoke on behalf of the Safety Committee. The next meeting will need to be rescheduled, due to the Labor Day Holiday.

The committee discussed the police department's number of mutual aid calls, which is where the department goes out to assist other departments. The department averages a number of 50 mutual aid calls a month.

Burke Trust Committee:

Nil.

Planning Commission:

Mr. Dick spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission. The next planning meeting is September 4th at 6:00 p.m..

Call of Members:

Mr. Ausman: Thanked Lt. Planck for his work at the National Night Out.

Mr. Houlihan: Nil

Ms. Gunn: Recommended everyone try the Beer Goggles for a reality check.

Mr. Hutchinson: Noted his enjoyment of the National Night Out.

Mr. Cherry: Nil.

Mr. Dick: Nil

Public Input:

Sharon Schmidtgesling spoke before Council regarding various property maintenance issues around town. She is concerned about the empty propane containers by the old duct work company, and believes they pose a possible danger.

She again mentioned the overgrown, unkempt state of various properties around town, including a vacant, trashed mobile home located on N. East Street. Council acknowledged

the issue, but stated the enforcement of the property maintenance code can be time consuming, and recommended she contact Mr. Ron Dunn with any issues.

Ms. Schmidtgesling also addressed the problem of feral cats, namely the fecal matter left behind. It was noted there are numerous ideas as to managing the feral cat problem (cat traps, feeding programs, leash laws, cat limit), but the waste left behind may be a matter for the health department.

Mr. Leicht suggested Mr. Dotson contact local vet clinics regarding discounted spay/neuter rates for cats caught in the Village.

Council thanked Ms. Schmidtgesling for her input.

Legislation:

ORDINANCE 1593 AMENDING ORDINANCE 1566 CORRECTING SPELLING, WORD ORDER AND WORD USE IN THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, 3RD reading

A motion to adopt ORD 1593 Amending the Property Maintenance Code was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By Roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 1594 AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008 (General Fund Increase \$24190, Special Revenue Funds Increase \$37000, Enterprise Funds Increase \$408800, Trust and Agency Fund Increase \$5000, Total Increase to Appropriations \$474990), 3rd reading

A motion to adopt ORD 1594 Amending 2008 Appropriations was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. By Roll: Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 869 REVISING JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CERTAIN VILLAGE EMPLOYEES AND INCORPORATING THE SAME IN THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, 2nd reading

ORDINANCE 1598 ADOPTING THE 2007 OHIO FIRE CODE, 1st reading

July Financial Report:

A motion to approve the July Financial Report was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All yea.

Payment of Bills:

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea. 7:15 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer