

Bethel Village Council October 13, 2008

Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers in the Bethel Municipal Building on Monday, October 13th, 2008 at 6:30 pm with Mayor John Swarthout presiding.

The meeting was video taped, to 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. Solicitor Leicht was absent.

A motion to approve the minutes from September 22nd, 2008, as written, was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jim Smith, from the Bethel-Tate Local School District, spoke before Council regarding the proposed 1% earnings tax, asking for Community support of the tax. The district has cut over \$1 million from its budget in recent years, yet still remains overspent due to cuts in local government funding. The income tax is the first request from the district for additional funds since 1999. The tax proceeds would be unrestricted, and could be spent as the district sees fit. An income tax brings in more money than a property tax levy, and the district may not have to ask for further taxes if it passes.

The district has once again been awarded an Excellent designation from the state, and is ranked first in Clermont County in state testing. If the income tax does not pass, cuts may include bussing, elementary and middle school extra curricular activities, teachers, aids, and other administrative staff.

The purchase of the former Holman dealership building was addressed. Mr. Smith stated the former administration building had problems with asbestos, ADA compliance and space, and the bus garage was not conducive to working on buses. The purchase of the Holman property was unexpected, but fit the needs of the district. Capital funds, not General funds, were used to purchase the property. Mr. Smith noted the income tax measure would be on the ballot with or without the Holman property purchase.

Mayor Swarthout expressed his support for the measure, and recommended residents vote yes for the income tax.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Swarthout

Mayor Swarthout corrected a name error made during the last Council meeting. Rocky ARNETTE, not Rocky Atkins, won the gold medal in bowling at the Special Olympics. The mayor apologized for his mistake, and recognized Mr. Arnette.

Rocky spoke briefly before Council, expressing his support for the school district, and updated everyone on his gold medal bowling score.

Mayor Swarthout officially appointed Mark Planck as the Village of Bethel Chief of Police, and swore him into the position, as of October 1, 2008. The mayor believes the Village lost a good chief in John Wallace, but he believes the Village is gaining a good new one with Chief Planck.

Village Administrator

Mr. Dotson congratulated Chief Planck on his "chiefmanship."

He also informed Council he and Mitch Hatfield will be attending a conference on alternative vehicles in Louisville later in the month.

Fiscal Officer:

Nil

Finance Committee:

A motion to grant a severance package to the former police chief, John Wallace, in the amount of \$1K/month, up to 15 months or until he finds other employ, whichever comes first, was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

A motion to set the hourly wage rate of Chief Planck to \$22.80/hour, effective upon his appointment, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea.

Mr. Hutchinson addressed Ordinance 1601 that updates the Village's utility deposit amounts. The new deposit amount was determined by considering the average billing. The new residential deposit amount would be \$250, and other deposit amounts are updated in the ordinance as well.

The next Finance Meeting will be Monday, November 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works:

The next Public Works meeting will be October 27th at 5:30 p.m.

Safety Committee:

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Thursday, November 6th at 5:30 p.m.

Burke Trust Committee:

Nil.

Planning Commission:

Nil.

Call of Members:

Mr. Ausman: Considers it an honor to be present during Chief Planck's appointment, and believes Chief Planck's grandparents would be proud.

Thanked the Millman family for the Blue Have Restaurant, and noted they will be missed.

Mr. Houlihan: Nil.

Ms. Gunn: Congratulations to Chief Plank, and "Thump!"

Noted the need for the Village to have a permanent/standing Personnel Committee, responsible for the employee handbook, job descriptions and employee issues. Ms. Gunn will chair the committee, with Mr. Ausman and Mr. Dick sitting on the committee as well.

Commended the Bethel-Tate Soccer team, and thanked Tom and Linda Millman for the memories.

Mr. Hutchinson: Nil.

Mr. Cherry: Looks forward to serving with Chief Planck, and thanked Tom and Linda for the waistline.

Mr. Dick: Congratulated Chief Planck, and encouraged former Chief Wallace to get some fishing time in.

Public Input:

Rocky Arnette congratulated Chief Planck.

Legislation:

ORDINANCE 1600 PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE BETHEL WATER PLANT, 2nd reading

Council would like Solicitor Leicht to advise on the necessity of the 5 week advertisement for the sale of the water plant property.

ORDINANCE 1601 SPECIFYING THE AMOUNT REQUIRED FOR UTILITIES DEPOSITS WHEN STARTING SERVICE WITH THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL, 1st reading

ORDINANCE 1602 AMENDING 2008 APPROPRIATIONS, 1st reading

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.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All yea. 7:20 p.m.

Mayor John Swarhout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer