

Bethel Village Council December 15, 2008

Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers in the Bethel Municipal Building on Monday, December 15th, 2008 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. Ausman 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 not present.

A motion to approve the minutes from December 8, 2008, as amended (spelling and grammatical corrections), was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea – Mr. Ausman abstained. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Following are the coloring page contest winners: Logan, from Ms. Patrick's class; Jayden, from Ms. Howard's class; Isaiah, from Ms. Eid's class; Owen, from Ms. Moss' class; Briana, from Ms. Miller's class; CJ, from Ms. Powklar's class. All are first grade students at William Bick Primary.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Swarthout

Mayor Swarthout reported the Mayor's Court netted \$3866.50 in revenues for the Village during November 2008.

Mayor Swarthout thanked the Public Works Department for hanging the Christmas lights, contributing to a festive atmosphere around town. Many people have commented on how nice the Village looks.

The DHC Window Painting Trophy has been presented to the Village, and will be on display in the Utility Billing office.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

There was a waterline break on McMurchy last Friday, December 12, 2008. The line has been repaired, and the clean-up work should be done by the end of the week.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Nil.

Police Chief Planck

Nil.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Gary Hutchinson

Both Chase Bank and 5/3 Bank submitted depository bids. There is not a local 5/3 branch, and Mr. Hutchinson found the Chase bid non-specific on fees and costs. The finance committee recommends the Village reject all depository bids.

A motion to reject all depository bids was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

The next Finance meeting will be Monday, January 12th, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The committee met today, before Council. The group discussed the future of the water plant property and will be continuing discussions with the County.

The construction of the skate park is proceeding, weather-permitting. The equipment should arrive this week.

The group discussed the Rumpke contract and the subsequent increase in rates. The committee recommends the Village increase the resident billing rate to \$14.50/month, which reflects the same 5.4% rate increase the Village incurred. No fuel surcharge is included at this time.

The committee is drafting a project “wish list”, and the Village Administrator will be collaborating with the Public Works Supervisor in prioritizing the projects.

There are rumors of potential stimulus money for municipal infrastructure projects. These projects should be “shovel ready” for a quick turn around. The replacement of water meters is a potential consideration.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

Nil.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Village will not be awarding cost-of-living raises at the beginning of the year. As a good will gesture, the committee recommends the Village give the employees the day after Christmas off as a paid holiday, for 2008 only.

A motion to give the employees the day of December 26, 2008 off as a paid holiday was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All ye.

The Village’s holiday hours will be posted on the municipal building doors and at the drive-thru.

The next Personnel Committee meeting will be Thursday, January 8th, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Burke Trust Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Ms. Gunn requested the Burke Trust Commission address council regarding the denial of the skate park funds. The commission denied the request, stating their meetings are not open to the public, and they do not need to justify their denial of funds publicly.

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: Thanked the Public Works Department for their hard work and dedication.

He also expressed his disappointment in the Burke Trust Commission, and their denial of funds because their “feelings were hurt”. He believes the skate park will be the most popular attraction in the Burke Park.

Mr. Houlihan: Merry Christmas. Be safe, and remember communities have limited salt to treat the roads.

Ms. Gunn: “Merry Christmas to All.”

Mr. Hutchinson: “Ho, Ho!”

Mr. Cherry: Merry Christmas.

Mr. Dick: Bethel United Methodist Church will be offering free gift wrapping to the community on Saturday, December 20, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Swarthout added his sentiments for everyone to have a Merry Christmas. He hopes everyone finds time for family, rest and relaxation.

Public Input:

Nil.

Legislation:

ORDINANCE 1608 GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO POLICE CRUISER FUND FOR 2009

Ms. Burton asked that the remaining readings for Ordinance 1608 and Ordinance 1612 be waived. She will need money in both these funds before the end of January 2009 for bill payments.

A motion to waive the 3 readings of ORD 1608 General Funds to Police Cruiser Fund 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".

A motion to adopt ORD 1608 General Funds to Police Cruiser Fund was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. By Roll: Mr. Dick "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea".

ORDINANCE 1609 GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO POLICE PENSION FUND FOR 2009, 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 1610 GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO POLICE COMMUNICATIONS FUND FOR 2009, 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 1611 WATER REVENUE FUND TRANSFER TO WATER EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND FOR 2009, 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 1612 WATER REVENUE FUND TRANSFER TO 1ST WATER MORTGAGE FUND FOR 2009

A motion to waive the 3 readings of ORD 1612 Water Funds to 1st Water Mortgage was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By Roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Dick "yea".

A motion to adopt ORD 1612 Water Funds to 1st Water Mortgage was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By Roll: Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Dick "yea".

ORDINANCE 1613 ELECTRIC REVENUE FUND TRANSFER TO ELECTRIC EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND, 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 1614 SETTING RATES FOR TRASH AND GARBAGE COLLECTION (\$14.50/unit)

A motion to waive the 3 readings of ORD 1614 Setting Garbage Rates to \$14.50/unit was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By Roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Dick "yea".

A motion to adopt ORD 1614 Setting Garbage Rates to \$14.50/unit was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By Roll: Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Dick "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea".

ORDINANCE 1615 REPEALING PAYSACLE ORDINANCE 1576 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion to waive the 3 readings of ORD 1615 Repealing ORD 1576 and Declaring an Emergency was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. By Roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Dick "yea".

A motion to adopt ORD 1615 Repealing ORD 1576 and Declaring an Emergency 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”.

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 authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into contract with SGT Inc. for remote backup services and ad-hoc/as-needed computer support for 12/2008-12/2009 was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Ausman All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea. 7:12 p.m.

Mayor John Swarhout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer