

## **Bethel Village Council**

### **April 14, 2008**

Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers in the Bethel Municipal Building on Monday, April 14th, 2008 at 6:30 pm with the following members present: Council Members Alan Ausman, Joe Houlihan, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson and Tim Cherry; Mayor John Swarthout, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton, Solicitor Leicht, and Village Administrator Travis Dotson.

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

Mayor Swarthout called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Mr. Ausman delivered the invocation followed by Mayor Swarthout leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Ms. Gunn moved to accept the 03/24/08, 03/30/08 and 04/07/08 minutes, as corrected. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. Vote: All yea. Motion carried.

#### **Communications:**

Nil

#### **Administration and Committee Reports:**

Mayor Swarthout addressed the vacant council seat. Council was copied on all interested applicants.

A motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters 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". Motion carried. 6:45 p.m.

A motion to enter regular session 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". Motion carried. 6:55 p.m.

A motion to appoint Mr. James Dick as a council member was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea. Motion carried.

Ms. Gunn commended Mr. Dick's "task master" abilities while head of the planning commission.

Mr. Leicht swore Mr. Dick into office, following with Mr. Dick taking his seat with Council.

Mayor Swarthout nominated Mr. Ron Dunn as his appointment for Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer.

A motion to confirm the mayor's appointment of Mr. Dunn was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. Five yeas, with Mr. Dick abstaining. Motion carried.

Amended job descriptions will be forthcoming.

A motion to nominate Ms. Donna Gunn as president pro tempore was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. 5 yeas, with Ms. Gunn abstaining.

Mayor Swarthout presented the monthly court report. The court collected over \$2809, with \$500 going to the state and \$2298 going to the village.

April 3, 2008 was the last day for Midway Theatre. The Mayor expressed his gratitude to Ms. Debbie Brooks and her family, and wished them all well. Mayor Swarouth hopes someone is able to re-open the cinema soon.

Mayor Swarouth welcomed the Village's new officials: fiscal officer, Angel Burton, and council member, James Dick.

The Burke Grant Applications are available. The deadline for application is May 9, 2008, with a special meeting scheduled on May 19, 2008 for the purpose of interviewing applicants. It was noted no decision nor voting will take place during that meeting.

A few upcoming events include the Lions Club meeting on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Grant Career Center Annual Community Appreciation Dinner that evening.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. The mayor is giving permission for pinwheels to be displayed at the Grant Memorial in commemoration to the victims of child abuse.

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month, with a benefit walk on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Swarouth knows how rewarding foster care can be from past experience.

**Village Administrator:**

Administrator Dotson complimented Chief Wallace and the police department on Friday night's drug house raid. The raid was well planned, and the department worked as a team. The Village should be proud of their very capable department.

He and Ms. Burton are organizing the administrative offices. The state auditor's will be on site on Tuesday, and will be assisting Angel as needed in rebuilding the Village's books.

Mr. Dotson is in the process of reviewing Village expenses, and considering the appropriateness of each.

The street department is working on the water drainage at the baseball field's diamonds 2 & 3, and cleaning up the park. The fire department is assisting with the cleaning out the storm drains.

Mr. Dotson mentioned that Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> was Clermont 20/20 Spring Cleaning Day, and April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> are the township clean-up days.

Mr. Dotson made special mention of Laurie Taylor, Michelle Price, Kelly Terry and Julie Ermi, thanking them for their invaluable help during the Village's recent transition.

It was noted the representative for the Bethel Boosters needs to be contacted for a contract signature. It is not necessary for that rep to attend a Council meeting.

**Fiscal Officer:**

Nil

**Solicitor Leicht:**

Nil

**Chief of Police:**

Chief Wallace mentioned that Friday's drug house raid had been visited before. With the help of the community, the department was able to conduct a successful investigation and raid. He also distributed a few keychains and novelties to Council, on behalf of various causes, including seatbelt awareness.

Russ Whitely's instrumental work in getting Vern Jones' long overdue WWII veteran medals was commended. In turn, Mr. Whitely thanked the mayor, the village administrator and the police chief for their assistance.

**Finance Committee:**

Most of the items on the finance committee's agenda have been referred back to Mr. Dotson for further review. Ball field dirt and mulch were two operating expenses discussed for purchase.

Mr. Hutchinson addressed the discussion of combining the police clerk and the clerk of court duties into one. Police clerk, Laurie Taylor, is currently performing both duties. Ms. Taylor has done a great job with the additional responsibilities, and assists upstairs as needed. Together with Chief Wallace, it is the finance committee's recommendation to include with this combined job description a \$1.50/hr wage increase for Ms. Taylor, retroactive to the first payperiod in January, 2008. It was noted the combined role will include some overtime hours, due to the evening court hours.

A motion to combine the Police Clerk and Clerk of Court duties into one, and give Ms. Taylor a \$1.50/hour wage increase, retroactive to the first payperiod in January 2008 was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea. Motion carried.

**Public Works:**

Mr. Hatfield has compiled a punch list of projects to be addressed around town. The group is working on what items are covered in the maintenance department's budget, as well as what work can be done in-house, versus outside contractors. Mr. Dotson will type the list and distribute it to Council.

There were more than 20 people that attended the skate park committee meeting. Modular equipment was discussed and meetings will be scheduled with the various manufacturers and council. A Steering Committee was organized, consisting of 3 student skaters, 3 parents and 3 committee members. It was noted the student members were nominated unanimously.

**Safety Committee:**

The group met on Monday, April, 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, with the Chief providing some insight on last Friday's drug raid. Ms. Gunn commended Chief Wallace and the police department on behalf of the committee. She noted that Bethel is not the place for drug dealers.

Lt. Plank is attending Police Command of Staff schooling at Northwestern during the week, returning home on the weekends, working in the office on the weekends, and returning to school on Monday's. His effort was applauded, and Chief Wallace continues to encourage all his officers to further their education and training.

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 5:30 pm at the Village office.

**Burke Trust Committee:**

Reminder that May, 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 will be the meeting to interview applicants for this year's scholarships. The committee is reviewing the annual request for the Old Settlers' Cemetery, as well as a few other requests.

**Planning Commission:**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1st, 2008 at 6:00pm. Changes will be coming, due to the committee chair being appointed a council member.

Parties interested in sitting on the committee need to notify the Mayor, since it is his appointment.

### **Call of Members:**

**Mr. Ausman:** Expressed his thanks and appreciation to Chief Wallace and the department for their work.

**Mr. Houlihan:** Echoed Mr. Ausman's sentiments, as well as all the Village employees for sticking through this rough time.

**Ms. Gunn:** Resonated previous members' thankfulness.

**Mr. Hutchinson:** Believes the Village made a wise decision in appointing Mr. Dotson and Ms. Burton. His anxiety level has greatly decreased, and he sees the Village moving in the right direction.

**Mr. Cherry:** Accolades to the police department, both for their successful criminal pursuits, as well as every day incidents, such as a recent vehicle incident Mr. Cherry was involved in. The experience he had on the receiving end with the department was positive and the report was professional.

**Mr. Dick:** Thanked council for their vote of confidence. He is looking forward to serving the Village of Bethel.

### **Legislation:**

Resolution 864 regarding the regulation of Electronic Bulletin Boards has been referred to planning. The committee will discuss the legislation at their next meeting.

ORDINANCE 1579 ESTABLISHING NEW ELECTRIC RATES, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

### **Payment of Bills:**

Council reviewed the list of bills submitted for payment. Ms. Taylor was thanked for her efforts in compiling the report and seeing the bills through.

It was mentioned the parking reimbursement to Mitch Hatfield was for his attendance at an annual trade show.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea. 7:40pm.

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Mayor John Swarthout

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Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer