

Bethel Village Council January 10, 2011

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., with Mayor James T. Dick presiding.

Ms. Ireton delivered the invocation, followed by Mayor Dick leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Upon roll call, the following members were counted as present: Council Members Donna Gunn, Priscilla Johnson, Janice Ireton, Rus Whitley, Tim Cherry; Village Administrator Travis Dotson and Solicitor George Leicht. Interim Fiscal Officer Bill Gilpin was absent.

Mayor Dick thanked Bethel Building and Loan for sponsoring this year's Council meeting videos.

No minutes were presented for approval.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

REPORTS

Mayor James T. Dick

The Midway Theatre has reopened concentrating on family movies.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

Road salt been has been replenished and ready next round of weather.

Traffic light at 232 and 125 has been repaired following an auto accident.

Interim Fiscal Officer, Bill Gilpin

Absent.

Solicitor George Leicht

Nil.

Police Chief Mark Planck

Year-end activity report was provided along with December totals.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Meeting was held on January 5, 2011. Financial Recovery Plan draft was reviewed. Financial Planning and Supervision Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12 and the draft plan will be presented to the commission at that meeting.

Finance Committee is recommending revising the employee handbook amending the cell phone policy to pay a stipend rather than for an additional phone, thereby saving the village approximately \$200 per month. First reading of the resolution will be this evening.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2011 at 5 pm.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The next meeting is Monday, January 17, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Rus Whitley

Committee met this evening.

The metal plate on SR 125 on the east end of town will be removed when the weather allows for concrete to be poured.

Police cruiser #503 will have new tires installed tomorrow.

The next meeting is Monday, February 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Personnel Committee, Donna Gunn

The committee is recommending the change regarding the cell phone policy.

Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton

Have received 2 updates on scholarship recipients with great results to date.

Preparing to revise the scholarship application prior to May.

Planning Commission, Priscilla Johnson

Community surveys will be going out on the 14th.

Rules of Council, Donna Gunn

Nil.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Priscilla Johnson: Invited the community to apply for the vacant council position.

Janice Ireton: Please support the high school athletic program.

Donna Gunn: Need a motion for president pro-tem. Committee assignments will remain the same for now with the possibility of changes after a new council member is appointed.

A motion was made to nominate Ms. Ireton as president pro-tem by Mr. Whitley. Ms. Ireton respectfully declined the nomination.

A motion was made to nominate Ms. Gunn as president pro-tem by Mr. Cherry, seconded by Ms. Johnson. All "yea" except Ms. Gunn who abstained. Motion carried.

Does council want to appoint a new council member this evening. Consensus was to take care of at the next meeting.

Rus Whitley: Asked Travis Dotson about the purchase of a new copier and whether a resolution is necessary for the purchase. Travis Dotson and George Leicht indicated that the purchase was within the guidelines of the administrator's purchasing authority.

Tim Cherry: Was the traffic signal replaced with updated equipment. Travis Dotson replied that the equipment belongs to ODOT and that the village replaced the pole and the state repaired the signal.

PUBLIC INPUT

Gary Hutchinson asked if the switch to AEP for bulk electric had taken place. Travis Dotson replied that it will be taking place around the first of the month.

Mayor Dick stated that after 6 months or so of AEP invoicing the possibility of lowering rates will be looked at.

Gary Hutchinson asked about the financial recovery plan and whether council had formally approved the plan. Ms. Gunn replied that the plan would be presented to the commission first for approval and subsequently presented to council for approval. Mayor Dick gave an overview of the process. George Leicht addressed Gary Hutchinson's questions about the timing of the presentation of the plan. Gary Hutchinson expressed a concern about the public not having seen the plan prior to its approval.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 896 ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES FOR 2011, 3rd Reading

A motion to adopt RES 896 2011 Establishing Wages for 2011 was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Ms. Ireton.

Discussion: Mr. Whitley stated that the wage increase of 5% will cost the village approximately \$28,000+ for the year. Another \$34,000+ will be incurred for increased benefits, making the total cost approximately \$62,900. Mr. Whitley expressed his opinion for the need in the employee handbook for merit raises and asked that the raises be postponed until the handbook can be changed.

Ms. Gunn referenced a comment by Mr. Whitley when he ran for office stating that he intended to give the employees raises. Mr. Whitley replied that he meant by merit raises.

Ms. Ireton stated that she too supports merit raises. However, at this time she feels that a small raise is not appropriate and with the fiscal officer recently leaving, it is time to move forward. Ms. Ireton would like to see merit raises the next time pay raises are considered.

Ms. Johnson stated that since merit raises are not in the handbook they cannot be given.

By roll: Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Whitley "nay", Ms. Gunn "yea", Ms. Ireton "yea", Ms. Johnson "yea". Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 897 AMENDING SECTION 717 OF PERSONAL POLICIES REGARDING CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT, 1st Reading

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 21952-22974 plus electronic payments and charges); was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Ms. Ireton. All yea.

DECEMBER EXPENSES

A motion to approve the December, 2010 expenses, as presented (checks 21803-21951, in addition to payroll, electronic payments and direct charges), was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Mr. Cherry. All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Ms. Johnson. All yea. 7:08 p.m.

James T. Dick, Mayor

William R. Gilpin, Fiscal Officer