

Bethel Village Council

April 26, 2010

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, April 26, 2010, with Mayor James T. Dick presiding.

Mr. Cherry 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 Priscilla Johnson, Janice Ireton, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, Tim Cherry, Mary Daugherty; Fiscal Officer Angel Burton and Village Administrator Travis Dotson. Solicitor George Leicht arrived after roll call.

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

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2010 meeting, as corrected (concession stand repair clarification; grammatical correction), was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor James T. Dick

A group will be meeting this Saturday, May 1, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. to distribute information on the upcoming Police Levy. Mayor Dick will also be holding an information/question and answer session on the levy on Monday, May 3, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Dick held a manager's meeting with the Village Administrator, Fiscal Officer and Police Chief this past Friday, and went over expectations he has for the Village's administration. His focus is on establishing routines and procedures, to facilitate action between administration and Council.

Mayor Dick recognized the Auto Collision program at Grant Vocational, and read a letter on behalf of himself and the Village, stating the Village's sincere appreciation for the work done on Village vehicles, and the cost efficiency extended to the Village through their services.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

Mr. Dotson thanked everyone that turned out for this year's Clermont 20/20 Clean and Green event. 105 people participated, picking up 96 bags of garbage, though more than half of that was outside the Village's limits. People even noted how clean the Village was.

The Public Works department continues to work on the Village's spring spruce-up. Gutters and curbs will be cleaned and painted before the BAMFest event.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Ms. Burton requested Council's approval to file electronic correspondence and payments with the Ohio Police and Fire Pension fund(OP&F). OPERS reports and payments are currently filed electronically. The Village has a secure network, and data is backed-up off-sight.

A motion approving OP&F electronic correspondence, reports and payments was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All ye.

Solicitor George Leicht

Nil.

Police Chief Mark Planck

BAMFest will be Saturday, May 8, 2010. All the arts, music and food openings have been filled and he encouraged everyone's attendance.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

A motion approving a payment of \$125 from the Bethel Events fund (2906) to the Police fund(2904), to cover expenses related to BAMFest promotions, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Ms. Daugherty. All yea.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Monday, May 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The Public Works committee met before Council this evening.

The committee has asked Mr. Dotson to obtain more quotes for the Grant Memorial repairs, to present to the Burke Trust.

The committee recommends the Bethel Boosters be approved to make the modifications at the concession stand, with the following stipulations: the window blockades should be removable, and the door wall should be painted the same color as the reinforced door. The modifications and stipulations should be attached to the lease agreement as an addendum.

The sink hole on the Rose-Ash property, due to a drainage system failure, was determined to be the responsibility of the property owner, because of the location and because it was done by the owners. Mr. Leicht recommended the Village Administrator send a notice to the owner, stating the Village's barriers will be removed in 30 days, and the sink hole needs to be repaired.

The Village is working on other paving projects, in addition to the Burke Park road repaving and the Grant Memorial parking lot, that will all be rolled into one project, and bid out. More on that will be forthcoming within the next month or so.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Gary Hutchinson

Nil.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Mary Daugherty

The Personnel Committee will meet Monday, May 3, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton

Student applications for this year's Edmund G. Burke Scholarship must be turned in by May 7, 2010. The special meeting to interview applicants will be held Monday, May 17, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission, Priscilla Johnson

Nil.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Priscilla Johnson: Nil.

Janice Ireton: Encouraged support of the Village's police department, because it's important to feel safe.

Donna Gunn: Encouraged attendance at the BAMFest, and noted the different venues the event is offering. She is praying for good weather.

Gary Hutchinson: May is a busy month for the Village, including the Village-wide yard sales on May 14th, 15th and 16th!

Tim Cherry: Encouraged support Mr. Hutchinson's yard sales.

Mary Daugherty: Nil.

PUBLIC INPUT

Judge Tom Herman, a Republican primary candidate for Common Pleas judge, spoke before Council. He has been a Municipal Judge for 19 years, serving together with Judge McBride. He has heard more cases than any other candidate, and believes his record is impeccable, due to the low number of cases reversed by the Appellate Court. He attributes Clermont County's beauty, in part, to the Community Service Program implemented by his court. Judge Herman considers the move to Common Pleas a promotion, and all the same rules are applied as they are in Municipal Court. He pledges to remain fair, with no preconceived judgements, and to run a dignified court, with no back log. He has over 30 years experience in law, including serving as assistant prosecutor, assistant public defender and assistant solicitor in Union Township. Due to his years of service, he will have the legal right to retire and still continue serving, though he pledges not to "double-dip" if elected to the seat. Judge Herman thanked Council for allowing him to speak.

Mr. Shane Wilson, with the Bethel Boosters, asked for Council's approval to solicit and collect outside donations for ball field improvements. The fields are in poor shape, and no school funds are available for improvements, because no school events are held there. Mr. Jim Smith, Superintendent of Bethel-Tate Schools, has given the Boosters a letter approving donations, dependent on Village Council's joint approval. All transactions will be reviewed by Mr. Chris McGee, as a control measure on the use of the funds. Concession stand proceeds will be used as well. The Boosters have considered sponsorship signs to hang on the fence and/or concession stand, to recognize donors.

Improving the fields and recognizing the sponsors was commended, and approval from Council may be included as an addendum to the lease agreement, similar to the concession stand repairs. Mr. Leicht suggested Council consider negotiating with the School to take over fields 3 and 4, and consolidate the Village's park system.

Mayor Dick noted this is a matter that would typically be reviewed and recommended by the Public Works committee. Mr. Cherry, speaking as chair of that committee, requested Mr. Wilson send a letter, with the signage specs (size, material, locations, number) to the Village Administrator, who will in turn forward the information to the committee.

Mr. Rus Whitley addressed Council regarding the sinkhole on the Rose-Ash property. He has been hired by Ms. Rose-Ash to fix the problem. Mr. Whitley's plan is to remove the storm sewer, go back 25 feet along the easement line, and cut off the pipes. He will then fill in the hole with concrete, and cut a swale across the property in a North-South direction. He stated Ms. Rose-Ash has a right to remove the system if it's on her property, though he believes the repair may cause flooding to businesses along 125. He had hoped the Village would work with the property owner.

Mr. Hutchinson believes if the system is removed, the natural drainage will return, due to the topography of the property. He does not see the repairs as a problem.

Mr. Leicht questioned if Mr. Whitley had an ultimatum, since Mr. Whitley is telling the Village what he's going to do. Such repairs may cause flooding of Rose-Ash's neighboring properties, and result in additional problems. Mr. Cherry believes if the stated repairs result in flooding, the State may require the property owners to restore the system or make other repairs.

It was noted storm sewer lines that are 10 ft. in diameter or less are Village responsibility, and Mr. Hutchinson believes the Village will have to make the repairs if the line breakage is beyond the 25 feet. Mr. Cherry does not believe there is any way of knowing where the damage is without digging.

Mr. Leicht advised further research on the matter. He would like a title search done on the property, because the State did take property along 125, and ODOT owns 50 feet from the centerline. He believes the Village should keep the best interest of the businesses along 125 in mind.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 884 ESTABLISHING A BETHEL WALK PATH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, 2nd reading

ORDINANCE 1636 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A NOTICE OF GRANT AGREEMENT, 1st reading

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 20793-20810, as well as the Zoning Administrator's April, 2010 salary, OPERS and Medicare contributions) was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All yea. 7:40 p.m.

James T. Dick, Mayor

Angelina Burton, Fiscal Officer