

Bethel Village Council July 12, 2010

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, July 12, 2010, 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 Priscilla Johnson, Janice Ireton, Donna Gunn, Tim Cherry, Rus Whitley, Mary Daugherty; Fiscal Officer Angel Burton and Village Administrator Travis Dotson. Solicitor 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 June 28, 2010, as written, was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Mr. Whitley. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

REPORTS

Mayor James T. Dick

The Zoomba classes have been a success, and Ms. Coniglio may schedule more sessions.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

Brandsetter Carol is working on a grant application for the South Union and South Charity bridges. The deadline for application is August.

Mr. Dotson is working with Mitch Hatfield on the paving bid specifications.

The playground parts have been ordered, and a "Playground Rules" sign will be posted, similar to the Skate Park. Monthly inspections of the playground will take place, for insurance compliance.

Mr. Dotson is gathering estimates on a security window installation in utility billing.

The State has replaced the 4 corners at Plane and Main, as a part of the repaving project. Their replacement was included in the traffic light project, and since they've been done, that overall project expense will be reduced.

The utility billing clerks are working on data entry that will allow for the sort of mailing labels for the community survey.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Nil.

Solicitor George Leicht

Mr. Leicht has received two letters from the State Attorney General's office regarding findings for recovery. He will get with Ms. Burton on the status of the findings and voluntary recoveries.

Ms. Burton asked Mr. Leicht to advise on Mr. Whitley's council pay. New council members are paid \$50/meeting, but because Mr. Whitley is filling Mr. Hutchinson's seat and completing his term, Mr. Whitley is entitled to Mr. Hutchinson's rate of pay, which is \$100/meeting.

Police Chief Mark Planck

IGA has contracted with the police department for traffic detail between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The officers are taking turns working the detail, during this 1 to 2 month trial period.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Finance Committee met this evening, before Council.

The committee recommends the Village place a .8 mill renewal levy for the Burke Park/Grant Memorial on the fall ballot. The levy will bring in approximately \$25K annually.

The committee reviewed the depository bids submitted by Key, Chase and Bethel Building and Loan. The committee recommends the Village designate Bethel Building and Loan as the depository, and keep the Village's business in town.

The committee discussed enrolling in the Ohio Municipal League's Worker's Compensation Group, with an annual cost savings of \$6,386.

A motion to enroll in the OML's Group Worker's Compensation Program, with administration by CompManagement, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. All ye.

The committee discussed the Village's 2011 General Fund budget, as recommended by Ms. Burton. Based on current projections, the Village's General fund will have a balance of around -\$74K by the end of 2011.

A motion to approve the 2011 Budget as presented was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Ms. Johnson. All ye.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be August 2, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The next Public Works committee meeting will be Monday, July 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The later time will be in effect for the meetings in July, August, September and October.

Mr. Cherry would like the skate park added to the playground inspection.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Rus Whitley

The Safety Committee met this evening, before Council.

The Chief's monthly reports to Council have been reinstated.

The committee asked Mr. Dotson to check with the school on getting employee id cards.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Mary Daugherty

The Personnel Committee will meet Monday, July 26, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton

A motion to release the remainder of Ms. Samantha Heist's 2008 Burke scholarship (book and tuition) was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All ye.

Ms. Ireton acknowledged Ms. Judi Adam's letter regarding the paving of the Burke Park roads. Unfortunately, the project will not be complete by the 2nd annual 10K run, but it is in the works, as a part of the larger paving project that is upcoming.

Planning Commission, Priscilla Johnson

The next Planning Commission meeting is Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Priscilla Johnson: Flowers were planted uptown around the trees, and they are becoming overrun with weeds. She would appreciate any volunteers with some time to spare to help with weeding.

Janice Ireton: The watering committee has done a great job – the planters look great.

Donna Gunn: Has the donor placard that was on the now-demolished planter. Kudos to Mr. Cherry for coaching the Middle School football team.

Rus Whitley: Noted Mr. Dunn’s report to Council at the last meeting seems to have worked, because he’s noticed some of the overgrown properties have been mowed and are looking nicer.

Tim Cherry: Appreciates the planters around town, but the line of sight at the intersections needs to be considered in their placement. He asked that Mr. Dotson have either Mr. Hatfield or the Chief check the various intersections to make sure visibility is clear.

Mary Daugherty: Nil.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Wass asked Council about having benches placed at Burke Park. The benches have been requested for over two years. He has been told that Council was going to ask the Burke Trust for \$3000 for the benches, then the previous Mayor told him that Grant Vocational was going to make benches, and most recently, he was told of an Eagle Scout that was building tables for his project. There is only one good bench at the park, from over 30 years ago. He’d like to see more like it.

Council went on to discuss the benches with Mr. Wass. It was noted that not enough volunteers stepped forward to help out with the Eagle Scout’s project, and wood splinters, causing a potential liability. Concrete is preferred, and stands the test of time. Ms. Ireton suggested people contribute toward the bench purchase, and contact the Mayor if interested in helping. Mr. Whitley volunteered to donate one table with benches. Mayor Dick asked Public Works to review and make a recommendation to Council.

Mr. Ausman addressed Council regarding rumors that he heard Ms. Angel Burton told employees, residents and Council members that she would resign if he was appointed to the vacated Council seat. He considers this political campaigning, which is a Group II offense in the employee handbook and a violation of section 712 regarding political activity. He wants both an internal investigation and a police investigation, with the appropriate disciplinary actions taken.

Mr. Frank Manning notified Council that the Burke Trust Commission approved the Grant Memorial repairs.

Mr. Gary Hutchinson addressed the progress made toward the negative General fund. He congratulated the administration, especially Ms. Burton, for the financial improvements made and the ideas that were implemented. The deficit that was almost \$600K is now projected to be less than \$100K by the end of 2011. He wonders if the Village will be out of fiscal emergency before the declaration is made?

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 888 REQUESTING THE VILLAGE PLANNING COMMISSION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FEES AND CHARGES TO THE BETHEL ZONING CODE TO BE ADOPTED BY SEPARATE ORDINANCE, 3rd reading

A motion to adopt RES 888 Allowing Zoning Fees by Separate Ordinance was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Ms. Ireton. By roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Ms. Daugherty “yea”. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 891 DESIGNATING BETHEL BUILDING AND LOAN AS THE DEPOSITORY FOR ACTIVE FUNDS FOR THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL

A motion to waive the three readings of RES 891 Designating Bethel Building and Loan as Depository was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Mr. Cherry. By roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Ms. Daugherty “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 891 Designating Bethel Building and Loan as Depository was made by Mr. Cherry. Second by Ms. Johnson. By roll: Mr. Cherry “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Ms. Daugherty “yea”. Motion carried.

Mr. Leicht reminded Ms. Burton to check the signature authority, to make sure the legislation isn't institution specific.

RESOLUTION 892 A RESOLUTION TO LEVY TAX IN EXCESS OF TEN MILL LIMITATION (Burke Park, Grant Memorial .8 mill renewal levy)

The fall ballot deadline is August 4, 2010.

A motion to waive the 3 readings of RES 892 Burke Park/Grant Memorial Necessity to Levy was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Whitley. By roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Ms. Daugherty “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 892 Burke Park/Grant Memorial Necessity to Levy was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Ms. Daugherty. By roll: Mr. Cherry “yea”, Ms. Daugherty “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 20948-20995) was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All yea.

JUNE EXPENSES

A motion to approve the June, 2010 expenses, as presented (checks 20878-20947, in addition to payroll and direct charges), was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Daugherty. Seconded by Ms. Johnson. All yea. 7:30 p.m.

James T. Dick, Mayor

Angelina Burton, Fiscal Officer