

## **Bethel Village Council July 27, 2009**

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, July 27, 2009, with Mayor John Swarthout presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was videotaped, to be aired on cable television.

Mr. Ausman delivered the invocation, followed by Mayor Swarthout leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Upon roll call, the following members were counted as present: Council Members Alan Ausman, Joe Houlihan, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, Tim Cherry, James Dick; Solicitor George Leicht, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton and Village Administrator Travis Dotson.

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2009 meeting, as written, was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. 5 yeas, Mr. Ausman abstained.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Wesley Clark addressed Council and requested permission to use Fields 1 and 2 for a Fall softball league, on Wednesday and Friday nights. It is an extended, girls' fast-pitch season, and will serve as a fundraiser for next year's events. Twenty teams are signed-up. The program would not interfere with football, and the concession stand will not be used. Mr. Clark has approached the Boosters, but they are not interested.

The Village has a non-exclusive license agreement with the Boosters, but discussion did include the for-profit nature of the league. Mr. Wesley stated the funds are rolled into a team account, and no money is paid to the coaches.

Mr. Leicht stated he has no problem with the use, though insurance is a condition of the license, and a financial statement should be copied to the Village's fiscal officer.

A motion authorizing the Village Administrator to grant use of Fields 1 and 2 to Mr. Clark's Fall Girls' Fast-Pitch Softball League on Wednesdays and Fridays, once insurance is obtained, was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yeas.

### **ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Mayor John Swarthout**

Mayor Swarthout read a thank you note from Ms. Mary Gillamore addressed to Mr. Mitch Hatfield. Mr. Hatfield helped Ms. Gillamore with a flat tire she had at Burke Park.

#### **Village Administrator, Travis Dotson**

Chris Clingman, from the Clermont County Park District, informed Mr. Dotson that the Park District has applied for Clean Ohio grant funds, in anticipation of purchasing the Village's water works property. The applications are due by December 18, 2009, with awards announced January 26, 2010.

The Public Works department has begun cleaning weeds and debris from the curbs and gutters around town. The work was delayed due to the unusual grass mowing demands this season.

Mr. Dotson commended the Utility Billing Clerks for the manner in which they handled an unstable young man recently. The man was contemplating suicide, or hurting someone, and the clerks were able to talk with him until Chief Planck arrived.

**Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton**

The Mayor's Court cash box/till amount needs to be formally set in the minutes.

A motion to set the Mayor's Court cash box/till amount to \$50 was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

**Police Chief Mark Planck**

This year's National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 beginning at 5:30 p.m., over at Burke Park.

Chief Planck will be working at the Clermont County Fair's Safety Booth on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 and Thursday, July 30, 2009.

**Solicitor, George Leicht**

Mr. Leicht relayed a message of thanks from Mr. Russell Woodruff to the Public Works department, for cleaning out the weeds in front of his house.

**Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

A Council Work Session with Mr. Dave Thompson, from the Auditor of State's Local Government Services, was scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry**

Nil.

Mr. Cherry did mention a letter the Village received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers relating to the water property easement. From what he read, it doesn't appear the government has changed their stance on the situation.

**Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan**

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

**Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

The Personnel Committee will meet Wednesday, August 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and review insurance benefits.

Ms. Gunn requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

**Burke Trust Commission, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

The Village is considering a few projects that may involve a request for Burke Trust funds, including re-roofing the Burke Park Shelter House restrooms and painting and maintenance of the Grant Memorial Building. Mr. Cherry suggested the committee consider a structural evaluation of the Grant Memorial porches.

**Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick**

Nil.

**CALL OF MEMBERS**

Mayor Swarthout will appoint a Records Committee at the next Council meeting, after he considers a member at large.

Alan Ausman: Kudos to Mitch and the Public Works department for their hard work, with less employees; and also to citizens for speaking up.

Joe Houlihan: Nil.

Donna Gunn: Kudos to Mitch; kudos to Mr. Clark – the kids will never forget.

Gary Hutchinson: Read the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the letter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: “The current access across Tract No. 1113 only allows the tract to be used in connection with the Village waterworks. The Corps is agreeable to granting a permanent easement limited to a one-lane gravel road similar to what currently exists.” He believes the Corps is reiterating their previous policy on the easement.

Mr. Leicht, however, read the letter differently, and believes the Corps will grant the easement. He thinks the Village should pursue the matter further with the Corps, and suggested a teleconference between himself, the Village Administrator and the Corps.

Tim Cherry: Nil.

James Dick: Believes the Village has accepted the bond at the Easter Valley subdivision, and would like to know when the Village will begin maintaining the neighborhood’s streets.

Mr. Dotson does not believe the Village has taken over the Easter Valley streets, nor accepted the bond. Mr. Leicht was under the impression the Village signed off when the streets were dedicated. Mr. Leicht believes Mr. Dick is correct, and advised pulling the plat that’s on record with the County.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Jim Royce, from Sunlight Lake, spoke before Council regarding his interest in annexing his property into the Village limits. He has 20 acres that are contiguous with the Village. Mr. Royce has a family business, but has recently encountered zoning issues with the Township over a R/C track that he has added. He believes annexing into the Village would allow him to continue operating.

Mr. Leicht will review the matter and get back with Council.

#### **LEGISLATION**

Nil.

#### **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS**

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All yea.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters 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”. 7:21 p.m.

A motion to enter regular session was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. 7:46 p.m.

Council has discussed changing the meeting schedule to one council meeting and one work session a month, instead of two council meetings. This would have an immediate impact on the General fund, because it would reduce the number of paid meetings. Council may not vote during a work session, and work sessions are typically subject based, though they may be kept to broad topics.

Mr. Leicht stated he understands Council is trying to be fiscally responsible, but they may want to consider just waiving and/or canceling meetings, especially during the slower summer months, instead of changing Council’s meeting schedule overall. Council may also set work sessions as needed.

Ms. Burton noted if Council goes to just one Council meeting, the bill payment policy will need to be addressed. Ms. Burton is given approval at the regular meetings to pay the bills, typically every 2 weeks. One meeting a month would not allow timely payment of the bills. Mr. Leicht mentioned the various methods of communication Council has available to approve the payment of the bills, ie, phone and e-mail. He suggested Ms. Burton contact the auditors for some suggestions.

A motion to cancel the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting in August (August 24, 2009) was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All yea. 7:55 p.m.

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Mayor John Swarthout

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Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer