

Bethel Village Council September 12, 2011

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, September 12, 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 Priscilla Johnson, Janice Ireton, Donna Gunn, Rus Whitley, Tim Cherry, Alan Ausman, Village Administrator Travis Dotson and Solicitor Julia Carney. Fiscal Officer Bill Gilpin was absent.

Also in attendance were John Seney of the Community Press, Ruth Gelter of the Independent Press, Gary Hutchinson, Lucy Shepherd, Anna Schuler, Nathan Schuler and Greg Schuler

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2011 meeting, as written with one revision of adding the word "distinction" to Ms. Gunn's comment regarding Bethel-Tate Schools, was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Mr. Ausman. All "yea" except Ms. Ireton who abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

REPORTS

Mayor James T. Dick

Mayor's Court report for the month of August, 2011; Total revenue of \$4,639, revenue to the village of \$3,465, \$25 restitution and \$1,149 to the state.

Groups of Bethel-Tate second graders are touring the village facilities this week as part of their social studies program.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

All items being worked on are going through committees. Need to designate beggar's night. Mayor Dick indicated that a weekend night is preferred by most and set trick or treat for 6 to 8 pm on Saturday, October 29, 2011.

Fiscal Officer, Bill Gilpin

Absent.

Solicitor Julia Carney

Nil.

Police Chief Mark Planck

Absent.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Committee met on September 8.

Discussed amending appropriations to accommodate current needs, ordinance is prepared for this evening.

Banking agreement was discussed; proposals from Community Savings Bank, Chase Bank and RiverHills Bank were reviewed. The committee is recommending switching to RiverHills Bank to maximize interest income and eliminate banking fees. The annual difference will be over \$12,000.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2011 at 5:00 pm.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The committee will meet immediately following the council meeting this evening.
Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2011 at 5:30 pm.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Rus Whitley

The committee will meet immediately following the council meeting this evening.
Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2011 at 5:30 pm.
Travis Dotson relayed a request from Chief Planck to reschedule the meeting due to his work schedule today.
The meeting will be rescheduled for September 15, 2011 at 5:30 pm.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Alan Ausman

The committee met earlier this evening. Items discussed were:
Correcting issues in the handbook pertaining to hiring personnel
Pros and cons of merit raises
The next meeting will be October 6, 2011, at 6:30 pm.

Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton

There are excess funds in the Burke Trust scholarship fund. One additional scholarship will be awarded to Hayley Rose and the remaining excess funds will be returned to the trust.
A request of \$5,000 is desired to help with the expenses at Burke Park
Up to date scholarship recipient information looks good

A motion to request one additional \$2,000 scholarship from the Burke Trust for Hayley Rose was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Mr. Whitley. All ye.

A motion to request \$5,000 from the Burke Trust to assist with mowing expenses for Burke Park and the cemetery was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Ms. Gunn. All ye.

Planning Commission, Priscilla Johnson

The next meeting will be October 20, 2011 at 5:30 pm.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Priscilla Johnson: Nil.

Janice Ireton: Nil.

Donna Gunn: There is a down home Christmas meeting Tuesday evening at 6:30 at CSB. Ms. Gunn read aloud a quote “Honesty has a beautiful and refreshing simplicity about it, no ulterior motives, no hidden meanings, and absence of hypocrisy, duplicity, political games and verbal superficiality. As honesty and real integrity characterize our lives, there will be no need to manipulate others”

Rus Whitley: Support your local churches and thanks for 9/11 services.

Tim Cherry: Public thanks to public servants for their service.

Alan Ausman: Nil.

PUBLIC INPUT

Greg Schuler introduced himself as a utility customer and stated that he has questions concerning ordinance 1658. Greg Schuler asked what amount of money would be transferred at 8.5%. Travis Dotson replied that he did not have that information with him. Greg Schuler indicated that current and former council members told him the amount would be approximately 2 million

dollars per month. Mayor Dick replied that the total annual amount for the electric fund is approximately 2 million dollars, not monthly and that the entire annual budget is 4 million. Mr. Ausman stated that the monthly bill for AEP was \$136,000, therefore the figures would not be anywhere near 2 million and asked Greg Schuler where he came up with that figure. Greg Schuler stated that he got his figures from former council member(s). Travis Dotson stated that currently the department rents are \$139,500 annually. Greg Schuler asked what the gross revenues were. Mr. Ausman stated that Bill Gilpin would have that information. Nathan Schuler stated that Bill Gilpin is getting that information together for him. Greg Schuler stated that he questioned the legality of taking money out of a utility fund for use in the general fund. Mr. Ausman stated that the financial recovery commission has looked at this proposal and recognized that many state departments are doing the same thing, specifically charging an administrative fee rather than department rents. Gary Hutchinson asked where in the Ohio Revised Code does it say the village can do this? Greg Schuler stated that he spoke with April Davis, Norm Bishop and George Leicht about the ordinance, and asked who wrote the ordinance. Mayor Dick stated that his revenue report indicates gross revenue of \$160k per month on average. There was additional discussion on the revenue numbers in general terms. Ms. Gunn requested that Greg Schuler attend the next council meeting when the fiscal officer can be available to answer his questions and allow Ms. Carney can edit the ordinance if necessary. Greg Schuler again asked who wrote the ordinance. Travis Dotson stated that the ordinance was modeled after an ordinance from the City of Oberlin that has been in effect since 1990. Ms. Gunn added that the City of Oberlin has been through several audits and if the state auditor's office felt that the procedure was improper, they would have stopped it. Mr. Whitley stated that the solicitor is researching the issues and the ordinance will be addressed at a later date.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 1658- ESTABLISHING AN ALLOCATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AND WATER DEPARTMENTS, 3rd Reading

Julia Carney suggested there be no motion(s) on the ordinance this evening. Mayor Dick asked Julia Carney if the proper procedure was to do nothing beyond the 3rd reading, which would effectively allow the ordinance to die in its present form. Julia Carney agreed that this is an acceptable approach.

ORDINANCE 1660-AMENDING ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion to waive the three readings of ORD 1660 Amended Appropriations was made by Mr. Whitley. Second by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Ausman "yea", Ms. Johnson "yea", Ms. Ireton "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Whitley "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea". Motion carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1660 Amended Appropriations was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. By roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Ms. Johnson "yea", Ms. Ireton "yea", Mr. Whitley "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea". Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 913-ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

The fiscal officer inadvertently left the resolution out of the council packets, therefore the resolution will be addressed at the next meeting.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 22747-22795 plus electronic payments and charges); in the amount of \$222,726.22 was made by Mr. Whitley. Second by Ms. Ireton. All yea.

AUGUST EXPENSES

A motion to approve the August, 2011 expenses, as presented was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Mr. Cherry. All yea.

Gary Hutchinson thanked Mr. Cherry for getting the county portion of Charity Street paved.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Whitley. Second by Mr. Cherry. All yea. 7:11 pm.

James T. Dick, Mayor

William R. Gilpin, Fiscal Officer