

Bethel Village Council October 26, 2009

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, October 26, 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. Cherry 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, Village Administrator Travis Dotson, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton.

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2009 meeting, as written, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor John Swarthout

Thanked everyone for their well wishes and prayers during his medical leave. He is doing well, and his doctors, as well as his wife, are pleased with his recovery.

Mayor's court, for the month of August, 2009, brought in \$3,499, with \$2,667 of that going to the Village, \$732 going to the state and \$100 for restitution. For the month of September, 2009, Mayor's court revenue was \$5,842, with \$4,351 going to the Village, \$1,306 to the state and \$185 in restitution.

Mayor Swarthout reminded everyone of next Tuesday's election, and stated his support of the upcoming school levy. He believes there is a strong need for the funding, and the education of the children will be directly affected if the levy doesn't pass. "If we can't support the kids, what do we support?"

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

Mr. Dotson has been working with the committees on various issues that will be forthcoming.

He noted there has been a lot of sickness and absences, but at least one employee has been in attendance in each department.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Nil.

Solicitor George Leicht

The Stevens issue has been resolved, and he has filed a motion seeking restitution from Laurie Taylor with OPERS.

Mr. Leicht has referred a notable outstanding utility delinquency to an outside agency for collection.

Mr. Leicht has been contacted by counsel representing a former employee seeking back cell phone pay. Mr. Dotson stated the Village no longer pays employees for carrying cell phones, but it was a past policy.

Police Chief Mark Planck

Mayor Swarthout recommends Chief Planck be removed from a probationary status.

A motion to remove Chief Planck from probation was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All ye.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Finance Committee met this evening and continues to muddle through wages, staffing and 2010 budgeting. The committee will meet in special session to discuss the 2010 budget and appropriations on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

A motion to reimburse Michelle Price \$15 for bank documents related to a medical reimbursement and Kelly Terry \$580 for 09/08/2005 and 10/06/2005 orthodontic claims was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All ye.

The Finance committee's next regular meeting will be Monday, November 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The Public Works Committee will meet following this evening's Council meeting.

Mr. Cherry and Mr. Dotson met with Ben Brandsetter regarding sources of funding for potential projects. The Safe Routes to School funding that's currently available wasn't considered feasible, due to the administrative fees and Village expenses. There may be other sources of funding available for projects such as the replacement of the S. Charity bridge, sidewalks and other foot bridges

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Monday, November 2nd at 5:30 p.m.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Nil.

Burke Trust Commission, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Nil

Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick

Nil.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Alan Ausman: Welcomed Mayor Swarthout back, and reminded everyone to watch for the children during Beggar's Night.

Joe Houlihan: Echoed Mr. Ausman's sentiments.

Donna Gunn: Stated no one welcomes back the Mayor more than her!

Commended the Boys' Soccer and Golf teams for winning their leagues, and noted the success of the Cross Country team.

Encouraged everyone to vote, and mentioned the school has representatives going door-to-door to answer questions and provide information related to the levy. She also mentioned voters need to request the write-in ballot.

Mayor Swarthout commended the school athletics as well, making special mention of Billy Sipos and Logan Stephens making All-City and the first-ever first place golfer for Bethel-Tate, Travis Tolin.

Gary Hutchinson: Believes the school board is operating efficiently, especially since it's been 21 years since the last operating levy passed. Stressed the importance of voting.

Tim Cherry: Welcomed back Mayor Swarthout.

Encouraged everyone to vote, and mentioned the upcoming public meeting on the school levy this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. He noted there are many sources of information, such as the auditor's website that will list the actual amount a property owner will owe if the levy passes.

James Dick: Wanted to address two items.

The first being school funding. Ohio's school funding mechanism was deemed unconstitutional, yet no other solution has even made it past subcommittee on the state level.

Second, he commended Ofc. Dave Wood's response to a tragic accident at the Batavia Frisch's restaurant. Ofc Wood was off work and in the area of Rt. 32 and Bauer Rd when he noticed black smoke coming from the restaurant's parking lot. A driver had blacked out, with his foot on the gas pedal, pinning a woman between his truck and another vehicle. Ofc Wood assisted in the accident, making calls to emergency personnel. He also stayed with the family of the woman, that died from her injuries, and took them to the hospital. Ofc Wood stated "it was all in a day's work" and Chief Plank believes Ofc Wood is excellent.

PUBLIC INPUT

Nil.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 1627 AMENDING SECTION IV-A OF ORDINANCE 1592, SETTING RATES FOR WATER TAP FEES AND ADDING SECTION VII-O, SETTING FINES FOR METER TAMPERING, 3rd reading

A motion to adopt ORD 1627 Setting Water Tap Fees and Fines for Meter Tampering was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By Roll: Mr. Dick "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea". Motion Carried.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Cherry "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Ausman "Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". 6:57 p.m.

A motion to enter regular session was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. By roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". 7:10 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All yea. 7:10 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer