

Bethel Village Council November 9, 2009

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, November 9, 2009, with Mayor John Swarthout presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 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; Village Administrator Travis Dotson, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton. Solicitor George Leicht arrived after roll call.

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2009 meeting, as written, was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor John Swarthout

Mayor's court, for the month of October, 2009, brought in \$6,204, with \$4,548 of that going to the Village, \$1,501 going to the state and \$155 for restitution.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

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

He reminded everyone the Village offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 in observance of Veteran's Day.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Nil.

Solicitor George Leicht

Nil.

Police Chief Mark Planck

Chief Planck informed everyone the United Methodist Church will be hosting a soup kitchen on November 14, 2009.

Cruiser #501 has a tear in the seat. The seat will be swapped out with a seat from a similar model up for auction.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Finance Committee met last Thursday, November 5th, 2009, to discuss the 2010 budget and appropriations.

There will be no wage increases given at the beginning of 2010, though Ms. Gunn does not want it referred to as a wage freeze.

Together with the Public Works committee, the sale of the water property to Clermont County Park district is not recommended.

Together with the Safety committee, the hiring process with the intention to place two permanent part-time officers is recommended, as well as the hire of additional auxiliary officers.

The General fund appropriations for 2010 have been settled, and the expenses are within 85% of anticipated revenues.

The Finance committee's next regular meeting will be Monday, November 23, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The Public Works Committee met on October 26, 2009, and this evening before council.

The committee discussed the purchase of a mini-excavator for the Public Works department. The equipment would allow for work in tighter areas, with more efficiency and a smaller footprint. The intention is to trade one of the backhoes in toward the purchase. The committee is seeking more quotes and considering financing options.

The Village is not maintaining the streets in the Easter Valley Subdivision because various conditions have not been met, including the final asphalt coat, elevated manholes, sidewalks and drainage. The committee would like to know the status of the contractor's bond and if it's still viable. Mr. Leicht recommended a letter formulated by Mr. Dunn and Mr. Dotson be sent to Pat Gregory, for a speedier resolution.

Though Bethel Building and Loan has expressed an interest in contributing toward the exterior painting of the Grant Memorial Building, it is a project they had hoped to delay to 2010. Because funds are available in the Grant Memorial Fund, the Public Works committee recommends the project be completed this year, before the Down Home Christmas event.

A total project quote of \$3575 was given by Todd Brooks for the exterior painting of the building. Ms. Burton stated the resources are available, but not appropriated. An appropriations amendment will be necessary, increasing the Grant Memorial contractual line by \$3575.

A motion recommending an increase in Grant Memorial contractual appropriations by \$3575 was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Dick. (No vote taken)

ORDINANCE 1628 AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009 (Increasing the Grant Memorial Contractual line by \$3575)

A motion to waive the 3 readings of ORD 1628 Amending Appropriations 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". Motion carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1628 Amending Appropriations was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By Roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Dick "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea". Motion carried.

A motion accepting the bid and authorizing Mr. Todd Brooks to paint the exterior of the Grant Memorial building for \$3575, pending the work can be completed prior to December 5, 2009, was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All yea.

Mr. Cherry stated the Public Works committee discussed 2010 appropriations, and various projects, including the Charity Street bridge, street resurfacing and foot bridges. The Village will be coordinating with the county on the Charity Street bridge.

Public works will not be meeting on November 23, 2009.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Monday, December 7, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Nil.

Burke Trust Commission, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Ms. Gunn inquired about the status of the picnic tables for Burke Park. Mayor Swarthout will check on them.

Mayor Swarthout mentioned two upcoming appointments to the Burke Trust Commission.

Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick

Nil.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Alan Ausman: Congratulated Mr. Dick on winning the mayoral race. He thanked Bethel voters for “getting it right.” Mr. Ausman reminded everyone of the Veteran’s Day parade in Batavia on Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m.

Joe Houlihan: Thanked Veterans and echoed Mr. Ausman’s sentiments. He believes Mr. Dick will be a good mayor.

Donna Gunn: Ditto, and stated Mr. Dick “won by the largest margin in the county.” Commended the owners of the old Bethel hotel on the improvements made to the building. “Slow progress is better than none.”

Gary Hutchinson: Noted how smoothly Beggar’s Night went, and the well-behaved trick-or-treaters -- he had several hundred stop at his house. Mayor Swarthout thanked the police department for their efforts that evening.

Mr. Hutchinson congratulated Mr. Dick, and wished Mayor Swarthout luck in finding something to do on Monday evenings.

Tim Cherry: Made the perennial announcement regarding fall leaves. Though the ditches offer convenient disposal, the co-mingling with other debris often leads to flooding. Rumpke will dispose of leaves that are bagged up and sat out on garbage pick-up.

Stated Chief Planck should be offered a Bargain Shopper’s award for finding a new cruiser seat at the fleet garage.

James Dick: Thanked Veterans, and mentioned he himself is one, and he’ll be spending the evening with the Pioneer Boys at his church.

Thanked voters for agreeing to his proposals. He realizes the votes are a vote of faith that he’ll stand behind his word.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Jim Royse, owner of Sunlight Lake, questioned the status of his annexation proposal. He was told it could take as long as 6 months, and it’s already been 4-5 months.

Mr. Leicht understood the matter to be in Finance’s hands, and Ms. Gunn stated the committee had hit a wall on the surveying expense considering the Village’s financial condition.

Mr. Leicht pointed out the amount of time this is taking is related to the number of issues that have arisen. Several of Mr. Royse’s neighbors expressed their concern over the r/c track noise to Council, and in turn, Council is concerned about various legalities, including the noise, if the property is annexed.

Mr. Royse stated he wants to annex his property regardless of the r/c track, and believes if the move is good for him it has to be good for the Village. He also stated no one has ever confronted him with the noise issue. He may be willing to share in the costs associated with annexation.

It was recommended Mr. Dunn, Mr. Dotson and Mr. Royse meet. Finance will discuss the annexation costs.

LEGISLATION

Nil. (ORD 1628 handled in committee reports)

OCTOBER EXPENSES

Mr. Hutchinson asked for explanation of the Hamilton County Coroner expense. The coroner's office does the drug identifications for the Village, and the expense is tacked on to the offender's fines.

A motion to approve the October, 2009 expenses, as presented (checks 20318-20387, including payroll and direct charges), was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All yea.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 20388-20431) was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

Council discussed the December meeting schedule, due to the holidays.

A motion rescheduling the second regular meeting of Council to Monday, December 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All yea. 7:24 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer