

Bethel Village Council November 14, 2011

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, November 14, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., with Mayor James Dick presiding.

Mr. Cherry delivered the invocation, followed by Vice Mayor Gunn 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, Timothy Cherry, Alan Ausman, Village Administrator Travis Dotson Village Solicitor Julia Carney. Fiscal Officer Bill Gilpin was absent.

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2011 meeting, as written was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pastor Jeremiah Hembree extended an invitation to Mayor and Council to attend a community Thanksgiving service on November 20 at Bethel United Methodist Church beginning at 7 pm.

REPORTS

Mayor James T. Dick; A

I attended a county Mayor's Association meeting last weekend; the board of health shared information that board of health inspections will be posted online in 2012. The board of health can now issue birth certificates for anyone born in the state of Ohio.

Down Home Christmas festivities are on December 3.

Joy of Adoption ceremony will be held at the Bethel United Methodist Church on November 17 at 6:00 pm.

Street Levy; Thanks to the voters for supporting the street levy renewal last week. This will allow the village to continue repairing and repaving village streets.

Mayors Court report; September report-Village revenue \$4,000.00, revenue to state of \$944.00, total revenue of \$4,944.00. October report-Village revenue \$2,979.06, revenue to state of \$787.00, total revenue of \$3,766.06.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

New traffic signals were adjusted due to them moving during high winds over the weekend.

Fiscal Officer, Bill Gilpin; Absent

Travis Dotson reported for Bill Gilpin;

Mayor and Council; Please be sure to fill out the related party audit form this evening before you leave and give to Travis. The audit team is wrapping up their work and need the forms for their files.

Finance committee needs to schedule another meeting to finish reviewing 2012 appropriations.

RiverHills depository ordinance; It is my recommendation that we go ahead and adopt the ordinance this evening even though we have worked out a compromise with Community Savings Bank. I have recently opened \$500,000 in certificates of deposit at Riverhills Bank as they had the highest rate of return amongst 5 banks that quoted the village. Since the \$500,000 is above the \$250,000 FDIC limit, the village's money will need to be and is collateralized by RiverHills Bank. For this reason I would prefer they be on our list of depositories along with Community Savings Bank and Chase Bank.

Solicitor Julia Carney

Nil.

Police Chief Mark Planck

Nil.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The committee met on November 7.

Garbage rates were discussed for 2012 along with curbside recycling.

The Laurie Taylor restitution is complete due to OPERS forwarding the balance due to the village from her retirement fund.

Revenues for 2012 were discussed, but appropriations were not due to the ALB meeting being the same evening.

Next meeting is November 21 at 6:00 pm.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The committee met earlier this evening.

The street paving project is nearly finished.

There will be a meeting on Wednesday with the county to review the CDBG grant for the bridge project coming up in 2012.

Storm water issues within the village were discussed and the county storm water department was contacted to get an idea of how the village fits in with the county plans.

No scheduled meeting for December unless the need arises.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Rus Whitley

The committee met earlier this evening.

Chief Planck has another police department that is interested in purchasing our old cruiser# 501.

3 new auxiliary officers will be hired in the near future.

Coverage for the Down Home Christmas is in place.

No scheduled meeting for December unless the need arises.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Alan Ausman

No meeting was held this month.

No scheduled meeting for December unless the need arises.

Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton Nil.

The Burke Trust scholarship applications will be available at village hall in April 2012. We are still waiting on information from Hayley Rose on her scholarship.

Planning Commission, Priscilla Johnson

Next meeting will be sometime in January.

Zoning Enforcement, Kathy Cromer

Report was given; 26 permits issued year to date, several conversations with Mr. Newman on Main St., some issues are being cleaned up. Ms. Ireton asked about the commercial lot at the corner of Harris and SR 125.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Priscilla Johnson: Nil.

Janice Ireton: Thanks to the voters for approving the street levy. Encourage everyone to attend Thanksgiving and Down Home Christmas events.

Donna Gunn: Congratulations to Lucy Shepherd and Jeremiah Hembree on your election success. Also congratulations to Alan Ausman on being elected Mayor. Everyone please consider applying for the vacant council seat that will become available when Mr. Ausman becomes mayor. Thanks to all for approving the street levy. The

Asian Longhorn Beetle situation is beginning to affect everyone with the plans to cut thousands of trees.

Quote of the week; “I am the king of your heart, the shade screening you from the sun, I am the beam that holds your house, the board of the table, I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, the shell of your coffin, I am the gift of God and a friend of man. I am the tree.” Author unknown.

Please be steadfast in the effort to stop the USDA from their attempt to devastate the village because if the USDA’s plan is successful our village will never look the same in our lifetimes.

Rus Whitley: Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and please continue to support the local churches. Ditto what Ms. Gunn has said about the trees.

Tim Cherry: As chair of public works, thanks to voters for supporting the levy.

Alan Ausman: The Asian Longhorn Beetle problem is a very emotional situation, please be calm and not overreact. Let’s all work together to find a solution to the problem. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and thanks for supporting the street levy.

PUBLIC INPUT

Greg Schuler asked where the village was on the electric rate study. Travis Dotson reported that the cost allocation study should be done within the next week and the electric rate study should be done within 3 weeks following. Ms. Gunn reported that various electric rate reduction percentages are being studied and considered, but keep in mind that certain fund balances need to be maintained before rates can be cut. Greg Schuler asked if new funds were being created. Ms. Gunn replied no. Greg Schuler stated that he feels like the banking should stay local. Ms. Gunn explained that the village’s banking is staying in Bethel thanks to a compromise worked out between Community Savings Bank and the village. Greg Schuler stated that he is making a public records request. Mayor Dick instructed Greg Schuler to get with Bill Gilpin for any public records request.

Lucy Shepherd asked about Bill Gilpin being elected fiscal officer at Ohio Township and how that affects his employment with the village. Mayor Dick responded that Bill Gilpin has been with Ohio Township for years and performs his full time duties for the village as well.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 1661- AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING RIVERHILLS BANK AS A DEPOSITORY FOR ACTIVE, INACTIVE AND INTERIM DEPOSITS, 3rd Reading

A motion to adopt ORD 1661 RiverHills Bank was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. By roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Mr. Whitley “nay”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 913 – A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED PREFERRED ASIAN LONGHORN BEETLE ERADICATION PLAN FOR CLERMONT AND BROWN COUNTIES IN OHIO SET FORTH BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE’S ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, OR APHIS

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2011, an Asian Longhorn Beetle infestation was confirmed in Tate Township, Clermont County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the USDA’s APHIS responded and began assessment of said infestation;

and

WHEREAS, the residents and officials of the Village of Bethel have provided consistent and full support to the eradication program; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that there are at least 5,000 confirmed infested trees; and

WHEREAS, the plan to remove in excess of 50,000 healthy host trees in addition to the 5,000 known infested trees is a blatant abuse of power and is an unnecessary and unacceptable plan; and

WHEREAS, effective chemical treatment of host trees, as an alternative to the senseless removal of healthy trees, has been successful in Asian Longhorn Beetle eradication programs in other communities, particularly Worcester, Massachusetts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, at least a majority of its members concurring:

SECTION 1. That Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio hereby withdraws its support of the proposed preferred Asian Longhorn Beetle eradication plan.

SECTION 2. That the Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, requests that the healthy host trees be treated chemically to prevent the spread of the Asian Longhorn Beetle.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Kasich and to all State of Ohio legislative leaders.

A motion to waive the three readings of RES 913 Asian Longhorn Beetle was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Ms. Johnson. By roll: Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 913 Asian Longhorn Beetle was made by Mr. Whitley. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Whitley “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 914- A RESOLUTION SPECIFYING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR 2012, 1st Reading

ORDINANCE 1665- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2011, 1st Reading

ORDINANCE 1666 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE INDIGENT DRIVER ALCOHOL TREATMENT FUND NUMBER 2272, 1st Reading

ORDINANCE 1667 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE WATER OPERATING FUND TO THE WATER MORTGAGE FUND, 1st Reading

ORDINANCE 1668 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE ELECTRIC OPERATING FUND TO THE ELECTRIC EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND, 1st Reading

ORDINANCE 1669 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE WATER OPERATING FUND TO THE WATER EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND, 1st Reading

OCTOBER EXPENSES

A motion to approve the October, 2011 expenses, as presented was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Ms. Ireton. All yea.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses totaling \$203,496.46 was made by Mr. Cherry. Second by Ms. Ireton. All ye.

Meeting on motion adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

James T. Dick, Mayor

Bill Gilpin, Fiscal Officer