

Bethel Village Council November 23, 2009

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, November 23, 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. 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 November 9, 2009 meeting, as written, was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All yea.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor John Swarthout

Mayor Swarthout is quite pleased with the holiday spirit displayed by the Village décor, and thanked the public works department for their work.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

Noted some of the street crossover decorations are a brighter white due to new LED bulbs. The old bulbs are being replaced with LED as needed. LED cost more upfront, but use less wattage and are longer lasting, saving money in the long run.

The interior work on the old water tower has begun. The Village has received calls of terrorist activity, due to the workers on the tower.

The Burke Park shelter house bathroom re-roofing is scheduled to begin tomorrow, November 24, 2009.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Nil.

Solicitor George Leicht

Nil.

Police Chief Mark Planck

This year's Down Home Christmas is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet, and encouraged everyone to help with the event.

The Ford Explorer is in the paint booth at the Career Center.

Aaron Warren, an auxiliary police officer candidate, has passed his physical and drug screen.

A motion granting Chief Planck permission to bag parking meters beginning November 27th, 2009 and ending January 4th, 2010 was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Finance Committee met this evening before Council.

The committee finished working on 2010 appropriations, and recommends the legislation before Council. (Ordinance 1629)

The committee also recommends Resolution 879 Establishing 2010 Wages and Salaries. No raises are being given at this time, but the resolution clearly states each employee's wage, as approved by Council. The legislation is an audit recommendation.

A motion approving the payment of \$966.40 to Collins Body Shop, for the repairs of damage incurred to Erin Ballein's car from an incident with a Village cruiser on 10/17/2009, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All yeas. Ms. Burton noted the payment will be added to the list of bills for payment and the check number will be 20453.

Council discussed an advance of dental benefits to Robert Collin's wife, Tracy. Ms. Collins is scheduled to have dental surgery in December, and the total claim amount exceeds her annual benefit amount. Council has made exceptions in the past with self-insured benefits, advancing the coming year's benefit for pricey procedures falling at the end of the current benefit year. Despite the possibility the payments for the procedure may fall in different benefit years, the benefit amount is based on those available at the date of service, thus the request for an advance of benefits. Mr. Leicht recommended Council document discernible criteria for benefit exceptions.

A motion approving an advance of Robert Collin's spouse's 2010 dental benefits (up to \$1000) was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. 5 yeas, 1 nay – Mr. Cherry. Motion carried.

The Finance committee has reviewed proposed changes to the Village's zoning fees, and recommends the amendment. Due to the current structure, any amendments to the zoning code require a public hearing. Mr. Leicht would like to remove the fees from the code, eliminating the requirement for a public hearing. A public hearing will be held January 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. regarding amendments to the zoning code.

The committee also discussed Mr. Royse's annexation request for his Sun Rise Lake properties, and the surveying expense. The committee will be comparing the expense in relation to the amount of potential property tax revenue.

The Finance committee's next regular meeting will be Monday, December 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The Public Works Committee met on November 9th, 2009 to discuss the Village's 2010 public work's appropriation recommendations.

The committee recommends 2010 projects including the Charity Street bridge (in collaboration with Clermont County Engineer's office) \$50K; street paving \$40K; and small footbridge and handrail replacement \$37K. Also the exterior painting of the water tower \$16K, underground electric line replacement at Bethel Woods, the installation of a generator for the municipal building and the purchase of a mini-excavator. Finance included all recommendations in the 2010 appropriations ordinance.

The next Public Works committee meeting will be meeting December 21, 2009 at 5:00 p.m..

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

Nil.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Nil.

Burke Trust Commission, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Nil.

Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick

Nil.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Alan Ausman: Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and encouraged everyone to shop local Bethel businesses on Black Friday.

Joe Houlihan: Happy Thanksgiving and stay safe.

Donna Gunn: Ditto, and mentioned a recent e-mail she received stated if every Village and Township resident spent just \$50/month at local businesses, it would benefit each of those businesses over \$10K.

During a recent walk, she came upon 7 pit bulls in a very small yard in very pathetic conditions. The Village does have an ordinance on the number of dogs a resident may have without a kennel license, and Chief Planck noted Animal Control is aware of and working on the situation. A noise ordinance was mentioned as a possible solution in such situations, though Mayor Swarthout is confident the Village has the necessary measures in place. Noise is a planning issue, and Mr. Leicht will contact Mt. Orab, because they recently enacted noise legislation.

Ms. Gunn welcomed the council members-elect attending tonight's meeting – Mary Daugherty, Priscilla Johnson and Janice Ireton.

Gary Hutchinson: Nil.

Tim Cherry: Ditto the Thanksgiving sentiments. Mentioned the holiday lights are nice, and knew the replacement bulbs were LED, because they "looked weird."

James Dick: Ditto.

Mr. Dotson stated the Bethel-Tate High School art students will be painting the municipal building's windows once again for the Down Home Christmas competition.

Mayor Swarthout welcomed the new council members.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Daugherty inquired about the new auxiliary officer, pointing out that is the mayor's appointment. It was noted the officer has not been appointed to duty yet.

Mr. Rus Whitley encouraged the Village consider renting or leasing a mini-excavator, instead of purchasing the equipment at this time, due to the negative PR such a purchase could cause for the Village. Mayor Swarthout stated Public Works and Finance will take that under advisement.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 879 ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES FOR 2010, 1st reading

ORDINANCE 1629 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR 2010, 1st reading

ORDINANCE 1630 SETTING RENT FOR THE ELECTRIC AND THE WATER DEPARTMENTS (2010), 1st reading

ORDINANCE 1631 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE WATER REVENUE FUND TO THE WATER EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND (2010), 1st reading

ORDINANCE 1632 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE WATER REVENUE FUND TO THE WATER FIRST MORTGAGE FUND (2010), 1st reading

ORDINANCE 1633 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE ELECTRIC REVENUE FUND TO THE ELECTRIC EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND (2010), 1st reading

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 20432-20453) was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea. 7:17 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer