

Bethel Village Council December 13, 2010

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, December 13, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., with Mayor James T. Dick presiding.

Mr. Whitley 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, Mary Daugherty; Solicitor George Leicht, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton and Village Administrator Travis Dotson.

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 22, 2010 meeting, as written, was made by Mr. Cherry. Second by Mr. Whitley. All yea.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Bob Nye, from the US Grant Trail Antique Machinery Club, asked Council's permission to schedule the group's 2011 monthly meetings at the Grant Memorial Building on the first Monday in January, February, March, October and November, and the second Monday in December at the Community Center.

Due to the failure of the park levy, Mayor Dick is no longer waiving rental fees, though individuals may approach Council for an exception. The Antique Machinery Club is not asking for a fee waiver – just the permission to schedule ongoing meetings. The only other group that Council is aware of that meets regularly at the Grant Memorial is Mr. Manning's K of P lodge, though there should be no meeting conflict since scheduling begins in January.

A motion to allow the US Grant Trail Antique Machinery Club to rent the said community spaces for regular meetings during 2011 was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Mr. Cherry. All yea.

Ms. Kim Coniglio was on tonight's agenda, but was unable to attend. Her rental agreement for weekly Zumba classes ends December 31, 2010. She is interested in renewing the rental agreement for 2011, with continued use on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. She is asking for a reduced rental fee of \$25. Both Mayor Dick and Ms. Ireton expressed their support of Ms. Coniglio's program. It was also noted that weeknight rentals of the Community Center are rare, and \$25 is better than zero rentals. Mr. Whitley is concerned that Council would be setting a precedence if an exception is made for Ms. Coniglio.

REPORTS

Mayor James T. Dick

Congratulated the organizers of the Down Home Christmas. He believes it's a great event and this year's went unbelievably well.

The second Council meeting for December was set to Monday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m. – rescheduled from Monday, December 27th due to the observance of the Christmas Holiday.

Fiscal Officer Angel Burton submitted her resignation to Mayor Dick on Wednesday, December 8th, with her last day being Friday, December 31, 2010. Her replacement is the Mayor's appointment, with Council's approval. Council needs to decide if an ad-hoc committee will be formed for the fiscal officer search, or if the Personnel Committee will assume the responsibility. A job advertisement needs to be published, as well.

A motion to advertise that the Village will be accepting applications for the open Fiscal Officer position was made by Mr. Whitley. Second by Ms. Daugherty. All yea.

Mr. Leicht encouraged Council to make arrangements in the interim, due to the potential time involved in finding a permanent Fiscal Officer. Ms. Burton stated she would be closing out 2010 and the records she is responsible for, and would be available to the Village on an as-needed basis.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

The Village's custodian has also resigned. The position is part-time, with 12 hours/week.

A motion to advertise that the Village will be accepting applications for the open Custodian position was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Ms. Ireton. All yea.

The Village's refuse collection bid specifications were amended to be for a 1-year time period. All parties that collected the bid specs were notified of the change, and only Rumpke submitted a bid. The bid was in line with the 11/22/2010 meeting discussion, and the legislation authorizing the Mayor and the Village Administrator to enter into contract with Rumpke is before Council for a first reading tonight.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Ms. Burton asked for clarification on the payment due to Rack Seven Paving, for the repairs and resurfacing work recently completed.

The invoice she received reflected a 10% retainage on the entire amount due, and the payroll certification was not included. Ms. Burton was told that because the project would be paid with a lump sum payment at completion, retainage was not necessary. Retainage may only be withheld on the first 50% and the funds have to be placed in a separate banking account.

Mr. Dotson stated the project was satisfactorily completed, so Mr. Leicht advised that Rack Seven submit a new invoice for the entire project amount, with the payroll certification records.

Solicitor George Leicht

Nil.

Police Chief Mark Planck

The Down Home Christmas was a great success.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

A motion granting Ms. Burton the approval to pay bills as they are received through December 31, 2010, to limit the carryover of expenses, was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Ms. Johnson. All yea.

Various appropriation reallocations are needed for bookkeeping purposes. The reallocations do not increase the appropriation total.

A motion to reallocate up to \$150 from General Fund Worker's Compensation (1000-790-225-0000) to General Fund Employee Fringe Benefits (1000-710-161-0000); \$1300 from Street Fund Worker's Compensation (2011-710-225-0000) to Street Fund Employee Fringe Benefits (2011-710-290-0000); \$10K from Electric Fund Clerk-Treasurer Salary (5301-511-121-0000) to Electric Fund Employee Fringe Benefits (530-511-290-0000); \$500 from Water Debt Fund Interest (5721-850-720-0000) to Water Debt Fund Principal (5721-850-710-0000); \$1200 from Utility Deposit Fund Refunds (5781-592-610-0000) to Utility Deposit Fund Applied (5781-592-620-0000) was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Ms. Ireton. All yea.

The Finance committee discussed wage increases at length during the 12/07/2010 meeting, and recommends a 5% increase for all Village employees. Mr. Leicht will prepare a resolution listing each employee's rate of pay for Council's approval.

A special Finance Committee meeting to discuss the draft Fiscal Recovery Plan and the departure of Ms. Burton will be Wednesday, December 29, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The next Public Works committee meeting is Monday, December 20th at 5:30 p.m. The group will be discussing the Rumpke bid.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Rus Whitley

The committee met this evening before Council. The storm sewer on the East end of 125 will be repaired this Thursday, weather permitting.

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Mary Daugherty

The December meeting is canceled. The next meeting will be Monday, January 24, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Cherry questioned why Personnel wouldn't handle the Fiscal Officer search, and Ms. Daugherty asked if Mayor Dick will be interviewing candidates. Mayor Dick will be interviewing candidates, but still wants Council involved.

Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton

Nil.

Planning Commission, Priscilla Johnson

Nil.

Rules of Council, Donna Gunn

A revised copy of the Rules of Council has been given to members of Council. A motion for approval will be made at the next meeting.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Priscilla Johnson: Thanked everyone that supported the Down Home Christmas.

Janice Ireton: Echoed Ms. Johnson's sentiments, and invited everyone to the wrestling tournament at the high school next Saturday.

Donna Gunn: Had a blast at Down Home Christmas. She was at the Village Hardware with her parents during the event. Her mother donated the quilt that was raffled, and her father's train was at the Grant Memorial Building by the Christmas Tree donated by Corsi Tree Farm. She thanked the Public Works department for decorating the Village and noted the comments she hears from people impressed by the Village's décor.

Ms. Gunn inquired about a storage area for the newly constructed park tables. Mr. Dotson believes they can be stored at the street barn, once things are moved around.

Ms. Gunn thanked Ms. Burton for her role in the Village's financial recovery, and noted the next Fiscal Officer will have an easier job because of Ms. Burton's work.

Rus Whitley: Mentioned the holidays are a time to be jolly, though he's sad to see Ms. Burton go. He credited Ms. Burton with pointing out the Village's financial crisis, despite disbelief from some.

Tim Cherry: Commended Chief Planck for traffic control during the American Legion's fund raiser, and thanked Ms. Burton for "righting the ship."

Mary Daugherty: Inquired about Burke Trust Commission appointees. Mayor Dick is aware of 3 Council appointments – 2 from previous years and 1 for 2011. This does not include Mayor appointments. Ms. Ireton mentioned it may be time to consider replacements.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Gary Hutchinson addressed Council, and echoed Mr. Whitley's comments about Ms. Burton. Ms. Burton furnished the first financial report Mr. Hutchinson had ever received during his time on Council. He found her to be forthcoming and above-board in her work with the Village, and though he's sad to see her go, he's happy about the opportunity she's been given.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 1642 SETTING THE FEES FOR THE RENTAL OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL FACILITIES AND REPEALING ORDINANCES 1410, 1411, AND 1509, 2nd reading

ORDINANCE 1643 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 12/31/2011, 2nd reading

ORDINANCE 1644 SETTING RENT FOR THE ELECTRIC AND WATER DEPARTMENTS FOR 2011, 2nd reading

ORDINANCE 1645 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE WATER OPERATING FUND TO THE WATER MORTGAGE FUND FOR 2011, 2nd reading

ORDINANCE 1646 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE WATER REVENUE FUND TO THE WATER EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND FOR 2011, 2nd reading

ORDINANCE 1647 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE ELECTRIC OPERATING FUND TO THE ELECTRIC EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND FOR 2011, 2nd reading

ORDINANCE 1648 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE VILLAGE ADMINISATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RUMPKE WASTE MANAGEMENT, 1st reading

RESOLUTION 896 ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES FOR 2011, 1st reading

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 21817-21866) was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Ms. Gunn. All yea.

NOVEMBER EXPENSES

A motion to approve the November, 2010 expenses, as presented (checks 21674-21802, in addition to payroll and direct charges), was made by Mr. Whitley. Second by Ms. Gunn. All yea.

Ms. Burton thanked everyone for their kind words, and thanked Beth Pulliam for training her as a new clerk/treasurer in Batavia, and establishing the foundation Ms. Burton needed for her work at Bethel.

Council adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

James T. Dick, Mayor

Angelina Burton, Fiscal Officer