

Bethel Village Council January 26, 2009

Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers in the Bethel Municipal Building on Monday, January 26th, 2009 with Mayor John Swarthout presiding.

The meeting was video taped, to be aired on cable television.

Mayor Swarthout called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Ausman delivered the invocation followed by Mayor Swarthout leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Upon roll call, the following were counted as present: Council Members Alan Ausman, Joe Houlihan, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, Tim Cherry, James Dick. Also present: Village Administrator Travis Dotson, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton and Solicitor George Leicht.

A motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2009, as corrected, was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Swarthout

Nil

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

Mr. Dotson has not received any further amendments for the most recent Rules of Council he distributed to Council a few weeks ago, and would like a motion to approve the document.

A motion to approve the updated Rules of Council was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All ye.

There was a large (6") water main break in front of Bethel Feed last week. Water was cut for a few hours to some customers, and the office has received a few calls regarding rusty water, but nothing to be alarmed about.

Mayor Swarthout expressed his appreciation to the Public Works Department for their hard work in the cold weather.

Mr. Dotson and Mr. Cherry met with Tate Monroe Water last week and discussed how to properly turn over tanks, to prevent stagnant water.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Nil.

Solicitor, George Leicht

Requested an executive session to discuss pending litigation at the end of the meeting.

Police Chief Planck

The chief received a request from a teacher at the primary school to do a home visit on one of her students that she had noticed had a caustic smell about them. The visit didn't result in the discovery of any drug evidence, though the home had no furniture and little food. After learning of the situation, that same teacher, together with her friends, bought the children bedding and food for the family.

Council was grateful to hear of the compassionate action taken by the teacher.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Monday, February 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The committee met this evening at 5:30 and dealt with a variety of topics.

First on the agenda was a meeting with the 3 young adults from the Skate Park Steering Committee. The skate park postings and rules, as well as the Village's expectations of the skateboarders, were reviewed. Following are the rules that will be posted at the park:

“This facility is NOT Supervised. Use of this facility is at your own risk. Parental supervision is recommended. Safety equipment that includes helmets, elbow, knee and wrist guards are STRONGLY encouraged. Use of the facility when the surface is wet is not recommended. No bicycles allowed. Only one skater on a ramp at one time. Only three skaters on a platform at one time. No food or beverages allowed anywhere on the skate pad; glass containers prohibited. No extreme recklessness is allowed. Fighting and profanity will not be tolerated. Older skaters are encouraged to help younger skaters. All other park rules and regulations must be followed. The Village of Bethel is not responsible for any loss, damage or injury resulting from the use of this facility.”

The build time for the skate park will be this Saturday, January 31, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

The second item on the agenda was a meeting with Chris Clingman, director of the Clermont County Park District. The district has expressed an interest in the water plant property, and has the shared vision with the Village of establishing the property as a public venue. The district would also be able to make a step toward its goal of having a park in every township with the property. However, the funding the County was counting on has been delayed from March, 2009 to 2010, and possibly as late as 2011. Mr. Clingman will review other funding sources.

Mr. Dotson and Mr. Cherry met with Brandsetter Carroll regarding the Village's grant for traffic signal upgrades. The Village has two warranted stop lights, though 5 were originally thought. The light locations are Plane and Main, and Plane and Union. Marking changes may improve flow from North to West on Plane, and a fire signal at the fire department in lieu of a light are some things to consider. The Village may want to have another traffic study completed.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Monday, February 2, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Ms. Gunn has a personnel matter to discuss in executive session.

The next personnel meeting will be Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 6:30 p.m..

Burke Trust Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The 4th quarter Burke Trust statement indicated a loss of over \$129K during 2008.

The Burke Scholarship Interviews will be May 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick

The next Planning Commission meeting will be Thursday, February 5, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Call of Members:

Mr. Ausman: Nil

Mr. Houlihan: Nil

Ms. Gunn: Nil

Mr. Hutchinson: Nil

Mr. Cherry: Encouraged everyone to drive safe.

Mr. Dick: Gave a “shout out” to the Public Works Employees for their team work and quick repair of the recent water main break.

Public Input:

Nil.

Legislation:

Nil

Payment of Bills:

A motion approving the payment of the presented expenses and bills was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All yea.

A motion to enter executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. By roll: Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. 6:58 p.m.

A motion to enter regular session was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All yea. 8:10 p.m.

A motion to take Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton, off probation was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. By roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Ausman “nay”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

Ms. Burton will copy council on the expense to increase the bond to \$50K.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All yea. 8:15 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer