

Bethel Village Council April 13, 2009

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, April 13, 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, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, Tim Cherry, James Dick; George Leicht, Solicitor; Travis Dotson, Village Administrator and Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer. Council Member Joe Houlihan was not present.

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 23rd, 2009 meeting, as corrected (street, resident and event clarifications), was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All yea.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor John Swarthout

Reminded everyone of the Grant Community Appreciation Dinner this Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 5pm-7pm. He also noted the greenhouse is open.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

The Lion's Club will be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast this Saturday from 7:30am-10:30am, and Clean and Green, sponsored by Clermont 20/20, will be from 9am-12pm at Burke Park.

The Public Works department is working on sprucing up the Village for spring.

In response to the news circulating around town that the Village utility rates are more than double what surrounding areas are paying, Mr. Dotson presented an example billing. For an electric bill, with a 3500 kWh usage (little on the high side), the Duke rate would be \$302.44, and the Bethel rate would be \$350.50. The Village rate is approximately 15% higher than Duke Energy. For a water bill, with an 11,000 gallon usage (over 2 months), the Tate Township rate would be \$75.00, and the Bethel rate would be \$104.60. The Village rate is 39% higher.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Nil.

Solicitor, George Leicht

Nil.

Police Chief Mark Planck

The COPS grant application has been submitted.

The 2007 Charger, #503, has been repaired by Grant Vocational, and returned to the department. Just Signs will be striping the cruiser in the near future. The total cost of repairs, as well as the bumper repaint on the Crown Vic, is \$525.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The committee met this evening, before Council, and discussed various ways to cut costs and save money for the Village. The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be Monday, May 4, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The next meeting will be Monday, April 27, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

Mr. Dick spoke on Mr. Houlihan's behalf. The next regular meeting will be Monday, May 4, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

A special meeting of the Safety Committee will be Monday, April 20, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss cost saving measures recommended by the Finance committee.

A special meeting of the Finance Committee will be Monday, April 20, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Safety Committee's recommendations.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Auxiliary Police Officers are not covered under the Village's Workers' Compensation policy, due to their contract/W-9 status. The officers need to be W-2 employees, with appropriate withholdings, to be included in the policy coverage.

A motion to make the Auxiliary Officers W-2 employees, with OPERS membership, and appropriate withholdings, effective April 1, 2009 and paid monthly, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All yea.

A motion to adopt the newly revised Employee Handbook, as presented to Council, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

Burke Trust Commission, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Burke Grant applications have been distributed to Grant Career Center and Bethel-Tate High School, and applications are also available at the Village office. Applications are to be returned by the close of business on May 8, 2009, at the place received. Council will be copied on the applications by May 11, 2009, and candidate interviews will be held May 18, 2009, during a special meeting of council.

Upcoming Burke Trust fund requests include table/bench combos for the Burke Park, scholarship funds, and funding for a new Community Center furnace.

Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick

Nil.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Alan Ausman: Clean and Green is a productive, fun experience, and t-shirts and food will be provided.

Thanks to Mr. Patten, Mr. Morrision and Grant Career Center students for the great work done on the police cruisers.

Thanks to the Bethel UMC for the Easter Egg Hunt, specifically Janet Bowdle.

Donna Gunn: Echoed Mr. Ausman's sentiments, and mentioned more details will be forthcoming on the National Day of Prayer, on May 7, 2009.

Gary Hutchinson: Pointed out the 2008 utility rate increase only raised his water bill by \$5 and his electric bill by \$20-25. He typically has a minimum usage bill, and believes more residents are on the low-user end, than the high-user end.

Tim Cherry: Tate Township clean-up days are April 24 and 25th. There is also a designated area at the street barn for branches and brush that need chipping.

James Dick: Nil.

Mayor Swarthout mentioned Bethel Tate Academic Team will be competing at Cincinnati State this Saturday, April 18, 2009, and a local resident will be competing on the Jeopardy Game Show on Thursday, May 21, 2009.

PUBLIC INPUT

Nil.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 1621 AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009, Tabled

ORDINANCE 1622 APPROVING, ADOPTING AND ENACTING AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING'S OHIO BASIC CODE, 2009 EDITION, AS THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion to waive the 3 readings of ORD 1622 Adopting the 2009 Ohio Basic Code and Declaring an Emergency was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. By roll: Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". Motion carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1622 Adopting the 2009 Ohio Basic Code and Declaring an Emergency was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. By roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 875 AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO APPLY FOR A COPS HIRING RECOVERY PROGRAM GRANT THROUGH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A motion to waive the 3 readings of RES 875 Authorizing the Chief of Police to apply for a COPS grant was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 875 Authorizing the Chief of Police to apply for a COPS grant was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. By roll: Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

A motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters and pending litigation was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. By roll: Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". 7:10 p.m.

A motion to enter regular session was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". 8:07 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All yea. 8:08 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer