

Bethel Village Council July 28, 2008

Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers in the Bethel Municipal Building on Monday, July 28th, 2008 at 6:30 pm with Mayor John Swarthout presiding.

The meeting was video taped and will be aired on cable television.

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 and Fiscal Officer Angel Burton. Solicitor Leicht was absent.

A motion to approve the minutes from July 14th, 2008, as written, was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea – Ms. Gunn abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Swarthout

Mayor Swarthout gave the June, 2008 Mayor's Court report. For June, the Village share was \$7301, and the state share was \$2283.

Mayor Swarthout extended his thoughts and prayers, on behalf of the Village, to Mr. Greg Burns. Mr. Burns suffered burns to his hands and arms, as well as smoke inhalation, during this afternoon's fire at his business. It is projected his business is a total loss. Not only is Mr. Burns a local business owner and resident, he is also a township trustee.

Mayor Swarthout noted his confidence in the Village's employees and their attendance to the daily business.

Village Administrator

Mr. Dotson commended the public works employees for the clean-up of the Municipal Building's grounds and landscaping.

The Village online auction site will be villageofbethelauctions.com and will be viewable August 1 through 14. Mr. Dotson distributed a list of additional items for Council approval in selling.

An arborist from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will be advising on the large sycamore tree by the Burke Shelter House.

Mr. Dotson delivered the following statement on the Village's recent transition:

"I want to give a bit of an update on the status of the village. As you know, we have been in a period of transition since March, when I became the administrator. As previously stated, whenever there is a change in the office of clerk/treasurer, or now fiscal officer, an audit is conducted so that there is a definite end and start of the new officer. Since that time, our fiscal officer, Angel Burton came on board and we have worked together to get through this process of transition, and we continue to make progress. At this time the auditors are still working through their process and they have requested that we reconcile 2006 and 2007, which we are just beginning to do. In the mean time, Mrs. Burton has put much work into balancing out 2008 to date, which she has done. In the course of our review, we discovered that our revenue stream for our utilities were too low to meet the needs of the village. Obviously, the rate increases were put into place to correct this. In addition, we will be looking at all options to ensure that we are operating the village in a fiscally responsible and fiscally conservative manner. One of the options we are currently exploring is the sale of the old municipal water plant, which is no longer active. We will be looking at the options of selling either a portion, or all, of that property. We will also be exploring other options. This is where we currently stand and we will continue to strive to get past this period of transition."

Fiscal Officer:

Nil.

Police Department:

Nil.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Hutchinson spoke on behalf of the Finance committee. The next finance meeting will be Monday, August 11th, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works:

Mr. Cherry spoke on behalf of the Public Works Committee.

The public works employees are clearing the old wastewater plant property. The project should be completed by week end.

Safety Committee:

Mr. Houlihan spoke on behalf of the Safety Committee. The next meeting will be Monday, August 4th, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Burke Trust Committee:

It was noted that Ms. Gunn was copied on the Burke Trust request that was approved at last month's meeting.

Planning Commission:

Mr. Dick spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission. The August meeting has been canceled. The next planning meeting September 4th at 6:00 p.m..

Call of Members:

Mr. Ausman: Thanked the public works employees for the work done at the Municipal Building.

Mr. Houlihan: Nil

Ms. Gunn: Commended the appearance of Burke Park and applauded the staff at Bethel-Tate Schools for the recent "Excellent" rating.

Mr. Hutchinson: Nil.

Mr. Cherry: Reminded everyone that next Tuesday, August 5, is National Night Out. The Police Department will be hosting events beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Dick: Nil

Public Input:

Nil

Legislation:

ORDINANCE 1591 CHANGING THE NAME OF CHARITY WAY TO GRACE WAY, 3rd Reading

A motion to adopt ORD 1591 Changing the name of Charity Way to Grace Way was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. By Roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". Motion carried.

Mr. Dotson will forward the adopted legislation to the appropriate entities.

ORDINANCE 1593 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS, tabled. Mr. Leicht will be putting the corrections in legislative form for the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 1594 AMENDING 2008 APPROPRIATIONS, 2nd reading

ORDINANCE 1596 AMENDING ORDINANCE 1592, AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND CHARGES OF THE BETHEL MUNICIPAL WATER WORKS AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The amendment adjusts the bulk water rates back down to a comparable rate, and also increases the after-hours reconnection fee to \$100. The previous after-hours reconnection fee of \$50 was not adequate to cover our employees' call-out rate. Mr. Dotson asked that the legislation be retroactive to July 1, 2008, when the original rates were implemented.

A motion to waive the 3 readings of ORD 1596 Amending Water Rates and Declaring an Emergency was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By Roll: Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". Motion carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1596 Amending Water Rates and Declaring an Emergency was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By Roll: Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Dick "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea". Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE 1597 AMENDING ORDINANCE 1579, AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE ELECTRIC RATES TO THE VARIOUS TYPES OF CONSUMERS SERVED BY THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC SYSTEM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The amendment increases the after-hours reconnection fee to \$100. The previous after-hours reconnection fee of \$50 was not adequate to cover our employees' call-out rate.

It was noted all other fees remain the same.

A motion waive the 3 readings of ORD 1597 Amending Electric Rates and Declaring an Emergency was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By Roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Dick "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea". Motion carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1597 Amending Electric Rates 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. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 869 REVISING JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CERTAIN VILLAGE EMPLOYEES AND INCORPORATING THE SAME IN THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, 1st reading

Payment of Bills:

A motion approving the payment of the presented expenses and bills was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All yea. 7:00 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer