

Bethel Village Council November 24, 2008

Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers in the Bethel Municipal Building on Monday, November 24th, 2008 at 6:30 pm with Mayor John Swarthout presiding.

The meeting was video taped, 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 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.

A motion to approve the minutes from November 10, 2008, as written, was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Swarthout

Mayor Swarthout thanked Ms. Gunn for presiding over the November 10th meeting in his absence.

During this Thanksgiving season, Mayor Swarthout hopes everyone takes the time to say thanks and he expressed his gratitude for his many blessings.

A letter from Joseph Dennis was distributed to Council. Mr. Dennis is pursuing Eagle Scout status, and has proposed various walking path projects. He would like to install dog receptacles and construct wildlife shelters for the path. It is unknown if Mr. Dennis plans to maintain the structures after they are installed. Mayor Swarthout will request Mr. Dennis attend a future council meeting.

A motion to approve Joseph Dennis' Eagle Scout projects related to the walk path, with the condition Mr. Dennis communicate his progress with the Village Administrator, was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All ye.

Mr. George Leicht has served as Bethel's Solicitor for many years, and has been on hiatus, due to his retirement. However, Mr. Leicht is willing to continue in his capacity as Village Solicitor, if reappointed, since his required OPERS waiting period is coming to an end. Mayor Swarthout would like to reappoint Mr. Leicht as Village Solicitor, effective December 1, 2008, with Council's approval.

A motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of George Leicht as Village Solicitor, with his previous rate of pay, effective December 1, 2008 was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All ye.

Mayor Swarthout reminded everyone of the Down Home Christmas event, to be held Saturday, December 6, 2008, and encouraged everyone to participate.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

A few art students from Bethel-Tate High School will be painting the Municipal Office windows for the Down Home Christmas.

Due to the huge success, and enjoyment, of the 2nd grade coloring contest, the Village will be distributing holiday coloring pages to the 1st grade students.

Today was cut-off day for unpaid utilities, and the utility clerks endured an unusually harsh response from customers. Mr. Dotson suggested Council contact the clerks and express their gratitude for the work they do.

Mr. Dotson thanked the Public Works department for the timely and efficient setting up of the Village Christmas lights and decorations.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Nil.

Solicitor, George Leicht

Nil. (Currently on a 60-day leave of absence)

Police Chief Planck

Again mentioned the upcoming Down Home Christmas and parade. The American Legion will also be collecting that day.

The department will be assisting the Village of Amelia during their Christmas Parade on December 14th, 2008.

The students at Grant Career Center will be performing the bodywork on 2 of the department's cruisers.

It was the consensus of Council to allow the department to bag the parking meters in town during the month of December. Donna mentioned that in the past, students would decorate the bags used to cover the parking meters, and suggested the practice be considered next year.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Gary Hutchinson

The next Finance Committee meeting is Monday, December 8, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The committee met this evening, with the owners of J&E Car Wash attending. The committee will be making a recommendation to Council on a solution to the business' meter/billing errors.

The committee addressed the Village's aging meters and replacement priorities, as well as a project priority list for 2009.

The next Public Works Committee meeting is Monday, December 15th, 2008 at 5:30 p.m., before the special meeting of Council.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Thursday, December 4th at 5:30 p.m.

Burke Trust Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

A motion to appoint Frank Manning as the council appointment to the Burke Trust commission was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea.

The mayor will be announcing his appointment to the commission at a later date.

Ms. Gunn addressed the funding of the skate park, and her intent to request money from the Burke Trust. She noted she is not optimistic about the response.

She believes the commission may have lost sight of the purpose of the Burke Trust. The commission typically approves traditional activities, and the skate park doesn't fit that mold. She noted that clothes and hairstyles do not make the skateboarder kids any less important.

"Life is an echo. What you send out, you get back."

Both Mr. Ausman and Mr. Hutchinson expressed their support of the skate park project, and believe the Burke Trust was created for Village projects like this.

A motion to request \$1K-\$13K from the Burke Trust for the construction of the Skate Park was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All ye.

Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick

Nil.

Call of Members:

Mr. Ausman: Thanked the Public Works department for the timely hanging of the Christmas lights. He also thanked E.C. Nurre, the Bethel UMC and various council members for their donations to the Skate Park. It was noted the Building and Loan has promised a donation to the park as well.

Mr. Ausman asked residents not to rake their leaves into ditches. Rumpke will dispose of bagged leaves.

Mr. Houlihan: Nil.

Ms. Gunn: Encouraged volunteering in the Down Home Christmas event.

Mr. Hutchinson: Glad to see the reopening of the Midway Theater on November 21, 2008.

Mr. Hutchinson has requested a skate park donation from Chase Bank.

Mr. Cherry: Glittered after helping at last year's DHC Kids Fest, and noted his pleasure in seeing the full parking lot from the theater reopening.

Mr. Dick: Nil.

Public Input:

Mr. Bill Deavers, owner of Poplar Creek, expressed his interest in the water plant property and would like to know Council's vision for future use of the land.

It was council's consensus that the property remain undeveloped, and used for a public purpose. Mr. Devers stated he shared that vision for the property as well. Council thanked Mr. Devers for his inquiry.

Legislation:

RESOLUTION 870 ESTABLISHING THE BETHEL EVENTS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, 3rd reading

Ms. Burton would like the fund established to account for a donation made to the Village by a former employee, and to account for receipts and expenses related to the operation of a pop machine. A pop machine was either privately purchased or donated to the Village years ago and sits on Village property. The maintenance of the machine has been handled by water department supervisors, with funds handled in a private account. After Mr. Malott left the Village's employ, the money from the account was donated to the Village. Ms. Burton does not want the donation to get lost in General fund, and would like it accounted for in a fund earmarked for employee recognition and local event participation. The state auditors do not have a problem with the Village maintaining the pop machine.

Mr. Dick expressed various concerns over establishing the fund, and the operation of a "for-profit" pop machine. He asked if the personnel committee had discussed the matter, and if the maintenance of the pop machine was included in job descriptions. Mr. Dick does not support the operation of the pop machine. Discussion also included procedures in deciding valid expenditures from the fund.

Ms. Burton stated she needs to account for the donation somewhere, despite concerns over the pop machine. She requested the fund be established for donations, with the pop machine revenues removed.

A motion to amend Resolution 870 to Establishing the Bethel Event Donations Fund was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. 5 yeas, 1 nay – Mr. Dick. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt Resolution 870 as amended to Establishing the Bethel Event Donations Fund was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “nay”. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 1603 SPECIFYING THE GENERAL SERVICE REGULATIONS FOR THE UTILITY SERVICES SUPPLIED BY THE VILLAGE WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL, OHIO, 3rd reading

A motion to adopt Ord 1603 Specifying Utility Regulations was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. By roll: Mr. Dick “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 1605 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE FEMA FUND TO THE STREET AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR (SBCR 3) FUND, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion to suspend the 3 readings of Ord 1605 Authorizing the transfer of money from the FEMA fund to the Street 3 fund was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. By roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt Ord 1605 Authorizing the transfer of money from the FEMA fund to the Street 3 fund was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills:

A motion approving the payment of the presented expenses and bills 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. 7:42 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer