

Village Council Minutes April 28th, 2008

Council of the Village of Bethel, met in regular session in Council Chambers in the Bethel Municipal Building on Monday, April 28th, 2008 at 6:30pm with the following members present: Council Members Alan Ausman, Joe Houlihan, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, Tim Cherry, and James Dick; Mayor John Swarthout and Village Administrator Travis Dotson.

Fiscal Officer Burton and Solicitor Leicht were not in attendance.

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

Mayor Swarthout called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Mr. Cherry delivered the invocation followed by Mayor Swarthout leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mr. Ausman moved to accept the 4/14/2008 minutes as corrected. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. Vote: All yea. Motion carried.

Communications:

Mrs. Wilma Penny wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the Village government for the wonderful certificate that was presented to her last week. She thanked everyone for their cooperation in making the last 19 years such a success for her at the Metropolitan Housing Commission. Mayor Swarthout returned the thanks to Mrs. Penny and presented her with the certificate that has now been signed and framed by all parties involved. Mayor Swarthout read the certificate so those present would be aware of its contents. The Mayor spoke for all in wishing Mrs. Penny good luck in the future and stated he was glad she was just retiring and not leaving Bethel. The Village Administrator informed the public that, "Mrs. Penny went out with a bang" since the morning of her retirement party was the morning of the earthquake.

Administration & Committee Reports:

Mayor: Mayor Swarthout expressed his happiness in how well the Village seemed to be running these last few weeks.

Mayor reminded all that the Burke scholarship interviews will be held on May 19th, 2008, and all applications are due in to the office by May 9th, 2008.

Village Administrator: Mr. Dotson stated that he and Mrs. Burton were set to meet with Mr. Lewis and his consulting firm in regards to the utility rate study. Mr. Lewis said that it would take approximately three weeks to get the results after the surveys have been returned to them.

Mr. Dotson stated that he has received the laptop back, and is working on the Village website. He feels that it is still in need of some work to get all important items loaded, but that at least it has been updated with the current contact information.

After reviewing our expense list they have decided to cut a few expenses, namely some of our Cincinnati Bell phone lines. They are also looking into a new system.

Mr. Dotson expressed his interest in looking into a public online auction to dispose of all of the items no longer needed by the Village anymore, i.e. old broken fax machines, desks, coffee makers, etc. He has looked into the same company that Anderson Township and Hamilton county use. We would have to pay \$100 a year plus 6% of sale price but they would handle everything for us once Council approved the disposal. Mr. Hutchinson asked if we could utilize the town wide yard sales to move some of these items. Chief Wallace and Mayor Swarthout both agreed that according to the ORC these items must be auctioned and not just sold. Mr. Dotson just asked everyone to check out those sites and we would return to this topic soon.

The Village Administrator thanked everyone that attended the Lion's club pancake breakfast on the 19th. They raised \$1000.00 to be donated to the homeless shelter.

Mr. Dotson commented that he has been receiving multiple phone calls reference to the presence of the coroner and air care at the high school this past Friday. This was a mock accident aimed at the 2008 Prom goers.

In regard to changing the Village logo, the Village administrator feels it should not be changed. Several people have come to him and told him that the bridge should be kept since that is where numerous residents have pictures taken, making it a Village icon.

Mr. Dotson informed Council that he has been called to serve Jury Duty for the next few weeks. Therefore he may be out of the office.

Mr. Dotson is attending a public records class on May 15th, 2008.

Mr. Dotson requested permission to take off work on June 12th and 13th. He volunteered to chaperone with his church's youth group to attend a Christian rock festival out of town.

Mayor Swarthout remembered a few other items he wished to discuss. He wanted to remind everyone that even though it is Mother's Day weekend that the Village wide yard sales would still be going on. The dates are May 9th, 10th, and 11th. Mr. Hutchinson told all to bring their mothers out shopping.

The Mayor also wanted to thank everyone who attended the Grant Appreciation dinner. There were about 1,000 people in attendance and there was tremendous support. The school says that lots of flowers were sold.

Chief Wallace: Nil

2008 Committee Appointments

Finance (2nd Monday, 5:30 p.m.)

Gary Hutchinson (Chair)

Donna Gunn

Alan Ausman

Public Works (4th Monday, 5:30 p.m.)

Tim Cherry (Chair)

Alan Ausman

James Dick

Burke Trust

Donna Gunn (Chair)

Gary Hutchinson

Joe Houlihan

Safety (1st Monday, 5:30 p.m.)

Joe Houlihan (Chair)

Tim Cherry

James Dick

Job Descriptions

Gary Hutchinson

Joe Houlihan

Alan Ausman

Mr. Dick is the Council representative on the Planning Commission. (1st Thursday, 6:00 p.m.)

Finance: Next meeting will be 5-12-08 @ 5:30pm.

Public Works: On 5-15-8 @ 6pm in the Community Center they will be having a meeting of the Skate Park Steering Committee. Bill Lutz of Woodward Ramps will be making a presentation at this meeting.

Mr. Cherry met with Mitch Hatfield from our street department today in regards to the property on W. Osborne by the old Clermont County treatment site. The street department is going to work to clear some of the brush and trees to make it accessible to work on.

Mr. Cherry and Chief Wallace addressed the Charity Street bridge weight limits with the Clermont County engineer's office. The big concern was the weight of the fire trucks. They were told that the bridge was fine and that the signs needed to be changed.

The committee is also working on getting the foot bridge on Charity Street up and working.

The committee asked the Village administrator to get bids for the roof at the shelter and the porch and gutters at the Grant Memorial Building.

Mr. Cherry would like to welcome the "Dashing" James Dick to Public works, and say farewell to the "Quick Wit" Mr. Hutchinson.

Safety: Next meeting was supposed to be moved but with the new assignments they are moving the meeting back to 5-5-2008 @ 5:30pm. Mayor Swarthout stated he will not be able to attend.

Burke: Interviews will be 5-19-08. Mayor Swarthout asked if he could still be the one to attend graduation to award the scholarships. All were in agreement that he should be allowed since he enjoys it so much.

Planning Commission: Next meeting will be 5-1-08 @ 6:00pm in the Municipal Building. A note will be placed on the utility bills about the survey as soon as they get with the printer to get a cost for those surveys.

Mayor Swarthout asked Council their wishes in regards to the second meeting in May since it falls on Memorial Day. Discussion ensued about whether they would need a meeting, and if they did, when it could be. After much discussion they agreed to wait and see if they would need to schedule one after the first meeting of the month.

Call of Members:

Mr. Ausman: Thursday May, 1st, is national Day of Prayer and there will be a service at the Bethel-Tate Middle School at 7:00pm. Thank you to everybody from Clean and Green and althea volunteers that came out to help. Special thanks to Betty Plowship? for organizing the event.

Chief Wallace stated that several people have approached him about cleaning the park for community service but that it is always so clean. Mr. Ausman said, "If they need somewhere, have them get in touch with me. We have several places they can help."

Mr. Houlihan: Nil

Ms. Gunn: Please make sure to check the chart of new committee assignments. There is a planning commission seat still open so if anyone is interested please see Mayor Swarhout. She encouraged people to apply and help have a voice in the Village.

She still sees a lot of properties that need work in order to meet the Village Maintenance code, where do we stand on those? Mr. Dunn said that he is still trying to find where the former zoning administrator had put the projects and violations that he sent out. He will be working on these in the next few weeks and will be sending certified mail so the Village has record of all mailings.

Mr. Hutchinson: Still working with the committee on the new job description for office manager/clerk of courts. They are hoping to have it completed to be approved soon!

We still need to add one for the code enforcement officer. Mr. Hutchinson asked the Village administrator to get with New Richmond and see if we can work something off of theirs.

Mr. Cherry: Nil

Mr. Dick: Nil

Public Input:

Mr. Russ Whitley asked Mr. Cherry if he had heard anything on the status of the left turn arrows for the intersections. Mr., Cherry stated that he has been told it is set for 2009, but no definite date has been set. Mr. Cherry feels that 2009 is there way of saying "hopefully" it will be taken care of at some point during that year. No promises have been made.

Mr. Whitley wanted to discuss the no right on red on south Main at Plane. He feels that cars not being able to turn right-on red is what is causing the backup at the light. Mr. Cherry informed him that the reason because of line of sight that is minimal from the West. Chief Wallace added that he believes that the reason for the backup is the folks turning left. Only a few cars can get through each light change when turning left at most times during the day. Unfortunately as we heard just now, the left turn arrows could still be a year or so away.

Mr. Cherry feels the only way to fix all of the problems with traffic would be do redo the sidewalks and add turn lanes and such. But we all know that this project would take a lot of time and money. Therefore it will probably never be completely fixed.

Mr. Ron Dunn asked if anyone recalls whether we repealed Ordinance 1296 when we approved the new maintenance code. No one could answer with any certainty. Mr. Dunn stated that 1296 and the new maintenance code conflicts in regards to driveway specs. He said he will investigate and see what needs to be fixed to resolve the conflict.

Legislation:

Ordinance 1579 is set for 3rd reading. Mayor feels we should hold off until we get the results of the utility survey being done by Mr. Lewis. No reading was done.

Payment of Bills:

Council reviewed and signed the list of bills.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. Vote: All yea

Adjourned at 7:15pm.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer