

Bethel Village Council July 26, 2010

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, July 26, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., with Mayor James T. Dick presiding.

Ms. Ireton delivered the invocation, followed by Mayor Dick leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Upon roll call, the following members were counted as present: Council Members Priscilla Johnson, Janice Ireton, Donna Gunn, Tim Cherry, Rus Whitley, Mary Daugherty; Solicitor George Leicht, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton and Village Administrator Travis Dotson.

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2010, as written, was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Mr. Whitley. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ron Dunn, Zoning Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer, was in attendance. He's issued two zoning permits this month, and has seen some clean-up activity at the properties he discussed at a previous meeting. Two of the properties remain overgrown.

REPORTS

Mayor James T. Dick

For June 2010, the Mayor's Court collected a total of \$7061, with \$5246 going back to the Village, \$1673 going to the state and \$142 in other revenues.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

The Village's Public Works Supervisor, Mr. Mitch Hatfield, was commended by ODOT for his assistance on a portion of the SR 133 paving project by Grant Memorial. Mr. Hatfield reached out to ODOT regarding the drainage by the building, and he led the crew during the final pave.

Mr. Dotson will be attending the RCAP Conference in Columbus, Ohio on August 24th and 25th, staying overnight on Monday and Tuesday.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

The 2011 Budget was submitted to the County on July 20, 2010.

The certified revenue for the renewal of the Burke Park/Grant Memorial levy is \$23,907. The resolution to proceed is before Council this evening, and all the paperwork has to be filed by August 4, 2010.

Council confirmed it was their intent to use all the proceeds from the sale of the backhoe (\$12,559) toward the purchase of the mini-excavator. The money from the sale was credited to the MVL fund, since the backhoe was originally purchased for the Street department.

The Records Commission will meet on the first Monday of the month at noon. Mr. Leicht recommended Ms. Daugherty be appointed to the commission because of the excellent job she did with records management when she was the Mayor's Court Clerk, and believes she would be a great resource. Mayor Dick designated Ms. Daugherty as his representative on the Commission. A citizen-member still needs to be appointed.

Solicitor George Leicht

Mr. Leicht presented council with a suggested letter to send to people with outstanding findings for recovery. He knows most of the findings are not the fault of those involved, but the money has to be repaid. He has been contacted by the State Attorney General's officer regarding the status of the findings.

During the July 12, 2010 Council meeting, Mr. Alan Ausman accused Ms. Burton of impropriety and committing a crime because she stated she would quit if he was appointed to the vacant council seat. Mr. Leicht recommended Ms. Burton for the job in 2008, so he asked Ms. Fran Kelly, the Mayor's Court Prosecuting Attorney, to investigate the allegations.

Ms. Kelly's four page opinion states there is no basis for impropriety. Ms. Burton's comment is protected under Freedom of Speech, and it is not a violation of the employee handbook.

Mayor Dick agreed, stating he discussed Mr. Ausman's accusation with Ms. Burton following the July 12th meeting, and he does not interpret Ms. Burton's statement to be a violation of the handbook.

Mr. Leicht pointed out the use of Ms. Kelly's services in investigating Mr. Ausman's accusations against Ms. Burton cost the Village \$240.

Police Chief Mark Planck

Currently, all the department equipment is operating. For some time, only one cruiser was in service.

One of the Dodge Cruisers was entered in the Clermont County Fair Parade, and the Chief will be manning a fair booth on Thursday evening. (Though not in full uniform, because of the heat!)

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

To allow for proper accounting of the waterworks bond payments, Ms. Burton has asked that the Water Bond Debt Service appropriation be reallocated.

Ms. Gunn made a motion to reallocate \$75K from the Water Bond Debt Service line to the Water Bond Principal line and \$30K from the Water Bond Debt Service line to the Water Bond Interest line. Seconded by Ms. Daugherty. All yea.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be August 2, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The Public Works Committee met on Monday, July 19, 2010.

The Village Administrator has sent a letter to property owners regarding storm water issues on the south side of the Village.

The committee discussed benches for Burke Park, with a suitable concrete-variety costing around \$1400 each. They may consider a durable, yet less expensive material for the benches.

The Boy Scouts have requested permission to have their annual campout at the water plant property. They are hoping to use the property either August 8th or 14th.

Mr. Leicht stated the group is required to produce a liability waiver for each camper, which is standard procedure. The Boy Scouts will also have to provide proof of insurance.

Mr. Dotson will consult Adam Balls, the Village's insurance representative, regarding the standard documentation.

Council has been copied on the bid specifications for the Village's paving project. Mr. Dotson and Mr. Hatfield compiled a list of the top 10 problem streets. Structural concerns, such as shoulders and sides, were also considered. The Grant Memorial parking lot and the Burke Park road are included in the bid.

The Village reserves the right to award the project in whole or in part because of limited funding. A full depth repair may be done first, with the resurface following at a later time.

A motion to advertise for bids on the Village's paving project for a period of 4 weeks, with a bid opening at 1:00 p.m. on August 27, 2010 was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. All ye.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Rus Whitley

The Safety Committee met July 12, 2010.

The committee is considering whether or not parking meters should be maintained.

Mr. Whitley also reminded the Auxiliary Officers that they are required to put in 24 hours a month, and the Chief needs their help.

The next Safety Committee meeting is Monday, August 9, 2010.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Mary Daugherty

The Personnel Committee met July 26, 2010, and reviewed job descriptions.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is Monday, August 23, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton

Ms. Ireton was copied on the Burke Trust's quarterly statement, and the fund is doing well.

One of the Burke Scholarship recipients has the option of renting books, and asked if that practice was reimbursable. Ms. Ireton believes renting books is a wise choice, and reimbursable under the book scholarship.

She has received a request from the Bethel PTO for a donation to the annual Tiger Tools for School program, where underprivileged students are given new school supplies for the year. In the past, the Village has requested \$2000 from the Burke Trust to donate to the program.

A motion requesting a \$2000 donation from the Burke Trust Commission for the Bethel PTO Tiger Tools for School program was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Ms. Daugherty. All ye.

Planning Commission, Priscilla Johnson

The Planning Commission was scheduled to meet on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 but a quorum wasn't present. The meeting will be rescheduled.

Mayor Dick mentioned there is a citizen member opening on the board, and anyone interested in the position should contact either himself or the Village Administrator.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Priscilla Johnson: Nil.

Janice Ireton: Nil.

Donna Gunn: The ad-hoc Rules of Council committee will meet on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. She would also like Mr. Dotson to add the committee to the agenda. The members on the committee are herself, Ms. Ireton and Ms. Johnson.

Mayor Dick: Kudos to Mr. Hatfield – his level of service to the community stands-out.

Rus Whitley: Inquired about the expiration date on the NatureWorks grant for the resurfacing of the Walk Path, and if three bids have been received for the project. Mr.

Dotson stated the grant does not expire until 12/31/2010, and three bids were received, with the project being awarded to Nickells Paving. The project should begin mid-September.

Tim Cherry: Nil.

Mary Daugherty: Nil.

PUBLIC INPUT

Nil.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 893 A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION

Resolution 893 reflects the same language as the prior legislation proceeding with the levy, due to Council's desire to renew. If the section of code had been changed from 5705.19(A) to 5705.19(H), the levy would be a replacement, and result in greater taxes on the residents, which is not Council's intention.

A motion waiving the three readings of RES 893 to Proceed with Burke Park/Grant Memorial Renewal Levy was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Ms. Daugherty "yea", Mr. Whitley "yea", Ms. Ireton "yea", Ms. Johnson "yea". Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 893 to Proceed with Burke Park/Grant Memorial Renewal Levy was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea", Ms. Daugherty "yea", Mr. Whitley – abstain, Ms. Ireton "yea", Ms. Johnson "yea". Motion carried.

Mr. Whitley abstained from the vote, because he does not like taxes.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 20996-21025, including the Zoning Administrator's July, 2010 salary, OPERS and Medicare contributions) was made by Ms. Daugherty. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. 5 yeas -- Mr. Whitley abstained.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Johnson. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. All yea. 7:20 p.m.

James T. Dick, Mayor

Angelina Burton, Fiscal Officer