

## **Bethel Village Council January 23, 2012**

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., with Mayor Ausman presiding.

Mr. Hembree delivered the invocation, followed by Mayor Ausman 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, Lucy Shepherd, Jeremiah Hembree, Amy Planck, Village Administrator Travis Dotson, Fiscal Officer Bill Gilpin and Village Solicitor Julia Carney.

Also in attendance were Ruth Gelter of the Independent Press, John Seney of the Community Press, Denver ?, Mary Gallimore, Ronnie Gallimore, Jennifer Blevins, Ronnie Gallion and Greg Schuler.

Ms. Ireton made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2012 meeting, as amended, seconded by Mr. Hembree. By roll:

Ms. Johnson "yea"    Ms. Ireton "yea"    Ms. Gunn "yea"  
Ms. Shepherd "yea"    Mr. Hembree "yea"    Ms. Planck "yea"    Motion Carried

**COMMUNICATIONS; Nil**

### **REPORTS**

#### **Mayor Alan J. Ausman;**

Mayor Ausman delivered the following state of the village address:

First, I want to say thank you for the privilege of leading this village. It is an honor that I do not take lightly.

The state of the village is sound! We have gone through 3 years of fiscal emergency and I believe we have come out stronger. We have gone from a \$500,000 deficit in 2009 to all funds positive at the end of 2011. We did this during a time when there were reductions in tax revenues and cuts in the LGF. The effect of the fiscal emergency caused us to look at the way we did things in the village and forced us to change. We reorganized our public works and downsized our number of employees. We began to take a more conservative approach to our expenditures. In other words, we simply cut spending. The catch phrase around here lately is "it is amazing how much money you have when you spend it like you do not have any" and we see the benefits of that approach. The cumulative effect of these steps plus others has put this village in a position to do great things in the near future.

Yet there is still work to be done. We must improve our infrastructure, our roads, our bridges, and our business district. We need to seek grants that will help us revitalize the village in these areas. Some of this work has already begun. We have seen new traffic signals and soon bridge replacement will begin on South Charity. In improving the appearance of the village, I believe it will make it more inviting to businesses and consumers alike.

We must find a way to keep our police fully funded. Safety must be a priority. In my opinion, a community without a strong police force is not a strong community. Our police funds will be losing \$8,000 in revenue by the reduction in property value alone. Police will also be hampered by the fact that we will have reduction in our LGF. So I challenge this council to think of ways to improve our funding for police. No idea is off the table and do not be afraid to think outside the box. Also we must band together with those in the township to fight a two front battle against a foreign invader, the ALB that selectively destroys trees combined with a massive

government bureaucracy that aims to do more harm than the invader itself. I get the feeling that the battle has only just begun.

We must work to build up our reserves and at the same time keep our conservative mindset when it comes to our spending. We must be fiscally responsible with the public monies entrusted to us. In all these efforts and more, council must work together for the greater good of the village.

There is one thing for certain, that is all things change and we have seen a lot of change in this village. We have a new solicitor, mayor, magistrate and 3 new council members. These changes have been within the past few months. I know that some people, perhaps most, do not like change and I also know that not all change is good, but what I see with change is new opportunity. So when I look to my right and see all new faces staring back at me, I see new thinking, new ideas and new creativity. To our new council members never be afraid to question and never be afraid to add your ideas. To those of you on my left thank you for the time and work that you have invested. You have been instrumental in bringing this village back to solvency. I know that all of you care deeply about our village and its wellbeing. To all of you as we move forward this year always keep in mind that we are here with one purpose and that is to serve the residents of this village to the best of our abilities.

Humbly submitted,

Alan J. Ausman, Mayor  
Village of Bethel

**Village Administrator, Travis Dotson**

The village used 3 loads of road salt during the recent inclement weather.

**Fiscal Officer, Bill Gilpin;**

Resolution 920 was explained; it allows the village to ask for the payment of real estate taxes in advance of the final settlement, which is typically in late March.

**Solicitor Julia Carney**

Resolution 919 was reviewed; allows the mayor to accept the contract with the Clermont county commissioners CDBG grant program for 2012.

**Police Chief Mark Planck;**

Chief Planck distributed a statistical report for 2011

**Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

The committee has two new members, Lucy Shepherd and Amy Planck.  
Next meeting is February 1 at 5:00 pm.

**Safety Committee, Chairperson Jeremiah Hembree;** Nothing to report

**Personnel Committee, Chairperson Amy Planck;** Nothing to report

**Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton;** Nothing to report

**Planning Commission, Amy Planck;** Nothing to report

**CALL OF MEMBERS**

Priscilla Johnson: Nil.

Janice Ireton: Thanks to the public works employees for taking care of the roads during the recent winter event. Encourage everyone to support the high school wrestling this Wednesday.

Donna Gunn: Reviewed the 2012 committee assignments;  
Burke Trust-Janice Ireton, Chair; Lucy Shepherd; Jeremiah Hembree  
Finance-Donna Gunn, Chair; Lucy Shepherd; Amy Planck  
Safety-Jeremiah Hembree, Chair; Priscilla Johnson; Janice Ireton  
Personnel-Amy Planck, Chair; Donna Gunn; Priscilla Johnson  
Planning Commission Representative-Amy Planck  
Bethel Business Association Representative (new at Priscilla's request will finalize at Council)  
Bethel Events Representative (BAM and DHC); Lucy Shepherd

Lucy Shepherd: Thankful for mild winter.

Jeremiah Hembree: Nil.

Amy Planck: Nil.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Brett Gaspard added that additional recycling cans are available for \$1.00 per month. Ms. Ireton asked what becomes of the recycling materials after pick up. Brett Gaspard explained the process.

## **LEGISLATION**

### **ORDINANCE 1677- AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE TIME FOR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS, REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Ms. Johnson made a motion to waive the three readings of ORD 1677 Council Meetings, seconded by Ms. Ireton. By roll:

Ms. Johnson "yea" Ms. Ireton "yea" Ms. Gunn "yea"  
Ms. Shepherd "yea" Mr. Hembree "yea" Ms. Planck "yea" Motion Carried

Ms. Gunn made a motion to adopt ORD 1677 Council Meetings, seconded by Ms. Johnson. Discussion; Mr. Hembree asked why move the meetings. Ms. Gunn replied that one reason was to eliminate a scheduling conflict for Bill Gilpin. Mayor Ausman added that it also eliminates the need to reschedule meetings that fall on a Monday holiday, which is frequent.

By roll:

Ms. Johnson "yea" Ms. Ireton "yea" Ms. Gunn "yea"  
Ms. Shepherd "yea" Mr. Hembree "yea" Ms. Planck "yea" Motion Carried

Ms. Ireton made a motion to adopt ORD 1677 as an emergency measure, seconded by Ms. Shepherd. By roll:

Ms. Johnson "yea" Ms. Ireton "yea" Ms. Gunn "yea"  
Ms. Shepherd "yea" Mr. Hembree "yea" Ms. Planck "yea" Motion Carried

### **ORDINANCE 1678 – AN ORDINANCE ENACTING, REPLACING AND ADOPTING AND AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING'S OHIO BASIC CODE, 2012 EDITION, AS THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Hembree made a motion to waive the three readings of ORD 1678 Basic Code 2012, seconded by Ms. Planck. By roll:

Ms. Johnson "yea" Ms. Ireton "yea" Ms. Gunn "yea"  
Ms. Shepherd "yea" Mr. Hembree "yea" Ms. Planck "yea" Motion Carried

Ms. Gunn made a motion to adopt ORD 1678 Basic Code 2012, seconded by Ms. Ireton. By roll:  
Ms. Johnson “yea” Ms. Ireton “yea” Ms. Gunn “yea”  
Ms. Shepherd “yea” Mr. Hembree “yea” Ms. Planck “yea” Motion Carried

Mr. Hembree made a motion to adopt ORD 1678 as an emergency measure, seconded by Ms. Shepherd. By roll:  
Ms. Johnson “yea” Ms. Ireton “yea” Ms. Gunn “yea”  
Ms. Shepherd “yea” Mr. Hembree “yea” Ms. Planck “yea” Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION 919 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE CONTRACT WITH THE CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FY 2011 CDBG FORMULA PROGRAM FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE S CHARITY STREET BRIDGE IN THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL**

Ms. Planck made a motion to waive the three readings of RES 919 CDBG Contract, seconded by Ms. Johnson. By roll:  
Ms. Johnson “yea” Ms. Ireton “yea” Ms. Gunn “yea”  
Ms. Shepherd “yea” Mr. Hembree “yea” Ms. Planck “yea” Motion Carried

Ms. Ireton made a motion to adopt RES 919 CDBG Contract, seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll:  
Ms. Johnson “yea” Ms. Ireton “yea” Ms. Gunn “yea”  
Ms. Shepherd “yea” Mr. Hembree “yea” Ms. Planck “yea” Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION 920 – A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CLERMONT COUNTY AUDITOR TO ADVANCE TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS FROM THE PROCEEDS OF TAX LEVIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 321.34 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Ms. Ireton made a motion to waive the three readings of RES 920 Advance of Taxes, seconded by Ms. Shepherd. By roll:  
Ms. Johnson “yea” Ms. Ireton “yea” Ms. Gunn “yea”  
Ms. Shepherd “yea” Mr. Hembree “yea” Ms. Planck “yea” Motion Carried

Mr. Hembree made a motion to adopt RES 920 Advance of Taxes, seconded by Ms. Planck. By roll:  
Ms. Johnson “yea” Ms. Ireton “yea” Ms. Gunn “yea”  
Ms. Shepherd “yea” Mr. Hembree “yea” Ms. Planck “yea” Motion Carried

**PAYMENT OF THE BILLS**

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses totaling \$184,801.20 was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Ms. Planck; All yea.

Meeting on motion adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Alan J. Ausman, Mayor

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Bill Gilpin, Fiscal Officer