

Bethel Village Council June 8, 2009

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, June 8, 2009, with Mayor John Swarthout presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

The meeting was videotaped, 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 members were counted as present: Council Members Alan Ausman, Joe Houlihan, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, Tim Cherry, James Dick; George Leicht, Solicitor; Travis Dotson, Village Administrator and Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer.

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2009 meeting, as corrected (grammatical), was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All yeas.

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2009 special meeting, as written, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All yeas.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Judi Adams, Vice President of Bethel Building and Loan, spoke before Council regarding the bank's 1st Annual Bethel 10K Run and 5K Walk, scheduled for Saturday, August 8th, 2009. The event will benefit the Bethel Ministerial Association and the Bethel Tate School Scholarship Fund. The race will start at the Burke Park entrance, go to the light at Plane and Main, turn left onto 133, to Bethel Concord Road, Macedonia Road, then to Reisinger Road and back the same route. The event has been cleared with the Bethel Police Chief, the Fire Chief and the East Fork Park manager, a squad will be available, and the necessary insurance for the event has been obtained. Ms. Adams encouraged everyone's participation.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor John Swarthout

Mayor Swarthout thanked Chief Planck for working the traffic detail following Grant Career Center's Awards Night. The event draws over 1000 people, and everyone leaves at the same time, out one driveway. The Chief's assistance made the exit run more smoothly.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

A week ago Friday, a water valve burst at East and Mound Streets. The temporary valve placed at the time of the incident was given a permanent replacement today, with minimal disturbance in water service.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Ms. Burton has a list of all the Village's expenses for the month of May, and would like Council's signature approval. The practice was recommended by the State auditors.

Solicitor, George Leicht

Nil.

Police Chief Mark Planck

Nil.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Finance committee recommended an ordinance setting Council pay to \$100/month, but did not take meeting attendance into consideration. The committee recommends the ordinance be amended to reflect a \$50/meeting salary for Council members.

The Finance committee recommends the Village install the UAN accounting system, provided by the State of Ohio. The system has been recommended by the auditors, and the system cost is based on the Village's budget. The software comes with a new computer for the Fiscal Officer, training is no charge, and routine updates are included in the system fees. The state may monitor the use of the software, and the system's data is easily obtained for future audits.

A motion recommending the installation of the UAN accounting software was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All ye.

A motion approving the Fiscal Officer's attendance at UAN training, in Columbus, Ohio, on June 15th and 16th, with an overnight stay, mileage, meal and parking reimbursement total not to exceed \$400 was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All ye.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Monday, July 13th, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The committee did not meet in May, due to the Memorial Day holiday.

The next Public Works Committee meeting will be Monday, June 22, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

The Safety Committee discussed the open Mayor's Court Clerk/Police Clerk job, and recommends moving forward with filling the position. Mr. Hutchinson reminded the committee that the position has 2 job descriptions, and one of the roles may be dropped, if need be.

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Monday, July 6th, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Mayor's Court Clerk/Police Clerk job has been advertised and applications will be accepted through June 19, 2009.

The Personnel Committee will be meeting Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 6:30p.m. to discuss filling the open position.

Burke Trust Commission, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Council interviewed Burke Grant Applicants on May 18th, 2009, and the 10 students with the highest scores, winning the 2009 Edmund G. Burke Educational Grants, were: Chelsea Allen, Hillary Allen, Kari Brooks, Ryan Downey, Ciera Franks, Mark Gibson, Rachelle Houchin, Keegan Martin, Rachel Rees and Alexis Wagner. Mayor Swarthout announced the winners during the May 22, 2009 Graduation. Ms. Gunn read a Thank You letter received from Miss Wagner.

A motion requesting \$20,000 for Scholarships from the Burke Trust Commission was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All ye.

Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick

The Planning Commission met on May 28, 2009, and discussed proposed amendments to the zoning fees. The committee will forward their recommendations to the Finance Chairperson and Village Administrator.

The commission will meet on an as-needed basis.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Alan Ausman: Lives close to the water main break, and his son told him the “street has blown up.” Thanked the Public Works department for their dedication, because he knows they worked until at least 1:00 a.m. on the break.

Joe Houlihan: Nil.

Donna Gunn: Nil.

Gary Hutchinson: Nil.

Tim Cherry: Nil.

James Dick: Requested a copy of the amended council pay ordinance by the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Russ Whitley spoke before Council, inquiring about the left turn signals promised for 2009. Mr. Cherry stated the ODOT report indicates the signal upgrade as being scheduled for the third or fourth quarter of 2010.

Mr. Whitley also asked about sidewalk parking. He has seen at least 5 cars parked on Village sidewalks, and believes the Village has an ordinance prohibiting the practice. Mayor Swarthout pointed out if the sidewalks are damaged, the repair is the property owner’s responsibility, however, if the Village does have an ordinance prohibiting sidewalk parking, Mr. Whitley needs to talk to Chief Planck. Mr. Dick will forward the matter to the Safety Committee.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 1623 SETTING THE SALARY OF THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, 2nd reading

Mr. Leicht addressed a utility rate/billing issue that needs to be settled for the audit. There was a utility billing discrepancy from January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008. The auditors want Council to accept the rates as billed, by motion.

A motion to accept rates, as billed, for water and electric from January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008, for the reason that an audit of the period revealed problems with the billing software application in certain months, and ordinances adopted by Council not being implemented in a timely manner, and Council has been advised there were no overcharges during the period, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All yea.

Mr. Dick asked if any donations had been made to the Bethel Events Fund. Ms. Burton stated no donations have been made to the fund.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All yea. 7:20 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer