

Bethel Village Council June 22, 2009

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, June 22, 2009, with Mayor John Swarthout presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

The meeting was videotaped, to be aired on cable television.

Mr. Ausman 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 June 8, 2009 meeting, as written, was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jim Taylor was scheduled to address Council regarding the Community Stabilization Act. He is unable to attend tonight's Council, due to being ill, and plans on attending the next Council meeting, scheduled for July 13, 2009.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor John Swarthout

Mayor Swarthout reminded everyone of the upcoming Founder's Day Celebration this weekend at Burke Park.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

Mr. Dotson will be on vacation the week of July 13, 2009, and will be unable to attend any regularly scheduled meetings that week. (Finance and Council)

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Ms. Burton hopes to have the Village converted to UAN by the end of July. She also needs Council's intent clarified regarding the medical reimbursement policy. The matter will be discussed in Executive Session.

Police Chief Mark Planck

Chief Planck is working with the organizers of the Founder's Day event. He is also following through on the sidewalk parking issue and has contacted a resident that is exceeding the number of vehicles/pieces of equipment allowed for sale/display at one time. A village resident has had as many as 6 tractors for sale in his yard, when 5 is the maximum.

Solicitor, George Leicht

Questioned if parking on the sidewalks could be related to the beer and alcohol sales in town.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

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

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

Mr. Cherry addressed a request to designate S. Ash a one-way, because of the narrow bridge. Neither Mr. Cherry nor Chief Planck believe the one-way designation is a feasible request.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

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

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Personnel Committee met last week, and reviewed the Mayor's Court Clerk applications. The matter needs to be discussed in Executive Session.

Future meetings will be held as needed.

Burke Trust Commission, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Nil.

Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick

Nil.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Alan Ausman: Will also be on vacation the week of July 13th, and unable to attend the next Council meeting.

Joe Houlihan: Nil.

Donna Gunn: Nil.

Gary Hutchinson: Will be at the next meeting.

Tim Cherry: No words of wisdom.

James Dick: Mentioned upcoming Founder's Day Celebration.

PUBLIC INPUT

Amy Wisby addressed Council regarding the Village Police Department. Ms. Wisby believes she is being harassed by the department, and despite being arrested 6 times, she has consistently been found not guilty. She also has items on her record, with her current name, during a time period in which she had a different legal name because of marriage.

Ms. Wisby stated she has great respect for Chief Planck, and appreciates the help he extended to her and her daughter, when her daughter was causing problems in town. However, Ms. Wisby has problems with other officers and Mayor's Court personnel, and mentioned an incident in which the prosecuting attorney threw a nameplate at her.

Mr. Leicht requested Ms. Wisby send him a letter with the details of her concern.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 1623 SETTING THE SALARY OF THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND THE PRESIDENT PRO-TEM OF COUNCIL AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 1389, 3rd reading

Mr. Dick stated he finds the legislation a PR move, with "not a lot of teeth", considering the current council pay is in line with other municipalities. He also believes the move may discourage others from running for Council in the upcoming election, that will have 4 open seats and the Mayor's position. He understands the measure is to lessen the burden on the General fund, though the legislation would lead to no benefit to this year and proposes Council reduce to meeting once a month, with work sessions and extra committee meetings. The reduction in council meetings would make an immediate impact on the General fund.

Ms. Gunn believes if someone is on Council for the money, that person is in it for the wrong reasons, and believes people should be willing to serve unpaid. Mr. Ausman mentioned the other cuts the Village has made, resulting in more work for the employees, and sees the legislation as Council doing their part.

No one stated opposition to one council meeting per month. Mr. Leicht believes reducing the number of Council meetings would lessen transparency.

A motion to adopt ORD 1623 Setting the Salary of the Members of Council 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 “nay”, Mr. Dick “nay”. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 876 APPROVING “AS PAID” WAGES AND SALARIES PAID TO VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

The past Village Administration did not follow the guidelines and ordinances setting employee pay, resulting in disparity in wages. Council may approve the wages as paid, otherwise the State Auditors will issue findings against Village employees. Mr. Leicht recommended Council waive the readings on the resolution, because the auditors are awaiting a response.

A motion to waive the 3 readings of RES 876 Approving “As Paid” Wages was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. By Roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick – abstain. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 876 Approving “As Paid” Wages was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. By Roll: Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick – abstain. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters 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”. 7:07 p.m.

A motion to enter regular session was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. By Roll: Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. 7:56 p.m.

A motion to combine the Mayor’s Court Clerk position with the full-time Utility Collections Clerk position, increasing the employee’s current pay rate by \$1.50/hour was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All yea.

The position will be offered to Kelly Terry. If she accepts the offer, her new hourly pay rate will be \$13.77 and will be retroactive to May 27, 2009 – the day she began helping with the Mayor’s Court Clerk duties.

A motion to set Kelly Terry’s wage to \$13.77/hour, retroactive to May 27, 2009, if she accepts the position with combined duties, was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea.

The medical reimbursement issue will be referred back to Humana, and reviewed at the next Council meeting, if necessary.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All yea. 8:00 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer