

## **Bethel Village Council July 13, 2009**

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, July 13, 2009, with Mayor John Swarthout presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 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 Joe Houlihan, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, Tim Cherry, James Dick; George Leicht, Solicitor and Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer. Council member Alan Ausman and Village Administrator Travis Dotson were absent.

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2009 meeting, as written, was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All ye.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Jim Taylor, Grants Coordinator for Clermont County Community Planning and Development, spoke before Council regarding the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Bethel, Amelia, Loveland, Goshen and eastern Union Township have the highest foreclosure rates and sub-prime loans in the County, making them eligible for the stabilization program. The County has targeted the Bethel, Amelia and Union Township areas, and the program should not be considered a low-income program. Applicants must qualify for home loans, and are required to participate in the property rehabilitation. A family of four may make up to \$89K/year and still be eligible. The program is meant to stabilize neighborhoods, prevent further "foreclosure traps" and help people break the "rent cycle". Vacant and foreclosed homes are sought for purchase and rehab; 5 homes in the 45106 area are set for demolition, and the property will then be useful for rebuilding. The program is administered by the County, and no action is required by Council, though Council's input will be sought and considered. Mr. Taylor will work with the Village Administrator, the Property Code Enforcement Officer and the Solicitor. Mr. Taylor has flyers with information on the program, and details may also be found on the County website.

Mayor Swarthout expressed his appreciation to Mr. Taylor and the County for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and believes it to be very worthwhile.

### **ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Mayor John Swarthout**

Mayor Swarthout thanked Mr. Ron Shouse and everyone involved in the Founders Day celebrations. He commended them for a job well-done, mentioning the money raised goes toward a good cause.

#### **Village Administrator, Travis Dotson**

Nil.

#### **Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton**

Ms. Burton has copied Council on the list of expenses paid in June, for Council review and approval.

#### **Police Chief Mark Planck**

This year's National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 beginning at 5:30 p.m., over at Burke Park. The Bethel-Tate Fire Department, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Clermont County Sheriff's Office and the Army will all be participating in this year's event.

Chief Planck also reminded everyone of Bethel Building and Loan's upcoming 10K race, to be held August 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. with kick-off at Burke Park.

The Bethel Boosters Association's John Deere Gator has been recovered, undamaged, from the incident's number one suspect. Ofc. Binger was contacted by the suspect, who stated he knew where the gator was and would go get it. The officer played along, and when the suspect was bringing the gator to the police, he was pulled over by a sheriff's deputy.

**Solicitor, George Leicht**

Mr. Leicht requested an executive session following the committee reports, for the purpose of discussing pending litigation.

**Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

The Finance Committee met last Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, due to vacation schedules.

Mr. Dotson presented a proposal for a new laptop computer to the committee for purchase in the amount of \$2068. Ms. Gunn stated Mr. Dotson gave his desktop computer to one of the utility clerks, due to a software update slowing her old machine, and he has since been using his personal laptop computer for Village purposes. The purchase will be paid out of the Electric fund.

A motion to approve the purchase of a laptop computer for the Village Administrator in the amount of \$2068, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. 4 yeas, Mr. Dick "nay". Motion carried.

Ms. Gunn noted the Village is considering a contract with a collection agency, to assist property owners left with unpaid utility bills by previous tenants.

The Village's benefit year with Humana renews on March 1<sup>st</sup>, yet a date has not been clarified for the self-insured vision and dental plans the Village offers its full-time employees.

A motion to set the benefit year for the self-insured vision and dental plans from March 1 to February 28 (to be in line with the Humana/major medical benefit year) was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yeas.

Ms. Gunn also requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry**

Nil.

The committee will meet as needed.

**Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan**

The July Safety Committee meeting was canceled. The next Safety Committee meeting will be Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

**Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

The Personnel Committee will be scheduling a meeting to discuss the Village's benefit plan after Mr. Ausman returns from vacation.

**Burke Trust Commission, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

The Village has received a request for a donation to the Bethel-Tate PTO's "Tiger Tools for School" program, that provides school supplies for children in need.

A motion to request \$2000 from the Burke Trust Commission, to donate to the “Tiger Tools for School” program was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea.

One of the 2009 Burke Grant recipients, Mr. Ryan Downey, has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship from NKU, providing him with fully paid tuition. The Burke Grant is forfeited by the recipient if a full scholarship is awarded, and the applicant with the next highest score is awarded a Burke Grant. The applicant with the next highest score is Markie Planck.

Ms. Gunn congratulated Miss Planck on becoming one of the 2009 Burke Grant recipients.

#### **Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick**

Nil.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to enter executive session to discuss pending litigation and personnel matters was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Dick “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”. 7:03 p.m.

A motion to enter regular session was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By roll: Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. 7:21 p.m.

#### **CALL OF MEMBERS**

Joe Houlihan: The Village is accepting applications for Auxiliary Police Officers. Applicants must be OPOTA certified.

Donna Gunn: Kudos to organizers of Founders’ Days. She’ll bring meals and pie next year.

Gary Hutchinson: Village wide yard sales are this weekend. Be careful, and come buy something. He also mentioned the most delicious, and expensive, cherry pie he’d ever had at Founders’ Days.

Tim Cherry: Would like Mr. Jim Taylor to get with Ron Dunn, and is curious as to how the Neighborhood Stabilization Program is pulled together with Council.

Mr. Leicht stated he is not sure how much input the Village will have in the program, but assumes it will be similar to an experience he had in New Richmond after the floods, where the Village’s zoning and property maintenance codes were honored.

Mr. Cherry reminded everyone of this weekend’s car show at the Middle School, organized by the newly formed Middle School Boosters.

James Dick: Nil.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Russ Whitley questioned whose responsibility the expense of razing a Village property/house, through the County’s Stabilization Program, would be. Mr. Leicht believes the expense is paid entirely by the County.

#### **LEGISLATION**

##### **RESOLUTION 877 APPROVING WAGES AND SALARIES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL**

A motion to waive the 3 readings of RES 877 Approving Employee Wages was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. By Roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 877 Approving Employee Wages was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By Roll: Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick – abstain. Motion carried.

**JUNE EXPENSES, AS PRESENTED**

A motion to approving the June, 2009 expenses, as presented, was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All yea.

**PAYMENT OF THE BILLS**

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea. 7:32 p.m.

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Mayor John Swarthout

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Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer