

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY DECEMBER 8, 2008 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Binder, Dishong, Flaiz, Koons, Porter, and Wolfe
OFFICIALS PRESENT: Police Chief Wetzel, Building Commissioner Hocesvar,
Street Commissioner Johnson, Solicitor Ondrey, Engineer
Foley, Fiscal Officer Romanowski
OFFICIALS ABSENT: Fiscal Auditor Lechman
GUESTS: Michael O'Connor, Chagrin Boosters

Mayor Brett called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Fiscal Officer read the roll. Wolfe moved to waive reading and approve the minutes of the November 24, 2008 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Michael O'Connor from the Chagrin Boosters thanked Council for allowing the Boosters to hold the Turkey Trot in the Village. Binder made a motion supporting the Turkey Trot for 2009 and future years, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor informed Council he attended a Valley Enforcement Region Council of Government (VERCOG) meeting where there was discussion regarding the budget for 2009 which is forecasted to increase dues from \$4,000 in 2008 to \$7,000 in 2009. Mayor said he made a lot of very positive comments about the folks plugged into the Valley Enforcement Group (VEG) and the work they do but he did raise several questions regarding going from \$4,000 to \$7,000 for dues. Mayor stated that ultimately the group did vote to pass that budget for at least the first quarter of the year - partially because of his protest to the dollar amounts. Mayor said he voted "no". Mayor stated this is not a reflection of how he feels about VEG, he just wasn't on board with the increase in dues. Mayor said he has asked the Safety Committee and the Police Chief to get together to talk about what the Village gets out of VEG so the Village can make an accurate decision of what the Village is going to do with regards to that organization. Wolfe asked what the reason was for the almost 50% increase in dues. Mayor said the primary reasons for the increase in cost was that in the past the way VEG was set up, there was no legal counsel and now they budgeted \$10,000 for that. Mayor says he feels that is really, really high and he thinks there were some folks that supported that. Mayor said he isn't saying they shouldn't have legal counsel, he just believes it is too big of a number to have for that. Mayor said the other reason was a big increase in their insurance coverage. Mayor said the cost for the premiums for all of the vehicles that VEG has is \$25,000 and that was over a \$12,000 increase. Mayor said there were a few other things with which he agreed with like a Child Abduction Response Team (CART) which he was on board with at a cost \$2,500. Mayor said that is exactly the kind of stuff he feels the group should be doing. Mayor said maybe the number they forecasted was the right number to get to but: 1.) He didn't feel comfortable without any notice to be

able to respond appropriately. 2.) They should phase the increase in. Mayor said dues were at \$4,000 they should phase it in to \$5,000, \$6,000 and then \$7,000 but taking it from \$3,000 to \$4,000 to \$7,000 within just over a year wasn't what he signed up for. Mayor said in January or February the group is committed to coming back to the table and revisiting the topic. Mayor said he doesn't know what will come from that but the Village should look at it themselves and make the best decision they can. Dishong asked if there was any thought of doing some type of proportional dues based on budget. Mayor replied that there is a wide range of communities involved, Bainbridge, South Russell, Russell, Chardon, Chester, Hunting Valley, Pepper Pike, Orange, Chagrin Falls, Warrensville Hts., Moreland Hills, Glenwillow, Reminderville – so comparing Warrensville Hts. to Bentlyville to Orange, they are all very different communities with different needs. Mayor said he feels proportioning the dues would be unusual for a group like this and it didn't really matter when the cost was \$3,000-\$4,000 per year but if it's going to get up to \$7,000-\$8,000 per year, then maybe that would make sense. Mayor said once again, there are no negatives about those that make up that group, a lot of really good people are involved. Mayor said, "this was a group of communities that all kind of banded together and asked how would we respond to an incident if we had to do a hostage negotiation or handle a larger event?" and they pulled resources together. Mayor said to a certain extent, he hopes they didn't muck this thing up by creating this Council of Governments when we had a group that was performing pretty well. Maybe they weren't insured perfectly and needed a few other things - but it worked.

Mayor informed Council that regarding the ambulance billing the group is working on the dollar amounts the municipalities would charge for the various types of runs. Mayor said this amount would increase but shouldn't have a large impact on those that actually get billed. Mayor said assuming that all comes together, this should add a little to the collections. Mayor said at this point he is less confident this will occur by January 1st.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer said there is not a Bills List at this meeting because bills won't be paid until next week and it would not be a complete list.

As Tax Administrator, Fiscal Officer reported she has not received the deposit yet and will forward her report via e-mail as soon as she receives it.

FISCAL AUDITOR'S REPORT: Fiscal Auditor was not present but distributed his report to Council prior to the meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mayor asked if the Road Program in 2009 would be less than 2008 due to gas prices dropping. Engineer said he has no idea because no one knows if the prices will stay down. Koons asked if we should go out to bid earlier. Mayor said we have accelerated the bid process and the Village would go out to bid in March so if prices stay low, that should help the Village, but to what extent, no one really knows. Engineer said the early bidding benefit is really if the contractor doesn't have a lot of work on their plate, they may jump on it quicker to get a job quicker, but as far as prices are concerned, he has no idea what the prices are going to be.

There was brief discussion about the money still owed to Specialized Construction for the 2008 Road Program.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Building Commissioner reported that the tornado siren is up and he hopes it will be operational by the end of the year. Mayor stated that the operating parameters for the siren would be from April through November each Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and it will go off for approximately 60 seconds.

Building Commissioner reported the blower mower for the furnace at Village Hall went out last week and was repaired.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Police Chief reported that the new unmarked vehicle is in, being set up, and should be in service by the end of next week.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Street Commissioner reported that the trash receptacles and dog stations have been delivered and should be installed soon.

Street Commissioner said two new Village entrance signs are on order.

Street Commissioner referred to an e-mail he sent out regarding ordering additional salt in 2008. Street Commissioner said he is concerned with delivery time that has been averaging about three weeks. He is concerned if he waits to order salt until the beginning of January, other communities will also be ordering on their new budgets and then he would be waiting on a longer delay. Therefore, Street Commissioner asked permission to put an order of salt in now knowing that some, or all of it, may be delivered in 2008. Fiscal Officer reported there is just over \$800 remaining in the salt line item for 2008. There was discussion about the current available salt supply, how much salt the Village should order, and helping Bainbridge by possibly supplying them salt if they are unable to get it, as well as how much the Village would charge them.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor said the Village requires contractor bonds from contractors doing business in the Village. Solicitor said there is one resident who has complained to the Building Department about a project not getting finished with the remodeling of her kitchen. Solicitor said he sent a letter to the bonding company indicating that the Village wanted them to forfeit the bond to us so the Village could let her hire a new contractor. Solicitor said he then got contacted by an attorney for the contractor and apparently there is quite a complex and long-winded dispute going on between the two of them as to who is really at fault in this issue. Solicitor said he has advised the Building Commissioner to back off and let the bonding company get involved and see where it heads before the Village takes any further steps on it. Solicitor said he doesn't want to get the Village in a situation where it is suing on a bond and is not 100% certain who is really at fault.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Wolfe, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz had no report.

Koons requested an Executive Session following the Council meeting to discuss employee compensation.

Koons said the Finance Committee looks to adopt the 2009 Appropriations following the Executive Session.

Porter said the Shaker Heights Garden Club would like to donate a tree in honor of Wally Sutcliffe's wife and the Parks Committee is seeking approval from Council. Porter gave ideas where this tree should be planted. Mayor said in January, Council should discuss designating an area for donated trees. Wolfe suggested having a Memorial Forest for this purpose.

Porter said the signs are up with regards to the rules of South Russell Village Park.

Porter also requested Executive Session to discuss employee compensation.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Koons made a motion to transfer \$33,000 from the Income Tax fund to the Streets fund. Koons made a motion to waive further readings, seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Koons made a motion to adopt, seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Ordinance 2008-48.

Koons made a motion to amend 2008 appropriations by increasing the Streets Fund by \$33,000. Koons moved to waive further readings, seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Koons moved to adopt, seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Ordinance 2008-49.

Porter made a motion to waive further readings on an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with CT Consultants, Inc. to provide professional engineering services to the Village of South Russell for 2009 and 2010, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Porter made a motion to adopt as an emergency, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Ordinance 2008-50.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS: Porter, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz had no new business.

Koons reported that the multipurpose trail group is now meeting on a regular basis.

Wolfe asked what the Village holiday hours were. Mayor replied that Christmas Day is a holiday for 2008 and New Years Day is a holiday for 2009.

Koons made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 9:21 p.m.

Koons made a motion to adopt the Annual Appropriations for 2009 which would include the worksheets from the December 1st budget which would now reflect a 2.25% pay raise and declaring an emergency. Koons made a motion to waive further readings, seconded by, Flaiz. Roll call – Porter, Wolfe, Dishong, Koons, Flaiz, ayes. Binder, nay. Motion carried. Koons moved to adopt, seconded by Flaiz. Roll call – Porter, Wolfe, Dishong, Koons, Flaiz, ayes. Binder, nay. Motion carried. Ordinance 2008-51.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, Flaiz moved to adjourn, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer