

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Binder, Dishong, Flaiz, Koons, Porter
MEMBERS ABSENT: Wolfe
OFFICIALS PRESENT: Police Chief Wetzel, Building Commissioner Hocevar,
Street Commissioner Johnson, Solicitor Ondrey, Engineer
Foley, Fiscal Auditor Lechman, Fiscal Officer
Romanowski
VISITORS: Notre Dame student

Mayor Brett called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Council meeting was started informally due to the absence of Council members.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor spoke of the legislative update from Northeast Ohio Mayor's and City Manager's group regarding two competing bills for oil and well regulation. It is probable that the two bills will be incorporated into one making it a stronger bill and more likely to pass.

Mayor reported that over the next two years the State budget will be in jeopardy. Budget items will have to be cut and taxes will have to be raised. Any line item could potentially be cut. A couple of years ago, State took ownership of half the Undivided Local Government (UDLG) Fund, which is approximately \$80-85,000/year. Local communities worked hard to regain control of that money. The UDLG Fund could again be in jeopardy. There will be additional revenue from casinos. Those dollars seem to stream to local communities versus State; however, State may have the power to take control of other funds. The State budget will impact South Russell over the next couple of years.

In Cuyahoga County there were four events held to administer the H1N1 vaccine. One was held Saturday morning at Orange High School. Fire and EMS groups from local communities dispensed the vaccine to 125-150 Tier 1 individuals. The Geauga County Health Department did something similar with the regular flu vaccine in a drive-thru at the Russell Fire Department. If it gets to the point that a mass inoculation is necessary, this system could work in South Russell.

The Turkey Trot will start at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 26th. Bell Road will be closed for a short period of time. Residents from Southwyck, Emerald Lake, Waverly and Sugar Bush, as well as a portion of Bell Road should have received flyers regarding the race. This event has also been posted on the Village website to notify residents.

Mayor reported that he is expecting to go into Executive Session later tonight for personnel reasons.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer reminded Council that the Village is doing Sponsor a Family in conjunction with Shop with a Cop.

Dishong arrived at 7:51 p.m. The meeting commenced at this time.

As Tax Administrator, gross collections for November were \$141,641.56. After refunds and overhead, the net distribution was \$132,227.56, giving a year-to-date of \$994,038.62.

Tax Administrator reported that last year the Village received \$141,690 in November from Central Collection Agency (CCA). This November \$132,000 was received.

When Dishong arrived, Fiscal Officer read the roll. Flaiz moved to waive reading and approve the minutes of the November 9, 2009 Regular Council meeting; seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes: Porter, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz. Motion carried.

FISCAL AUDITOR'S REPORT: Fiscal Auditor referred to the report that he distributed earlier. Income tax revenues are now a lot closer to the budgeted amount.

As the Village CD matures, there will be an infusion of cash. Reinvestment options will need to be researched. Balances are higher than where they were at the beginning of the year.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer reported that work is beginning on the 2010 Road Program. Work on cemetery is proceeding.

Mayor requested that the Engineering expenses for 2009 be billed in 2009 if possible for budgeting purposes. The budget for 2010 appears to be tight forecasting a significant operating deficit. Engineer Foley stated that he didn't anticipate the need for this, as invoicing will not exceed what was authorized. About 50% of the work has been done and that is consistent with invoicing. Mayor requested status by the next Council meeting.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Building Commissioner reported that Panini's building has been totally gutted and construction is underway. Panini's hopes to open by the end of February.

The "green house" project on Bell Road is on hold. The timber for the house came off the lot and is being kilned.

A permit is expected to be filed in South Russell for another gas well. An application was filed with State.

Binder had an opportunity to go through a couple of the businesses in the retail section of Millbrook recently. The build-outs are really nice. The Day Care is completely green. There are no chemicals or adhesives. VOC-free paint was used and they have a garden in the back. Binder suggested highlighting a South Russell business every quarter in the newsletter.

Building Commissioner reported that the Police Department chimney project has been completed and was finished under budget.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Police Chief stated that Shop with a Cop funding so far is \$705 from businesses, elected officials, employees and raffle tickets that were sold. The targeted amount was \$500. This money will help to fund five children. \$205 will go to the event itself for food, etc. Officer Rizzo has worked hard to make this event a success.

Police Chief reviewed the status of the training programs for the year.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Street Commissioner stated that the Service Department has finished the property clean up; winterizing is almost complete with snow stakes and snow fences in place. Holiday lighting goes on Wednesday at the end of the workday.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor had no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Porter reported that the Parks Committee would meet December 9th at Village Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Flaiz stated that the Planning Commission's next meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 7:30 p.m. Topics may include lighting, industrial use, wind turbines, and the issue regarding banners and flags.

Fiscal Auditor arrived at 8:10 p.m.

Koons arrived at 8:12 p.m. Koons would like to have job descriptions sent electronically to all Council members for review.

Koons reported that the budget work session was successful. Mayor stated that a single session is good, but there is value in looking at specific line items. The operating deficit will be approximately \$200,000 for 2010. Removing \$50,000 from the Road Program is being considered. Council will need to review the Engineering report on the road conditions as soon as possible. Street Commissioner asked for a close review of the roads that are starting to show wear; some roads have a thicker, deeper base and are likely to last longer than those that do not.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: Second reading on resolution for a moratorium on oil and gas wells.

Koons introduced an ordinance to transfer funds, declaring an emergency; transfer \$100,000 from Income Tax Fund to the Safety Fund. Koons moved to waive readings; seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes: Koons, Porter, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz. Motion carried. Koons moved to adopt; seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes: Koons, Porter, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2009-36.

Porter introduced an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract with Medical Mutual of Ohio for medical benefits for the employees of South Russell Village to fund employee health savings accounts and to offer a waiver incentive to employees to opt out, declaring an emergency. Porter moved to waive readings; seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes: Koons, Porter, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz. Motion carried. Porter made motion to adopt; seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes: Koons, Porter, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2009-37.

Flaiz introduced an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract with Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan for solicitor's services for the years 2010-11, declaring an emergency. Flaiz moved to waive readings; seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes: Koons, Porter, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz. Motion carried. Flaiz moved to adopt; seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes: Koons, Porter, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2009-38.

BILLS LIST: Dishong made a motion to pay the bills for November 30, 2009; seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes: Koons, Porter, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS: Koons met with Ed Pyle of the Cemetery Committee.

Porter reported a thank you note was received for the Carolyn Sutliff memorial tree at the Park.

Dishong stated that a resident informed him that some of the plastic tree protectors have come off the saplings. Service Department will follow up.

Koons made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. to discuss personnel compensation, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes: Koons, Porter, Binder, Dishong and Flaiz. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 9:08 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor adjourned the meeting.

Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by: Becky Peterson
c:My Docs/Word Docs/Minutes