

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Binder, Dishong, Flaiz, Koons, Porter and Wolfe
OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Auditor Lechman, Fiscal Officer Romanowski,
Building Commissioner Hocevar,
Street Commissioner Johnson, Solicitor Ondrey,
and Engineer Foley
OFFICIALS ABSENT: Police Chief Wetzel
VISITORS: Michael O'Connor, Wilding Chase, and Bryan Kostura,
Laurel Rd.

Mayor Brett called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Fiscal Officer read the roll. Koons moved to waive reading and approve the minutes of the November 23, 2009 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Michael O'Connor attended the meeting to thank Council for allowing the 2nd Turkey Trot to take place in the Village and also thanked the Police Department for their help. The race was a great success this year. In 2008 there were 242 runners, which raised \$2,200. This year there were 425 runners and/or walkers and \$4500 was raised for the Chagrin Boosters Club. The Athletic Department will receive 60-70% of these proceeds and 30-40% will go toward academics. Registration started at 9:30 a.m. and the race was over before 11:30 a.m. The participants enjoy the race in South Russell and are looking forward to next year.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor informed Council that the South Russell holiday gathering will be held at Village Hall on Friday, December 18th, at noon.

Mayor reported that in the past South Russell has held strategic work sessions with Kent State's Public Administration Department. Mayor and Fiscal Officer had a very positive meeting with Kerry Macomber recently to discuss the leadership/supervisor training options offered by the University. Mayor would like Ms. Macomber to consider courses that could be targeted toward South Russell employees and possibly officials.

Mayor reported that there will be a Valley Enforcement Regional Council of Government (VERCOG) meeting on Friday, December 18th, to present the newly elected officials and the budget for 2010.

Mayor has had conversations with the Solicitor regarding the structure of the Tax Board of Review over the last several months. The Fiscal Auditor will be replacing the Solicitor on this Board. Solicitor Ondrey has prepared an ordinance to address this change.

Mayor spoke with Steve Latkovic from the Multipurpose Trail Group. The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) grant has been awarded for a study of the Chagrin Valley and the means for paths and walkways. Steve will attend the second meeting in January to give an update on the process.

Mayor stated nothing has changed with the moratorium on the potential sewer project in Maple Hill. Mayor spoke with Tim Cosgrove, who represents the Northeast Ohio Mayor's Group, regarding this issue. If no decision is made at the State level by summer, a local decision will have to be made.

Mayor encouraged Council to pass the oil and gas resolution this evening.

Mayor will be reviewing committee appointments for next year and is interested in hearing from Council members as to where their interests lie.

Mayor reported that South Russell received a certificate from Ted Batchelor, who headed the simultaneous full-body burns earlier this year.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer reported she received the Donor Report from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy if anyone wants to review it.

Fiscal Officer stated that Thursday will be the last day donations will be accepted for Sponsor-a-Family. A generous donation was received from a South Russell resident.

As Tax Administrator, Fiscal Officer reported that December's deposit was received. The gross distribution was \$45,915.11. After refunds and overhead, net distribution was \$29,243.49. Year-to-date figure is \$1,023,282.11.

Jack Binder arrived at 7:45 p.m.

FISCAL AUDITOR'S REPORT: Fiscal Auditor reviewed his December report with Council. A small budget deficit had been expected this year; however, it looks as though 2009 will finish in good standing. Balances were higher than expected, but that was offset by interest income being lower than expected.

Fiscal Auditor thanked Council on behalf of the Cub Scouts who met at Village Hall on December 1st.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Foley provided a report on road conditions and preliminary estimates for 2010.

Mary Beth Wolfe arrived at 7:58 p.m.

Engineer Foley reported design work for the cemetery would be approximately 75% completed in 2009. There will be about \$9,000 outstanding in 2010.

Mayor spoke of the importance of the Road Program. For the most part, South Russell roads appear to be stable. This is due to the long-term maintenance program put in place by the Village.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Building Commissioner reported that the current projects in the Village are progressing. There is temporary housing on East Washington Street for upgrading phone service for South Russell and Chagrin Falls.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Police Chief updated Council on the Shop-with-a-Cop Program. Officer Rizzo raised approximately \$780 from contributions, businesses and raffle ticket sales. There were approximately 150 officers from 50 Police Departments involved in the program this year from Cuyahoga and Geauga Counties.

Chief reported that the Blue Coats donated \$2,000 to send officers to the memorial service in Washington for the four fallen patrolmen. Sgt. Cardaman, Officer Valerio and Officer Swaidner attended the memorial service along with 20,000 other officers. Four officers from Geauga County attended the service.

Chief reported that a \$35,000 grant from Congressman LaTourette's office has been approved for transitioning to 800 MHz radios. This grant is a 75:25 match.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Street Commissioner distributed his monthly report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor commented that Middlefield will be doing their own income tax collections in-house. They are unhappy with the fees and think a local option will prove more beneficial. There is a six-month cancellation notice required, so they will be committing to this mid-2010. The Jefferson community will be used as a model.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Porter stated that the Streets Committee has been considering the list of roads that need work in the Village. Manorbrook Drive appears as though it would be of primary necessity and would cost \$181,000, followed by Manorbrook II with a cost of \$200,000. It is hoped that in 2011 and 2012, the West end of Bell Road might be completed with Issue II funding and/or possible stimulus money. The Streets Committee would like to get approval of the Road Program at the next Council meeting.

Porter reported that the Mayor attended the Parks Committee meeting last week. The dog issue at South Russell Park was discussed. Input has been received; however, the Committee wants to solicit volunteers for two-hour sessions on Saturdays to find out the extent of the problems that are occurring.

Porter discussed other topics the Committee has been considering. They include the possibility of adding signage to the Washington Street side of the park sometime this next year. A pavilion on Bell Road is being debated for a 3-5 year project, but is strictly

budget-dependent. A kiosk is being considered for the Washington Street side of the park surrounded by a landscaped area, which would be a good Boy Scout project. Another 3-5 year project might be expanding the parking lot for each side, with priority given to the Washington Street side.

Porter stated that Ted Kruse has not been paid for his contribution of the banner for the South Russell Fall Festival. Porter asked Mr. Kruse to submit his invoice to the Fiscal Officer as soon as possible.

Porter said that Peter Calfee has announced that at the end of his term, he is looking for someone to take his place. Porter offered thanks to Mr. Calfee for his service on the Committee for the last two years. Ted Kruse and Lee Schiemann's terms are for another year. Michael Hogan and Peter Calfee's terms are over the end of this year. Mayor thinks Michael is open to re-appointment. There are individuals who have expressed interest in serving on the Parks Committee.

Mayor reported that last year the bidding process for the Road Program started earlier in the hopes of getting better bids. Under that premise, February is when bids would be requested. Council will need to make a decision in January regarding what roads will be prioritized.

Street Commissioner reported that if Issue II and Federal funding is received for Bell Road, a Road Program funded by South Russell could still take place in 2011. Dishong stated that Issue II monies and Federal dollars for growth are possible. Issue II money for Bell Road could be applied for in 2010 and would be distributed in the summer of 2011.

Dishong initiated a discussion regarding materials that could be used to make the trails at the Park more weather friendly. The easement has very strict requirements about what can be put down. Dishong pointed out that with Northeastern Ohio's climate, something on the trails might allow people to use the park more throughout the whole year.

Binder stated the proposed agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) sounds acceptable.

Dishong reported that the newsletter is done and should be out to residents this week.

Flaiz reported that the Planning Commission did not meet this month. The next meeting is January 14th at 7:30 p.m. Flaiz also reported that the Safety Committee is having their final meeting of the year this Thursday at 7:30 a.m. in Village Hall.

Koons stated that job descriptions have been distributed. The plan is to review a few at each Council meeting starting in January.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: Flaiz gave third reading on a resolution urging the state to place a moratorium on oil and gas well drilling in heavily populated residential areas until amendments to the Ohio Revised Code, with respect to drilling,

have been made. Flaiz moved to adopt; seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2009-39.

Koons introduced an ordinance for the 2010 budget with total appropriations of \$3,963,276. The budget was finalized in the budget work sessions; the Road Program was decreased to \$200,000, the purchase of a one-ton truck will be postponed (a decision to purchase the truck might be made in 2010 if the financial picture is better); \$4,000 has been added for truck repairs. Koons moved to waive readings; seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Koons moved to adopt, declaring an emergency; seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2009-40.

Flaiz introduced an ordinance amending our Codified Ordinances to replace the Solicitor on the Tax Board of Review with the Fiscal Auditor. Flaiz moved to waive readings; seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Flaiz moved to adopt, declaring an emergency; seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2009-41.

Dishong introduced a resolution to congratulate the Chagrin Falls High School football team on their State Championship game and the tremendous season. Dishong moved to waive readings; seconded by Flaiz. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Dishong moved to adopt; seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2009-42.

BILLS LIST: Wolfe made a motion to approve the bills to be paid on December 15th in the amount of \$35,828.13; seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes: Porter, Wolfe, Binder, Dishong, Flaiz; Koons abstained. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS: Wolfe experienced an incident on the Bainbridge side of South Russell Park with regard to an unruly animal. Council needs to consider how it will enforce the ordinances within the Bainbridge jurisdiction.

Wolfe made a motion authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into agreement with USGS; seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer