

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dishong, Flaiz, Koons, Porter, and Wolfe
MEMBERS ABSENT: Binder
OFFICIALS PRESENT: Building Commissioner Hocevar, Police Chief Wetzel,
Street Commissioner Johnson, Fiscal Auditor Lechman,
Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Solicitor Ondrey,
Engineer Foley
VISITORS: Mike Fabian, new part-time Officer
Steve Latkovic, Multipurpose Trails

Mayor Brett called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Fiscal Officer read the roll; Binder was absent. Wolfe moved to waive reading and approve the minutes of the January 11, 2010 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Chief introduced Mike Fabian. Mike has 17 years experience in police work. He has worked with Geauga Parks as well as in Burton and Middlefield. Mike is also a 2008 graduate of the FBI National Academy. He currently serves as the Lieutenant, second in command, for Middlefield Police Department. Chief Wetzel recommended to Mayor and Council that Mike Fabian be sworn in this evening as South Russell's newest part-time Police Officer. Mayor stated that he had a good interview, his mindset fits in well with what South Russell is trying to do in the Police Department, and he thinks Mike would be a great addition to the department. Flaiz moved to affirm the appointment of Mike Fabian as a part-time patrolman, seconded by Wolfe. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Mayor swore in Mike Fabian.

Steve Latkovic, Multipurpose Trails, reported that the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) grant was approved. The study will cost \$86,000 of which \$68,000 is covered by NOACA. The sponsoring communities/organizations will be contributing the difference. The study should be completed in August or September. The co-sponsors will have an initial planning meeting late February. There will be three public meetings with all entities involved. Dishong confirmed with Mr. Latkovic that the work product will be owned by the group for bidding purposes and possible other grants. Steve stated that communities involved have no obligation to follow through with any ideas proposed in the study. Steve stated that South Russell's matching portion of \$4,000 will be due sometime between February and August. Mayor envisions the end product will state where the best routes are, how the routes will be used and how South Russell's piece will link up with paths in other communities. Steve agreed and added that the study will be quite in-depth and will include cost estimates.

Steve reported that The Multipurpose Trail Foundation had a Board Meeting last night. The plan is to have a presence at Blossom Time and possibly sponsor a run. Another option for a fundraiser is to hold another Trail Backer Bash in the fall.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor asked for nominations for a President Pro Tem. Dishong nominated Bill Koons, seconded by Flaiz. There were no further nominations. Koons accepted the nomination. Dishong moved to close nominations, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Dishong made a motion to name Bill Koons as President Pro Tem, seconded by Flaiz. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Mayor reported that the Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market will be having an organizational meeting on February 6th at the Patterson Center next to the fairgrounds. Binder has suggested a minor change to one of the items in the operating agreement. No other changes were suggested. This topic will be revisited at the next Council meeting after the Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market Board has had an opportunity to review the change.

Mayor suggested possible dates of February 2nd or February 9th for the Stormwater Management Review and Planning Session. Council, Department Heads and Engineer Foley are asked to attend.

Mayor spoke to Council regarding the lot lines of the ten-acre parcel on the Bainbridge side of South Russell Village Park. By moving the lot lines, the re-design will be much more conducive to developing the acreage into formalized athletic fields. The decision will cut down on costs and mean less disruption to the land. Ohio Public Works Commission and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy are supportive of these boundary changes. Mayor asked Council to give their feedback before a decision is formally made.

Mayor stated that the Cemetery Committee will be interviewing a candidate for a consultant position on February 1st at 1:00 p.m.

The Mayor reported that, at the last Planning Commission meeting, the review process began of the permitted uses for the B-2 zoned areas. The current zoning language was written in the '70s and doesn't give the Planning Commission very good direction. Regulation in regards to wind turbines was also discussed. The conversation will continue at the next meeting on February 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor informed Council that Kent State has provided a list of supervisory/leadership training courses to South Russell and the Chagrin Valley Intergovernmental Council. Mayor would like to hear Council's ideas regarding training topics.

Council debated the Maple Hill septic vs. sewer issue in which members discussed the pros and cons of moving forward with a decision or waiting for a definitive answer from the State. After the discussion, Mayor asked Wolfe, Chair of the Public Utilities Committee, to look at the options and make a recommendation. Wolfe said, "I think people look to us as their Council members to be leaders and to make decisions, and some of the decisions are hard; this is one of them. We can't sit around and wait for the State. We have to make a decision. It might not be a fun one, but we've got to do it."

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer sent out a flyer regarding Elected Officials' training offered by Kent State at the Geauga campus. The training starts February 17th and anyone interested should let her know. Mayor stated this training is not in the budget, but he encourages Council members to consider it. The Mayor's discretionary fund will be used to cover training costs for anyone wanting to attend.

Fiscal Officer reported she received the Chagrin River Watershed Partnership Annual report.

Fiscal Officer sent out information regarding the Efficient GovNow grant. The application deadline is February 26th.

As Tax Administrator, Fiscal Officer reported the tax deposit was received. The gross distribution for January was \$125,244.71, and after refunds and overhead, the net distribution was \$118,531.60. This is \$56,371.43 over last year.

Fiscal Officer reported that she received her Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation. Congratulations, Danielle!

FISCAL AUDITOR'S REPORT: Fiscal Auditor reviewed the January report. The Village started 2009 with a balance of \$1.45 million and ended the year at \$1.53 million.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Foley reported that Joyce Bond is planning to attend the Cemetery meeting.

Engineer Foley stated that the 2010 Road Program is moving forward and will be put out to bid the middle of February. Council needs to make a motion that this year's primary project is to pave Manorbrook Drive from State Rt. 306 to the CEI right-of-way. Mayor confirmed that the bids would be received by March. At that time, it would be possible to do the bidding process again to determine if completing the project earlier would result in cost savings. Dishong made a motion to authorize the Engineer to go out for bids for the 2010 Road Program in which the primary project would be to pave Manorbrook Drive from Rt. 306 to the CEI right-of-way, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Building Commissioner informed Council that the Marshall house went back to ABR last week. A permit will be issued when the style and color choices for the exterior of the house have been finalized and received.

Building Commissioner reported that the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) meeting he attended last week was very informative. Comp Management discussed changes that would be made in 2011 including the elimination of the wage continuation option. The discount for a drug-free workplace will also be eliminated.

The Solicitor reported that a class action lawsuit is being organized involving Workers' Compensation rates charged to groups vs. non-groups.

Building Commissioner stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals granted a 4-1/2 feet height variance on an accessory structure already erected on Fernwood.

Building Commissioner said Panini's is planning to open March 17th. They will go before the Architectural Board of Review for their signage at the next meeting.

Wolfe stated that the Geauga County Habitat for Humanity is opening a resale store. The offices have moved. They are now located on Rt. 87 just east of St. Helen's. Habitat for Humanity sells construction supplies that people have donated, the donor gets a tax write-off, and the profits go toward building homes for the organization.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief reported that in December a gentleman offered to help the Police Department with an initiative to upgrade the sights on the patrol rifles that are in patrol cars. He wrote a check to the vendor of the product and the initiative has been completed.

Chief stated that Dispatch costs for 2010 will be significantly lower than they were in 2009. South Russell Village had the greatest percentage reduction of any of the departments in Chagrin Dispatch. It is expected to be between a 9-10% reduction.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Street Commissioner reported that with the break in winter weather, South Russell, ODOT and the school have restocked the Salt Dome. The Service Department has also been able to complete some minor maintenance on the vehicles.

Mayor and Council agreed with the Street Commissioner that Trash Day will be held on May 15th with senior pick-ups for the Department on Aging to be held on May 12th and 13th.

Street Commissioner reminded Council that last year ODOT moved up the opening of salt bid dates for the following winter season by three months. Street Commissioner considered tagging along on the ODOT salt agreement; however, after reviewing the

information, he found that South Russell is currently getting a better price going out for bids independently than what ODOT is providing surrounding communities for their contracts.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Dishong asked Council to start thinking of articles for the spring newsletter. Binder suggested each newsletter feature a South Russell business.

Flaiz reported that the Building Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet February 4th at 7:30 a.m. at the restaurant formerly known as Dink's.

Flaiz stated that the purchase of a new police cruiser was discussed at the Safety Committee meeting last week. This purchase is included in the 2010 budget. The 2006 cruiser being replaced has over 100,000 miles. If the bidding process is approved this evening, a cruiser would probably be delivered by April or May. Years ago, a 2001 cruiser was given to the Streets Department instead of using it as a trade. It has been used as a multipurpose vehicle for their department. This year the Streets Department is interested in replacing their '01 cruiser with the 2006. Flaiz made a motion authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to go out to bid for a new Crown Victoria police cruiser and include in the bid the Street Department's 2001 Crown Victoria as a trade in, seconded by Wolfe. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons opened a discussion to review the Building Department's job descriptions. Changes were suggested. Copies will be forwarded to the Solicitor for his review. Fiscal Officer stated that during the Human Resources audit the Americans' Disability Act (ADA) requirements were addressed. South Russell was advised to include these additions to the job descriptions to demonstrate the essential requirements of the job. The proposed changes will be incorporated, the job descriptions will be distributed, and the changes will be reviewed at the next Council meeting. Also, at the next meeting, job descriptions for the Superintendent of Public Works & Cemetery and the Operator/Laborer will be reviewed.

Porter reported that the Parks Committee will be meeting at Village Hall on Wednesday, January 27th, at 7:00 p.m. Topics will include dogs, the 10-acre parcel, ball fields and the Fall Festival.

Wolfe reminded Council that the Trash Public Hearing is on February 8th at 6:30 p.m.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: Wolfe made a motion to waive further readings on the tax abatement issue, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Wolfe made a motion to adopt the tax abatement issue, declaring an emergency, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes; Dishong, Koons, Porter and Wolfe. Nays; Flaiz. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2010-3.

Porter made a motion to pass a resolution thanking Peter Calfee for his service on the Parks Committee. Porter made a motion to waive further readings, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Porter moved to adopt, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Ordinance No. 2010-4.

BILLS LIST: Koons made a motion to ratify the bills paid on January 15th in the amount of \$39,412.69, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons made a motion to approve the bills to be paid on January 30th in the amount of \$23,914.72, seconded by Flaiz. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS: There was no new business.

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

Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

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