

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY JUNE 25, 2007 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Binder, Dishong, Flaiz, Koons, Porter and Wolfe
OFFICIALS PRESENT: Building Commissioner Hocevar, Police Chief Wetzel,
Street Commissioner Johnson, Solicitor Ondrey, Fiscal
Auditor Lechman, Fiscal Officer Romanowski
OFFICIALS ABSENT: Engineer Foley
GUESTS: Dick Baker, Waverly Lane; Amanda Garrett, Sun News;
Sue Reid, CVT; Robert Rank, Patrolman; Kalley Nelson
and Megan Porter, Girl Scouts.

Mayor Brett called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Fiscal Officer Romanowski read the roll. Councilman Koons moved to waive reading and approve the minutes of the June 4, 2007 Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Koons moved to waive reading and approve the minutes of the June 4, 2007 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

GUESTS: Police Chief Wetzel introduced Robert Rank who was in the Army for four years, worked for Bainbridge Police Department for twelve years and currently is in the cabinet business. Chief recommended hiring Robert Rank as a part-time officer for the Police Department. Mayor said he met with Officer Rank who is a very pleasant individual and Mayor believes he fits in very well with the character of the Village. Mayor appointed Robert Rank as a part-time patrolman for the Village. Dishong moved to approve the appointment of Robert Rank as a part-time patrolman, seconded by Councilman Flaiz. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Mayor swore in Officer Rank.

Mayor reminded Council that at the January 16, 2007 Council meeting there was a report given regarding Detective Sergeant Ferrell and his work in solving a large coin theft investigation. Councilman Dishong presented Det. Sgt. Ferrell with an Official Proclamation recognizing his outstanding detective work in the Cameo CC coin theft case.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor reminded Council that there is a septic/sewer meeting at Gurney School on Tuesday, June 26th at 7:00 p.m. This is the first of three informational meetings and there was a letter sent to all residents who currently have septic systems notifying them of this meeting. The second meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 14th.

Mayor reported that there was a Tax Board of Review hearing just prior to this Council meeting. The Tax Board of Review was formed by ordinance and consists of the Chairman of Finance, the Mayor and the Solicitor. Mayor explained that the purpose of

the Tax Board of Review is to meet with a taxpayer when they have an issue that needs to be addressed.

Mayor gave an update regarding Chelsea Court. Mayor informed Council that he and the Engineer met with a couple of the residents on Chelsea Court to review some of their concerns of the project that would be laid out. Porter asked Mayor if there was any possibility of a re-design based on the concerns of the residents. Mayor reported definitely not on the main part of the pipe and he believes probably not on the other culvert. Mayor believes we are back to the original plan that was presented.

Mayor said that he has recently received some recommendations to form a Park Commission to do some things with the Muggleton property. Mayor would like to have a Council work session just prior to the next Council meeting, Monday, July 9th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss some of the different aspects of what it would take to create a Parks Commission. This meeting would be to identify what that committee would consist of, but not to answer all the different issues.

Mayor reported that the Planning Commission did not meet in the month of June. The commission is working on the idea of a conservation district as it pertains to the northeast quadrant and the next step would tie in the Village Hydrogeologist, but he was not available for the month of June. The next Planning Commission meeting is July 19th.

Mayor informed Council that the Farmer's Market is going quite well. Six sessions are in so far and Mayor feels they are off to the best year ever. Mayor has received a lot of positive feedback from both residents and vendors. The Farmer's Market has a meeting Monday, July 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski reported that she spoke to Mike Kelly from Walter Drane Company regarding the codification. Mr. Kelly told Fiscal Officer that his business usually gets slow in September/October and if Council could assure him that they will go online in 2008, he will put the codification together in September/October and the Village should be online by the end of the year, but he will defer payment until January 2008. Councilman Binder made a motion to move forward to agree with Walter Drane Co. to proceed with the work to put South Russell Village codification online and defer payment until 2008, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

FISCAL AUDITOR'S REPORT: Fiscal Auditor Lechman reported that he and the Fiscal Officer balanced to the penny with the cash balances and they both reconciled with the bank.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Due to Engineer Foley's absence there was no report.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Building Commissioner Hocesvar told Council that the painting of Village Hall has started.

Building Commissioner informed Council that the gas well on Snyder Road and Bell Road is no longer a dead issue. Mayor asked how that issue would come back. Building Commissioner said that the driller notified the Ohio Department of Natural Resources that they were not going to pursue the gas drilling. The homeowner had no thoughts of letting that issue drop. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the homeowner are working out this issue. Building Commissioner reported that the Village still has the permit money and there are a few months remaining before that expires. The homeowner is planning to continue drilling. There was brief discussion regarding calling the hydrogeologist, Dr. Yoram Eckstein, and getting his advice/opinion. Building Commissioner will continue to look into this matter and will keep Council informed.

Building Commissioner said the grass cutting issues within the Village have all been taken care of.

Building Commissioner reported there is a variance for a fence that will be going to the Zoning Board of Appeals. It is a 5-foot high fence that was encroaching the property line by one foot on one side of the property. Zoning Board may also want to look into putting limitations on the linear length of fencing.

Dishong asked Building Commissioner if he has had any resident reaction to the definition of lot line, lot width clarification ordinance. Building Commissioner replied that he has not had any comments on the issue.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Police Chief Wetzel asked if there were any questions of his monthly report previously submitted to Council. There were no questions.

Police Chief stated that he forwarded a copy of the Chagrin Valley Enforcement Group (V.E.G.) By-Laws, agreement as well as a sample resolution establishing the Valley Enforcement Group as an agency of the Valley Enforcement Council of Governments to the Mayor and the Safety Committee. Dishong said his committee would forward this information to Council. Mayor explained that this would be a change in the group's structure that would allow them to own property. Police Chief informed Council that this change would not only allow V.E.G. to own property, but also to accept tax deductible contributions. Councilman Flaiz introduced an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement establishing the Valley Enforcement Regional Council of Governments for the supervision and control of the Valley Enforcement Group.

Koons told Chief that his reports including EMS summary, fire summary as well as the copies of the thank you notes are very helpful to the Council members. Residents ask questions and this information helps Council to be well informed.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Street Commissioner Johnson referred to his month end report that he sent electronically to Council. Street Commissioner has received positive feedback from several Council members that receiving this report online was preferred over printing it.

Street Commissioner reported that June 20th was Martin Danku's last day of work. He will be using vacation time until his actual retirement date which is July 31, 2007. Mr. Danku had four years with Auburn Township and twenty-eight years with the Village of South Russell. Street Commissioner will be scheduling a retirement luncheon Mr. Danku for the end of July.

Street Commissioner Johnson informed Council that his department has replaced three driveway culvert pipes on Snyder Road. His department also completed the ditch enclosure from the bad erosion at 1360 Bell Road. Street Commissioner reported that his department has received compliments on the work they have done.

Street Commissioner reported that the road program was scheduled to start today, June 25th. Residents to whom this project would affect received a letter with details and dates. Chuck Kadun told the contractor that when they would start this project, they are to work straight through until finished. Due to a conflict with the contractor's schedule, the program has been rescheduled to begin on July 5th. Binder complimented Street Commissioner on his informational letter given to residents as well as the signs posted.

Street Commissioner said that he received thirty-one applications for the Service Department positions. After the initial reviewing/interviewing process, he has it narrowed down to eight candidates. Street Commissioner, Mayor and the Street Committee will meet with the applicants in the next week or so for second interviews. The initial starting date was July 16th but because of the different steps the Village has to take in hiring new employees, the start date will be the end of the month or August 1st. Street Commissioner feels he has some very good candidates to choose from.

Street Commissioner reported that there was blood drive co-sponsored by the Village on June 20th.

Street Commissioner told Council that June 14th he took all the flags that the Village has been collecting to the Boy Scouts to properly destroy of at Chagrin Cemetery.

Street Commissioner has been in contact with Signal Service for the school zone flashers. They will be meeting with Street Commissioner to review the exact location, and exact product available. Street Commissioner will continue to pursue this in order to have it in operation by the fall school year.

As Webmaster, Street Commissioner reported that he has been keeping the website updated with information for residents about multiple issues.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Ondrey had no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Flaiz and Wolfe had no report.

Binder introduced a resolution accepting the proposed budget for 2008. Binder made a motion to waive further readings, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion

carried. Binder made a motion to adopt, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Resolution 2007-31.

Dishong informed Council that the top bidder of \$8,800 on the 1989 International dump called and withdrew his bid due to financial difficulties. Therefore Dishong made a motion to accept Anthony Nero's bid of \$8,100 for the 1989 International dump truck, seconded by Flaiz. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons reported that the two employees that have attempted to stop smoking have continued and are smoke free. There was a brief discussion whether this would be included in the employee handbook and whether this would be a one-time reimbursement or limited to the calendar year. Mayor said he believes the gesture is to support our employees as they go through that process of quitting smoking and it may take 2-3 times before they are successful. Koons made a motion to reimburse the two employees up to \$400 for their expenses to stop smoking; Koons then moved to withdraw his motion.

Councilman Porter reported that his committee has reviewed the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the Village premiums to third party providers for group rate coverage. The providers being reviewed are Ohio Municipal League and Comp Management. The Human Resources committee will pass along the information to the rest of Council and make a decision at the next Council meeting. There was some discussion regarding whether this is a one-year contract and whether or not the Village is in an agreement with a company now for next year. The committee will look into this further and have a recommendation at the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor gave third reading on an ordinance amending section VI, E, Authorization Statement to Designate, of the current approved Solid Waste Management Plan for the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District and declaring an emergency. Dishong moved to adopt, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Ordinance 2007-32.

BILLS LIST: Binder questioned Police Chief on the T-Mobile and Verizon bills and why we still have both. Chief explained that there was a discrepancy in the cancellation date of the T-Mobile, but that this bill would be the last bill for T-Mobile. Koons commented that the \$45 to clean the police cars was a good deal - the car looks great. Koons also commented that the Village should consider looking into purchasing throw rugs for the buildings and our cleaning company would take care of them. Koons said this would be much cheaper than going through Cintas as the Village currently does. Councilwoman Wolfe asked if the two Council members and Mayor each drove separately to Washington D.C. Mayor reported that due to scheduling conflicts, they did drive separately. Koons made a motion to ratify the bills paid June 8, 2007 seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

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

Wolfe informed Council she was approached by a member of the cemetery committee for Chagrin Falls. They are proposing a columbarium that would potentially allow surrounding connected communities the opportunity to buy in but that is only for the columbarium, not for any land. Mayor asked if that meant the Village could buy in or the residents buy in. Wolfe replied that it would be for the residents.

Dishong gave his thought that the Village should come up with a new name for the property on Bell Street that we formerly refer to as the Crappie Property. Mayor informed everyone that this property is referred to as the Crappie Property as that was the name of the previous owner and it does not reflect the actual property. Dishong feels that properly naming this as well as the Muggleton property may be some of the duties of the Parks Committee when formed.

Koons reported that he and Street Commissioner walked the Illuminating Company sub-station looking to see if the Village could create a small parking lot between the sub-station and Bell Road using the millings of the asphalt off Alderwood Trail. The other thought was if the Village could cut a culvert so that the farmer could have access to the Muggleton property from the Illuminating Company property. Koons talked to Mia Moore at the Illuminating Company and she thought the parking lot seemed like a good idea. She questioned the culvert and wanted a drawing to present to the Illuminating Company to see if they would allow the Village to do this. Koons and Street Commissioner thought maybe if they would agree to mow or snow plow that area, they would be more agreeable to it. Koons will keep Council updated. Koons spoke to Bill Timmons, who is the man who will farm the Muggleton property, and he has paperwork the Village needs to sign stating he has the Village's permission to mow that property.

Koons stated that Council will need to go into Executive Session regarding employee compensation.

Koons made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 9:41 p.m.

Koons introduced an ordinance to amend the employee handbook to reimburse up to \$400 to any employee who can document their expenses to stop smoking, effective January 1, 2007. This is a lifetime maximum benefit for any expenses not already covered by the employee's health insurance. Wolfe made a motion to waive further readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Wolfe moved to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Ordinance 2007-33.

Koons introduced an ordinance amending ordinance 2006-45 concerning vacation time to conform with the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code section regarding credit for service time in prior state political employment, effective January 1, 2007. Wolfe moved to waive further readings, seconded by Flaiz. Roll call – Wolfe, Dishong, Koons, Binder,

Flaiz - ayes. Porter - nay. Motion carried. Wolfe moved to adopt. Roll call – Wolfe, Dishong, Koons, Binder, Flaiz - ayes. Porter - nay. Motion carried. Ordinance 2007-34.

Koons introduced an ordinance and declaring an emergency to increase the Mayor's compensation by \$2,500 per term for the next three terms, effective for the term commencing January 1, 2008.

Dishong made a motion to formally recognize for the Street Commissioner position that hours that are accrued in addition to the standard work week are credited as flex time to be used within one year of the time they occur, seconded by Koons. Roll call – Wolfe, Dishong, Koons, Binder, Flaiz - ayes. Porter – nay. Motion carried.

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

Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer