

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2016 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carroll, Kostura, Nairn, Canton and Porter

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dishong

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Building Inspector Heilman, Police Chief Rizzo, Street Commissioner Johnson, Solicitor Ondrey, Engineer Haibach.

VISITORS: Cub Scouts – John Stevens, Westhill Dr., Charlie Robinson, Southwyck Dr., Mark Vogley, Hearthstone Ln., Camden Vogley, Hearthstone Ln., Max Bittner, Lakes Edge Tr.; Katherine Malmquist, Louise Dr.

Mayor Koons called the Regular Council meeting to order and with the Cub Scouts in attendance, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Fiscal Officer Romanowski read the roll.

Canton made a motion to approve the September 26, 2016 Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Nairn. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

Since he is the newest elected member of Council, Mayor asked Canton to explain the election process to the Cub Scouts. Canton explained the process he took with the Board of Elections to get put on the ballot and stated his number one goal is offering services to the community.

VISITORS: Kathy Malmquist addressed Council on the Gadsden flag and said she has not received anything about any potential changes to the proposed ordinance. She asked Council not to legislate the Gadsden flag into South Russell. She feels the Village should legislate having the U.S. flag and the State of Ohio flag.

MAYOR'S REPORT: He attended the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) meeting to learn about social media and found it to be very informative.

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, October 12, at 6 p.m., at Village Hall regarding the Dominion Utility line installation.

Chagrin Falls Fire Department will be at the October 24th Council Meeting to discuss the fire and ambulance contract.

Mayor, Engineer, Building Inspector and Dave Hocesvar will walk The Lantern property with Mr. Makesh to discuss possible water drainage solutions.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer reported that state representatives are still discussing taking over municipal income tax collections. At the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers (OAPT) training she recently attended, she said they are stressing that elected officials contact their State Representatives to let them know how much of an impact state collection of income taxes will have on municipalities. Fiscal Officer said the Village will lose control of the collections and the state is not good at record keeping.

Budget worksheets should be out to Council later in the week in preparation for the budget work session scheduled for October 17th at 5:30 p.m. A second budget work session was scheduled for October 24th at 5:30 p.m.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer stated he received a letter saying there is some erosion in the side ditches along The Lantern project. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggested adding some controls to slow the erosion, however no citations have been issued.

Engineer stated that he has not received an invoice on the project from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the Bell Road project. To date, the final cost of the project is \$2,855,967.30.

Mayor said he wants to try to get some money for Todd Lyle for his \$7,000 expense for the water line break. He also stated the landscaping job done along Bell Road is inferior, but the Village will fix it properly in the spring.

The bridge in Lake Louise is in poor condition; it is not on the verge of failing, but it is not good. Engineer reported that he reached out to the Geauga County Engineer's Office and they do not have a structural inspection report on that bridge. He is working with them to get a formal evaluation. Engineer parked his truck and sat and watched for deflection of the bridge from heavy vehicles, such as a school bus, and did not see any.

Engineer reported that Dominion has been out for the Bell Road east gas main project and did some painting and staging. Dominion has sent out a notice to residents, as well as South Russell Village, making them aware of the project. The vast majority of the work will be on the South side of the road. The pavement repair at the aprons will be done next year. The Village required a \$50,000 bond should the restoration not go as well as expected. The deposit is not meant to cover underground utilities, though it covers pavement and restoration.

Regarding stormwater issues, Engineer reported that the storm water works its way up to the red ranch on Chillicothe Road. He is looking to see what can be done in that area to slow down the flow of the rain water. He feels the ditch could be cleaned and maintained a little better, especially far east, to lessen the water build up. A good solution would be a retention basin

between Belmeadow and Route 306. He said putting a bigger culvert under Route 306 would only move the problem downstream more; some would experience relief, but those downstream would have more issues. The Village needs an appropriately sized retention basin. Kostura asked if there was enough space to build a retention pond between Route 306 and Belmeadow. The Village would need to work with the property owners to acquire the land to do so.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Building Inspector informed Mayor and Council that Dave Hocevar came in on a Saturday and spent three hours trying to get an issue resolved between two residents.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Police Chief said he has contacted the Village's insurance company about the lightning strike damage to the control box preemption system which feeds into the call box at the police station. The current estimated cost of damages is approximately \$3,600 plus some pending charges for phone repair. The call box is attached to the telephone extension at Village Hall, and it is not working either. He is trying to get it fixed so that it won't require a whole new phone system. Mayor said to put the decision off for another week. Chief said at least 50 people per month come to the Police Department for service, and they can't get through on the call box since it is not working. He has called Windstream multiple times stating that he is the Police Chief of South Russell, and never gets a return phone call.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: The Street Commissioner reported his department is working on vehicle maintenance and preparing for the coming winter season. They are also replacing the radiator on the 1992 truck.

Champion Lane culvert repair was done in-house and saved the village a lot of money. To secure the headwall, they added an extension pipe to the current culvert to extend it by 20 feet, with a 48-inch diameter.

South Russell Village Service Department employees assisted Russell Township with their trash day on two different dates. The attendance for their trash day was not very great.

South Russell is hosting a paper shredding event on Saturday October 15th, from 9am – 12 noon.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mayor asked Solicitor about an easement with the Cotesworth's for access to the Rarick Cemetery. Solicitor replied an easement would have to have the proper legal description requirements so it can be filed with the County. A licensed surveyor is needed to get the proper legal description.

A recent court of appeals from the Toledo area says the time for the zoning appeals is the night they make the decision, which is contrary to what Geauga County has been doing. It's something to watch on the horizon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Canton, Kostura and Porter had no report.

Carroll says his biggest concern is safety with the call box out of order. He also stated that the Prosecutor costs are higher than the budgeted amount of \$10,000, so he is requesting an additional \$10,000 at the next Council meeting.

Police Chief feels that it would be worth it to spend \$370 for an upgrade to the traffic light so that the police department can manually control the traffic light during the Bell Road Dominion project; it is too dangerous to have officers out on the street physically directing traffic.

Two new part-time police officers will be sworn in at the November 7th Council meeting.

Nairn stated that the parking fine ordinance has been in effect for 44 years at \$5 per ticket. The Safety Committee would like to raise it to \$25. The Solicitor will look at the current ordinance and draft an ordinance to amend it.

Mayor asked Carroll for a calendar for the Emergency Operations Planning Committee (EOP) meetings for the next 6 months.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Porter gave a second reading on an ordinance designating the display of flags on certain Village properties and utility poles and establishing procedures for changing such designations.

Carroll asked if the village is still keeping the Gadsden flag in Section 1. It would be Porter's preference to do so. Kostura would like to fly the U.S. flag and the State of Ohio flag. He doesn't have a problem flying the Gadsden flag if it is approved by motion. Porter said it can be done by motion. Carroll asked if the ordinance says it is to be done by motion, can the Mayor, as Administrator, overrule that motion. Solicitor replied not as long as he is the Village's Solicitor.

Nairn stated she agrees with Kostura.

Canton would like a bank of flags and one pole where flags would rotate. He also likes the idea of creating a South Russell flag.

Porter says this is a 3-reading process which would then go into effect 30 days after adopted. It will be well past Election Day and Veterans Day before it would be put in place. Section 2 allows the Village to fly the Canadian flag on July 1. Porter stated that he will be careful with the language, specifying whether flags are hung on a flag pole or utility pole.

BILLS LISTS: Kostura made a motion to ratify the bills list of 9/29/16 in the amount of \$12,064.57, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

Kostura made a motion to ratify the bills for 10/3/16 for \$1,000, seconded by Nairn. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

Kostura made a motion to approve the bills list for 10/13/16 in the amount of \$345,226.86, which, includes the road program with the change order in it, seconded by Porter. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER: Porter, Canton, Carroll, Kostura and Nairn had no business.

At 8:54 p.m., Nairn made a motion to go into executive session to discuss employee compensation, seconded by Carroll. Roll call, ayes – all. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before the Council, Nairn moved to adjourn, seconded by Kostura. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by: Beth Denkins