

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kostura, Porter, Binder, Carroll and Koons

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dishong

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

VISITORS: Cindy Nairn, Whitetail Drive; Jerry Canton, Manor Brook Drive; Barbara Stiebeling, East Bel Meadow; Jim Flaiz, Sheerbrook Drive;

VISITORS: Koons thanked Mayor Brett and Councilmember Binder for their many years of service and presented a ceremonial key to them. Koons said Brett and Binder both showed great leadership and teamwork skills.

The Street Commissioner presented an old Mayoral campaign sign to the Mayor.

Jerry Canton wished Brett and Binder the best of luck and thanked them for their service to the Village.

Retired Police Chief Jim Wetzel said it was a pleasure working with Brett and Binder before he retired from the Village and thanked them for their service.

Jim Flaiz thanked Brett and Binder as well for their service and said he also enjoyed working with both of them when he served on Council.

Koons moved to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2015 Council meeting, seconded by Kostura. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

FISCAL OFFICER’S REPORT: The Fiscal Officer reviewed her report.

The Fiscal Officer asked Council how they would like to proceed with interviews for the Council seat vacancy. Council decided they would like to pick the top five (5) candidates to interview on January 4th and 7th at 6 p.m. Ondrey reminded Council that Canton can attend the interviews but can’t make any decisions until he is officially sworn in.

Kostura stated that some individuals just sent a letter of interest but he would like to know more about them and asked that all applicants send in their resume as well. Koons asked the Fiscal Officer to send a letter to the applicants requesting their resumes and answers to 4-5 questions chosen by Council.

FISCAL AUDITOR'S REPORT: The Fiscal Auditor presented his report to Council and said that he and the Fiscal Officer balance to the penny on all funds.

Kostura moved to approve the November 2015 Financial Statements as submitted, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: The Engineer said the Village will most likely close the 2014 & 2015 Road Programs before the end of the year. The driveway apron that needed replaced for the 2014 Road program has been completed.

Binder asked if the striping issue on Bell Road will still be completed. The Engineer stated that he has been in contact with the striping company and they plan to have this complete before the end of the year.

Koons asked the Engineer with his experience of the last couple Road Programs if he would have done anything different. The Engineer stated that he thinks chip and sealing a road before paving has helped with the Snyder Road project to repair the base before the asphalt was installed.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: The Building Inspector stated ZBA will meet Tuesday, December 15th to discuss remodeling the Bell Station. The current owner is trying to sell the property, pending the approval of the proposed changes. The Mayor added that they plan to remove the current building and have presented a totally new setup with the building, parking and gas pumps. The Planning Commission was supportive of the new plans. The potential buyer currently owns gas stations in three other locations.

The Building Inspector said ZBA will meet again on January 12th to review plans for a proposed house to be built on Hazelwood Drive that doesn't meet side yard clearance and the minimum size. The Mayor added that part of this property is in South Russell Village and the other part of the property is in Russell Township, but the entire proposed house structure is in the Village.

The Building Inspector informed Council she passed her certification test for Commercial Plumbing.

The Building Inspector said the Lantern of South Russell project should be complete in the next couple months. The Mayor stated that the Lantern of South Russell offered to allow the Village to install a third retention pond on their property, but he declined.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: The Police Chief referred to his monthly report.

The Chief stated that burglaries in surrounding areas are on the rise and reminded Council to lock their cars and homes. Binder said he thinks the concept of the blue cruiser lights at night

makes a big difference with the visibility of cruisers in the community. Chief said the village is at a record low number of incidences in the village.

The Police Department held the Shop with a Cop event over the weekend. They hosted the event for nine (9) children from four (4) families. Chief gave a special thank you to Cindy Nairn for helping with the gift wrapping. The communities included in the event were Chagrin Falls, Bainbridge and Aurora.

Nairn said she is very moved by what the Police Department does for the children and residents of the community. She added that it was a pleasure to help with the event.

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

The holiday decorations have been installed and the Street Department employees don't have much overtime this winter season so far due to the nicer weather.

The Street Commissioner is working with First Energy for the removal of several second utility poles in the Village and the installation of new street lights. First Energy is removing some tree limbs as well. Binder asked if the village has some say in the removal of limbs by First Energy. He would like to see if the village can meet with them ahead of time due to extensive removals of limbs in the past that make the trees unattractive. Mayor stated the village has tried to contact them in the past but he isn't sure that we have much say in how they determine their removals due to certain requirements with vegetation around their lines.

Porter added the painting of the portico looks nice and thanked the Street Department employees for finishing it up.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Kostura, Binder, Carroll and Koons had nothing to report.

Porter stated the Street Committee met and reviewed possible road repairs for the 2016 Road Program.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Kostura gave final reading to an ordinance adopting the 2016 Budget Appropriations. Kostura moved to adopt, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **Ordinance 2015-39**

Kostura gave second reading to an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with Thrasher, Dinsmore and Dolan to act as the Village's Solicitor for the time period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017. Kostura moved to waive further readings, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Kostura moved to adopt, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **Ordinance 2015-40**

Carroll gave second reading on an ordinance to establish new employee pay ranges and declaring an emergency. Carroll moved to waive further readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Carroll moved to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **Ordinance 2015-41**

Kostura introduced a resolution requesting the Advance of Taxes from the County for 2016 and declaring an emergency. Kostura moved to waive further readings, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Kostura moved to adopt, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **Resolution 2015-42**

Carroll gave second reading on an ordinance to establish a parking ban in certain areas of the village.

Kostura introduced an ordinance amending the Tax Ordinance to amend section 881.99(D).

Koons introduced ordinance to amend hunting requirements within the village limits. Koons added that he has received comments from some people that would like to allow bow hunting in the village. The Mayor stated that as a hunter, he thinks arrows can travel pretty far and would still like to see hunting prohibited in the village. Kostura said Bentleyville has a minimum requirement of five acres for hunting. Carroll agreed with the minimum requirements if Council would like to allow it.

Binder asked how this situation would be handled if a Homeowners Association owns the allowable acreage. Chief stated if the Village would allow hunting, the hunter would then have to obtain approval from the Homeowners Association. Binder added that he is not opposed to hunting but still believes it should be prohibited within the village limits.

BILLS LIST:

Kostura moved to ratify the November 30, 2015 bills list #2 in the amount of \$5,234.30, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Kostura moved to approve the December 15, 2015 bills list in the amount of \$28,058.18, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Kostura moved to approve the pay orders to Specialized Construction for the 2014 Program at \$27,108.12 and the 2015 Program at \$16,477.55 for a total of \$43,585.67, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER: Kostura, Porter, Carroll and Koons had no new business.

Binder said it has been an honor and privilege to serve the Village of South Russell. He added that the committees and employees are a special group of people and thanked them for all they do.

Carroll thanked the Mayor and Binder for their service.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor stated that Cuyahoga County has agreed to partnership with the Chagrin Falls Dispatch, which should be a cost savings to the village.

Mayor spoke with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) about concerns that some of the well monitoring equipment has not been operating as expected. They think it may be the battery life and have replaced the problematic well at Kensington Green with a solar power well. They may have to come back to Council if they need to replace additional wells.

The Mayor thanked Binder for his years of service and his role on Council with a point of view that was beneficial to the village.

The Mayor said it has been an honor to serve the village and the village has great employees and committees. He also believes the village had some great accomplishments within the past few years through land acquisitions, the cemetery, road improvements, infrastructure improvements and some of the different programs within the departments. He feels that all of the departments have done an outstanding job to continually display efficiency for the benefit of the residents.

The Mayor added that he is proud that the village has kept our local government small and operable. He is also proud of the way that Council has been able to operate and put differences aside. Mayor suggested that elected officials, committees and employees continue to agree to disagree, stay humble, and remain resident-focused.

Binder added that one thing that sets our village apart from others is the level of pride our village employees and department heads have in their jobs and duties. He said this level of service is typically seen in the best operations of the private sector. Binder asked that employees continue to display the same level of standards that makes us stand out to others.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council, Koons moved to adjourn, seconded by Porter. Roll call, ayes - all. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Jennell Dahlhausen