

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Binder, Carroll, Dishong, Koons, Porter.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kostura

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

VISITORS: Ian Dunegan, Boy Scout; Alex Goebel, Boy Scout; Linda Alexander; Skylar Schambs, Novelty; Jenny Dunegan, Potomac Drive; Faith Pescatore, Novelty; Barbara Stiebeling, E. Bell Meadow; Rescue Village Director, Hope Brustein, Novelty; Dave Hocevar, Inspection Solutions; Cindy Nairn, Cemetery Committee

Mayor Brett called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Fiscal Officer read the roll, Kostura absent. Koons moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of the July 14, 2014 Council meeting, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons moved to approve the public hearing minutes of the July 14, 2014 Council meeting, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Mayor presented Eagle Scout Members, Ian Dunegan and Alex Goebel proclamations in appreciation for their outstanding work for Eagle Scout projects at the South Russell Village Park.

Faith Pescatore is a supporter of Rescue Village in Russell Township and asked Council to consider a proposal to ban circus animals within the Village limits. Pescatore stated the Kelly Miller Circus performed 54 shows in 4 states in one month and she feels the animals are abused and mistreated while they are on the road. She will be circulating a petition with the goal of getting over 500 signatures in opposition to the circus on South Russell Village property. She thinks this is a huge opportunity to become leaders in Geauga County to say “NO” to animal cruelty. She also stated that she didn’t see anyone she knew at the circus and thinks it was non-residents of South Russell that attended.

Hope Brustein, Executive Director of Rescue Village, stated that the children that attend her camps know that it is cruel to hurt animals and if the children attending the circus knew how these animals really feel, they would be upset. She also asked Council to consider a proposal to ban circus animals within the Village limits.

Barb Stiebeling addressed Council and informed them she has been a resident of South Russell Village since 2007. She was surprised and disappointed that the circus was permitted to come to the Village and would like to see some enhanced effort to include the public in discussions of controversial topics in the future. She stated she was not able to view a copy of the meeting

agenda online and said the latest minutes on the website are from May of this year. She would like to have both items more available to the public.

Dishong asked if these individuals have gone to other communities where the circus was hosted and asked them to pass this ordinance. Pescatore replied that she has not and added that the county is too broad; she would like to try to make a difference in her community first. She feels other communities would follow South Russell's actions.

Brustein said there were other communities within the area where concern for the animals was expressed. Their efforts in opposition are organized as opposed to the other communities. Pescatore added that they hold this community to a higher standard and feels this is the beginning of their process to implement a ban of circus animals.

Dishong questioned the negative comment regarding how many South Russell residents attended the circus because the circus opponents didn't recognize the attendees. He said he looks at that as a positive effort to get people to visit our community. Linda Alexander stated she has lived in Geauga County her entire life and was a protestor at the circus. She added that the bottom line is that they are trying to promote awareness of animal abuse and implement what they can within the area where they live.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor reported that he has been in contact with Joe Constant from the Chagrin Valley Jaycees about the circus. The extensive rainstorm on Sunday evening had an impact on the attendance and also caused the parking area to be changed to the armory down the street. The park was in pretty good shape and they intentionally towed some of the larger vehicles out so they wouldn't tear up the grass more than necessary. The Jaycees will be restoring the grass to its original condition.

Mayor said the same rainstorm that impacted the circus also caused more issues at the The Lantern project on Route 306. This was the second significant issue where muddy water went from The Lantern property into Chagrin Lakes; the first event being in early July. The Village has contacted the Chagrin River Watershed Partnership, (CRWP), and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to ensure that the project is in compliance with regulations. OEPA said not everything was in place during the first rain and there was a meeting with Jean Makesh (owner of The Lantern property) and residents of Chagrin Lakes. There was frustration on both sides but the Mayor is hoping The Lantern and the residents of Chagrin Lakes can work together. The siltation and sedimentation basins are installed properly but the lakes are still muddy.

Mayor and Koons attended the Chagrin Valley Dispatch of Council of Government (CVDCOG) meeting. This meeting was triggered by Orange Fire Department in an effort of obtaining a Marcs grant for equipment which would help all members of the group. Mayor stated that the City of Euclid is considering becoming a member of this group as well. They have a large call volume which is equal to what the CVDCOG has today. He is concerned about what would happen to the costs for the communities and he would like to see the amount go down significantly. Carroll added that Euclid is researching all of their options at this time.

The Cemetery Committee held a pre-construction meeting with Sitetech, the contractor for the cemetery project. The original start date was today (August 11), but that has been pushed back to later this week or early next week due to weather.

The Mayor reported that the Bell Road West project was on schedule at the beginning of the year but then things seemed to slow down. This Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) project is

now moving relatively swiftly on the widening and base repairs of the road. The Mayor's greatest concern is that the apron at Gurney School is complete before school starts on August 19th; the apron should be done this week.

The new area manager for First Energy, Dave Dillion, will attend the September 8th Council meeting to introduce himself. He has been an area manager for many years.

The Planning Commission meeting was changed to August 18th at 7:30 pm. They will discuss a proposal for a gourmet pizza shop on East Washington Street, and a few key changes to The Lantern of South Russell's plans.

FISCAL OFFICER: The Fiscal Officer reviewed her monthly report distributed to Council and went over the Municipal Income Tax collections.

Fiscal Officer reported that Koons and Dishong attended the Tax Budget Hearing at the County with her this morning. The tax budget was approved. Council has a resolution before them to accept the amounts and rates as determined by the County Budget Commission.

The appreciation event is on Friday at noon at the Park Pavilion.

Fiscal Officer reported that the rental agreement was discussed with the renter and he agreed to sign a contract for another year. He was very pleased with the new air conditioning installed and said he would not have renewed the lease if the Village didn't install it.

The Cemetery Committee has recommended "South Russell Village Cemetery" as the official name of the cemetery. Koons moved to approve the name, "South Russell Village Cemetery", for the cemetery, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons is recommending approval for an addition on the service garage. The quote came in at \$46,298 but he would like approval to spend up to \$49,000 including a \$3,000 contingency. Some of the work will be completed in-house to save money. Mayor added this price will include the addition, exterior work and interior work but excludes painting, electrical components and electrical work. The Solicitor stated there is a risk because projects exceeding \$50,000 should be bid out. The existing wall is a temporary wall and has to be removed to put up the new wall. Koons moved to approve the Mayor to enter into contracts not exceeding \$49,300 for the improvement of a 17-foot addition to the service building, seconded by Porter. Roll call–ayes; Porter, Dishong, Koons. Nay; Binder, Carroll. Motion carried.

FISCAL AUDITOR: The Fiscal Auditor presented his report to Council and reported that he and the Fiscal Officer balance to the penny on all funds. He also reviewed several sources of revenue.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: The 2014 Road Program is in progress and the milling and recycling have been completed on Laurelbrook, Whitetail and Deer Court. The Engineer has asked Specialized Construction for an updated project schedule which he will share with the Mayor and Council.

The contractor for the cemetery project has been submitting shop drawings for the Engineer's review. Some drawings will need to go before the cemetery committee for review. The site work and grading should begin late this week or early next week.

The Bell Road widening, pavement milling, and the intermediate asphalt course on the east side of the road is complete. The contractor is finishing the pavement repairs on the west end and assured the Engineer that the Gurney School drive apron should be complete by the end of the week. There was some concern about noise that rumble strips would cause and ODOT was asked to look into costs of other options, which would be more expensive than planned. Another concern from ODOT was that water runoff may collect which could cause ice in the winter. The Mayor would like to have an informational meeting for Bell Road residents in September. The Engineer and Mayor will plan a date for that meeting.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: The generator contract for the Service and Police Departments is up for renewal. The Building Inspector obtained two quotes and is suggesting Council approve Portman Electric for \$319 per year. Any battery replacements would cost \$95.

Building Inspector reported that the Building Department has completed 35 inspections in June and 40 inspections in July.

The Building Inspector is also checking around the village to ensure that residents are applying for the proper permits if they are completing home improvements.

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

Chief said the Police Department has seen an increase in their activity due to several juvenile burglaries. These were crimes of opportunity due to doors being unlocked. The Chief is trying to encourage the public to close their garage doors and lock their cars and homes. Mayor suggested an article to remind residents about safety should be added to the next newsletter.

There is another burglary case being investigated on Daisy Lane. There were assumptions that solicitors working in the area were responsible but that may not be the case. The Police Chief recommends a registration process for individuals soliciting in the village and he has been talking with Solicitor Ondrey about the issue. Solicitor Ondrey said that solicitation is a touchy topic and there are Green River Laws to uphold cases in the courts. The most the Village can enforce is regulating the hours. Property owners can put a "No Solicitation" sign in their front window. If a solicitor trespasses on private property and the property owner has the sign in their front window then the Police Department can get involved.

Police Chief would like to create a Facebook page like other local police departments. He said social media is very popular and has helped solve cases by getting accurate information out to the public rather than hearsay. Ondrey said requirements for the page and what other people can post on the page is a touchy subject. Police Chief will look at ways to send info out, but not receive any information publicly. Once more information and details are known, the Mayor would like Council to discuss the issue.

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

Street Commissioner is looking into having the same contractor that is striping Bell Road West stripe the other Village roads. He has asked the company for a quote.

The storage bin project is complete and the Service Department is in the process of cleaning the wooded area between the Service Garage and Police Department. The 1998 International truck is currently getting sandblasted.

School zone flashers will be operating in the school zones by the end of the week.

The date for the shredding event will be Saturday, October 11th from 9-12 noon. This is also the last day of the Farmer's Market.

The salt cost from the bidding process through ODOT went from \$24.62 last year to \$55.32 this year. ODOT provided a summer contract as well this year due to so many municipalities running out of salt; the Village only bid on the winter contract. The Village is committed for a minimum of 1,700 tons.

Street Commissioner has provided quotes for a new loader to his committee as well as a new Gator to be used for the cemetery and parks. The Mayor said there are a lot of expenses this year with capital improvements and several other projects but he would like Council to consider the purchase. The loader that the Street Commissioner wants is in stock but the new series with the updates won't be available until December or January.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor followed up on the inquiry at the last meeting as to dictating one day of the week that garbage trucks can pick up garbage in the Village. He informed Council they do have the authority to specify one day of the week for trash collection. The Mayor said he would like to revisit hiring one garbage provider in the village.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Carroll had no report.

Dishong moved to approve the June Financial Statements as submitted, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Binder moved to approve the Portman Electric contract for \$319, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Binder stated that the Safety Committee will meet Thursday, August 14th at 7:30 am at Village Hall.

Dishong referred back to the Budget Hearing and thanked the Fiscal Officer and Fiscal Auditor for keeping the Village finances in order.

Dishong will need all information for the newsletter by August 18th.

Koons stated that 11 people walked the park on July 17th and a lot of park ideas were discussed. The Park Committee will address these ideas with Council at the September meeting. The Geauga Park District has interest in holding an event at the park next year.

Porter is reviewing Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) grants and thinks the Village might be able to obtain a grant for the Police Department siding and roof.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Koons introduced a resolution of appreciation for Ann Dunning.

Koons introduced a resolution of appreciation for Dave Hocevar.

Koons introduced a resolution of appreciation for Walter Sutliff.

Koons gave second reading to transfer \$7,000 to the Special Land and Building fund from the Income Tax fund. Koons moved to waive further readings, seconded by Dishong. Roll call—ayes; Porter, Carroll, Dishong, Koons. Nay; Binder. Motion failed

Dishong introduced an ordinance accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the County Budget Commission.

BILLS LIST: Koons moved to ratify the July 15, 2014 bills list #2 in the amount of \$3,902.50, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons moved to ratify the July 31, 2014 bills list in the amount of \$18,842.29, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons moved to approve the August 15, 2014 bills list in the amount of \$34,825.01, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

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

At 9:07 pm, Dishong moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 9:40 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Jennell Dahlhausen