

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020 – 8:00 A.M.  
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Berger, Canton, Carroll, Galicki (8:01), Nairn, Porter (8:02)

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Street Commissioner Alder, Solicitor Matheney, Engineer Haibach

The Mayor called the Special Council meeting conducted via the teleconference service Zoom to order. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. Berger, Canton, Carroll, and Nairn were present. Galicki and Porter joined the meeting at 8:01 a.m. and 8:02 a.m. respectively. The Mayor stated there were three items of business on the agenda. The first was an ordinance to approve a work authorization for CT Consultants for the Manor Brook grant project. He advised that because Berger, Canton, and Nairn must abstain, the ordinance required three readings. Carroll introduced the ordinance approving work authorization of CT Consultants to develop project plans and specifications for bidding, provide survey, and provide hydrologic and hydraulic studies for the Manor Brook Headwater Stream and Restoration Project and authorizing the Mayor to execute such work authorization on behalf of the Village of South Russell and declaring an emergency.

The Mayor stated that the second item pertained to the Scag mower for the Service Department, which was previously approved for a 2019 model mower, but was no longer available. The price for the 2020 mower was more expensive than previously approved. Carroll made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2020 Scag Cheetah mower from Chagrin Pet and Garden for \$13,131, seconded by Nairn. Carroll clarified that the price of the mower previously approved was based on the 2019 availability. The cost of the current mower was at cost where the Village would be getting the best price for the mower. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The Mayor stated that he and the Street Committee wanted to appoint a new hire to the Street Department. Porter stated that the Street Committee conducted interviews with three candidates and forwarded two recommendations to the Mayor. One of the two candidates dropped out. The Mayor and the Street Commissioner interviewed the remaining candidate, Thad Blair. Porter made a motion that Thad Blair be appointed by the Mayor, seconded by Carroll. The Mayor asked if there were a rate of pay identified for Blair. The Fiscal Officer advised that she forwarded the pay range and process information to Council via email on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Porter stated that since the candidate had significant experience, he thought it would be more beneficial to the Village and the individual to recognize his experience. Carroll stated that it was the candidate who dropped out that had more experience than the current nominee, whose experience was a little more dated. Carroll suggested starting him at a certain rate and increasing it after the probationary period. He wanted to allow for movement within the pay range after the six-month probationary period. Porter asked the Fiscal Officer for the upper and lower ends of the pay range, and the Fiscal Officer stated \$31.42 and \$20.60. Porter recommended bringing the candidate in at \$22.50 per hour. He asked the Street Commissioner if this agreed with Street Department practices. The Street Commissioner stated it was all new to him, but

thought it sounded reasonable. Nairn asked the length of the probation period, and the Street Commissioner replied that it was six months. The Fiscal Officer asked if the hiring was contingent upon passing pre-employment drug testing and Village pre-employment testing, and Carroll agreed. The Fiscal Officer explained that she would set up the testing. The Mayor stated that Blair had drug testing a year earlier and planned to use the same facility. However, the Mayor would tell Blair to contact the Fiscal Officer for instructions on testing. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Carroll asked about the Road Program topic, and the Fiscal Officer stated that the Road Program ran into some issues which she had communicated to Council in her email of May 29<sup>th</sup>. The county Engineers and the county Commissioners must approve the permissive tax money for Daisy Lane. She hoped to have it on the agenda for the June 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. She further advised that the Village was working with the county Engineer trying to push it through. The Village should have obtained approval before going out to bid. She and the Engineer had been working with the county since May 29<sup>th</sup> to get everything in order in an attempt to get this done. Porter asked the Engineer if this would set the Village back on the project. The Engineer stated that since grant money was received for Kensington Circle in the amount of \$94,300, that money was not available for the Village to spend until July 1st. As a result, the permissive tax approval issue would not set the Village back whatsoever. Porter asked if this grant was on the chopping block with the COVID budget cuts, and the Engineer said no, not according to the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) district representatives. The OPWC personnel did expect potential difficulties and delays with the OPWC funding rounds moving forward from this point and he was advised to hold off on compiling and submitting applications. Porter stated that the bid provided by Specialized Construction for alternates A and B of the Road Program was \$756,758. With the Village getting the \$94,300 grant, the total Road Program base and alternates would be about \$662,000, which would be more than budgeted. The Engineer stated that the Village requested \$128,855 from the county for Daisy lane, which would bring the cost down almost \$129,000.

The Solicitor stated that since this was a Special Council meeting with a specific agenda, Council should not be discussing the Road Program. Porter did not realize that the Road Program was not on the Agenda. The Fiscal Officer stated that she spoke to the Mayor on May 29<sup>th</sup> and because the Village was not ready with the Road Program due to the pending approval of the permissive tax funding, the agenda was changed and sent out to Council.

The Mayor asked if he could talk about the Black Lives Matter event. And the Solicitor stated no.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being that there was no further business before Council, Porter made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 a.m., seconded by Nairn. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

  
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William G. Koons, Mayor

  
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Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer