

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.  
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bell, Berger, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Porter

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Police Chief Rizzo, Solicitor Matheney,

The Mayor called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. Porter was absent. Regarding the minutes of the February 13, 2023, Regular Council meeting, Cavanagh pointed out spelling errors that required correction on page 4, “Modroo,” “Carmella Shale,” and on page 5, “Michelin” was misspelled. **Canton made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023, Regular Council meeting as amended, seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

**VISITORS:** The Mayor noted that Frank Kovach was listed on the agenda but not present and asked what issue he had with the village-wide yard sale. The Fiscal Officer explained that Kovach was critical of how the Village planned to organize the yard sale. He thought residents should register and the Village should list the addresses and items being sold as part of the advertisement. The Fiscal Officer explained to Kovach that the Village would be advertising the event and participants were asked to place a balloon on their mailboxes. Kovach was not satisfied with this plan. Cavanagh said that Kovach’s plan would be cumbersome.

**FORFEITURE HEARING:** **Cavanagh made a motion to return \$1,000 to Bruce and Cindy Matejcik, seconded by Bell.** The Solicitor advised that there was no final inspection and asked if the motion would be conditioned for the return of the \$1,000 subject to a final inspection. Cavanagh amended the motion. The Solicitor indicated that the letter sent by the resident welcomed an inspection. She concluded that closing the loop with the final inspection was very important. The Mayor stated that the motion was that the Village was going to give the Matejciks \$1,000 once the final inspection was performed. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Regarding 34 Woodside Dr., the contractor asked for an extension to complete the final inspection. Bell suggested giving the contractor 30 more days. **Bell made a motion to give a 30-day extension, seconded by Canton.** The Solicitor asked if it was a 30-day extension to get the final inspection or to appeal the forfeiture. The Mayor indicated that the motion should state that the final inspection must occur by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Bell concurred. The Mayor summarized that the **motion will be that Ohio State Waterproofing has until March 31<sup>st</sup> for the final inspection to occur. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** The Mayor distributed his report. The Chagrin Valley Fire Department will be at the March 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to explain ambulance billing. The tour of the Manor Brook 319 grant project will occur on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP), CT Consultants, and possibly a representative from Mr. Excavator will attend along with the Homeowners Associations (HOAs). The project began in 2019, and this will bring closure. The Solicitor asked if this will be a Special meeting of Council, and the Mayor concurred and added that the weather date would be on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The public educational activity was a requirement of the grant.

The Mayor sent an email to the HOAs in the Village with details about the village-wide yard sale. He also discussed a presentation by CRWP, the Architectural Review Board (ABR) approval of the proposed restroom for the park, and modifications that have been made to the Muggleton farm property. He added that ABR also approved the Hawaiian Guy business going in behind CrossFit.

The Mayor said the Street Commissioner did a good job with the Culvert Bid Opening. There were six bids. The low bid was \$147,000 and the high bid was \$288,000.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer had an article about the Tom Harvey Memorial Garden in the South Russell Village Park.

In his report, the Mayor listed his agenda items for all of the committees.

On March 6, 2023, there will be a Geauga County Erosion Special Improvement District (ESID) meeting that will involve the Village, Bainbridge, and Russell Township as well as county officials. The Mayor proposed that the meeting take place in Village Hall.

The Mayor said there will be a potluck to meet the new employee on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

The Mayor addressed the Finance Committee and said that Moreland Hills was curious as to whether the Village wanted to kick in \$500 with the other five communities that have students in Chagrin Falls Schools for an environmental project. The Mayor suggested telling Moreland Hills that the Village may be interested but will not know until the end of March after the Finance Committee meets. Cavanagh asked if it involved the students and said it had promise. Berger asked whether there was a written document for this proposal that identified the plan and the goals. The Mayor said no, that it was just the Mayor and the Moreland Hills Environmental Committee saying let's create an incentive for the school kids to come up with a project in certain different things. He added that it is March and school is over in three months. Berger said it was nebulous. The committee would discuss it, but asked the Mayor to relay that if the group cannot provide more detailed information, Council would probably not have a favorable response to it. Galicki asked if the school district approached Moreland Hills with the matter, and the Mayor said no. It was an idea from Moreland Hills. Galicki asked if there were any interest from the school to do it. The Mayor would obtain more information.

Regarding the recent culvert bid opening, Berger asked if it included all four culverts. The Fiscal Officer said yes. Bell asked when it occurred, and the Mayor said the past Friday at noon. Bell asked if the Streets Committee should have been invited and he expressed disappointment he was not made aware of it. Berger suggested having this conversation with the Street Commissioner. The Solicitor clarified that the bid that went out was for the four culverts and the bids received were for all four. Galicki added that usually the process includes the Village Engineer, but the Engineer was not available and had not informed anyone of this. Berger suggested rewriting the bid opening process as to who should be included so more detail could be brought to Council. The Mayor said from his experience, you sit there and everyone just stares at each other. Noon hits, they open them up, and then they all just get up and walk out. There is no discussion. Berger said a report should be issued from the Bid Opening as to who the winning bidder was, the amount, and what it was for so that Council has appropriate information. The Fiscal Officer explained that the Engineer missed the meeting due to an emergency situation. She had the bid totals and would email them out to Council. She explained that the bids goes back to CT and the engineers review every bid and quote. At that point, the Engineer should give Council a report and there is legislation that must be passed. Berger

asked if the Engineer had provided that report, but the Fiscal Officer did not know if the Engineer was back to work yet. The Solicitor asked who tabulated the information, and the Fiscal Officer replied that she and the Administrative Assistant recorded the bid information upon opening. The Fiscal Officer explained the Engineer would know how many people pulled the bid paperwork, but the Village did not have it at the time of the bid opening. There were six bids for the bid opening, and she explained that typically, the bids are opened one at a time and the name of the contractor and bid amount are read. There is a process, and she had assumed the committee was made aware it was happening. Bell reiterated that it had been discussed in the Streets Committee meeting, but he was not aware there was a meeting and did not have the opportunity to say no one on the committee could make the bid opening.

Cavanagh referred to the Mayor's report, and asked about the columbarium. The Mayor said he wanted to sit down with Rob Arnold who is in charge of the Chagrin Cemetery. Arnold talked Chagrin Falls into buying a columbarium five or ten years ago. Now they have bought two more. It has become the 'in' thing and he wanted to get Arnold's opinion, although he did not think the Village had the volume for it. When the Village looked at it, it was \$42,000. Cavanagh said she would love to be part of that discussion.

Cavanagh asked about the March 16<sup>th</sup> potluck. The Mayor said it was a way to get everybody together to have lunch. Cavanagh asked if Council was included. The Mayor said they would be invited. He would provide a ham, and everyone would bring something. The excuse would be that they would meet the new part-time Administrative Assistant. Tables would be put up in the Service Department garage.

The Mayor said that with CRWP, they would try to have a meeting with somebody from David Joyce's office to determine if the Village could get any more infrastructure money for stormwater and ponds. The Mayor said he did not think it hurt that Joyce is now a South Russell resident.

To help with the Village's centennial, the Chagrin Valley Times is trying to acknowledge interesting residents. He distributed an article about a Mayfield teacher who is a South Russell resident and is helping Ukrainian refugees.

**FISCAL OFFICER:** The Fiscal Officer distributed her report. She advised that a motion was necessary to ratify the approval of Cavanagh's absence at the February 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Council meeting. Cavanagh was surprised by this. Berger said that according to Council Rules, permission should be requested of Council to be absent. **Berger made a motion to ratify the approval of Council Member Cavanagh's absence from the February 13, 2023, meeting, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes all. Motion carried. Berger made a motion to approve Porter's absence from both the February 27, 2023, and March 13, 2023, meetings, seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

The Fiscal Officer addressed Council membership in the Northeast Ohio Cities Council Association (NOCCA). Membership would be appropriate because it is for council members of cities and villages, not for townships. It would be \$75 per council member or \$400 for all. Three council members expressed interest and Berger suggested spending the \$400 so every member could participate.

The Fiscal Officer explained that the Ohio Municipal League (OML) is starting a Legislative Action Committee. Income Tax revenues have increased significantly over the last several years. However, for the last ten to fifteen years, the State has been trying to get away from having local income taxes.

If this happens, the Village will go under. OML is asking for \$250 to support the committee. She felt it was worth the money to help fight to keep the Village's Income Tax collection. **Berger made a motion to have the Village contribute \$250 to the OML Legislative Action Committee, seconded by Bell.** Berger saw it was a benefit to the residents to maintain the tax structure as it is so that their money is spent in their community as opposed to having the State collect and distribute it. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

The Fiscal Officer advised that the State Annual Report was filed and distributed to Council. The audit for 2021-2022 will occur in the next few months. Dennis Maurer will be continuing to do the Village's audit. The Fiscal Officer acknowledged this works well. Maurer has been responsive in answering her questions and there is a good rapport.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Berger reported that the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Additionally, he proposed a Special Council meeting to review budget items on March 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Regular Council meeting.

The Fiscal Officer added that the Tax Budget Hearing with the county is August 22, 2023, at 11:20 a.m.

The Mayor asked if he had to be excused from the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the Solicitor said there was no requirement that the Mayor's absence from a Council meeting requires Council approval.

**SOLICITOR:** The Solicitor would address the traffic signal easement during the Safety Committee report.

The Mayor proposed the Solicitor explain her Council guidance report on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**STREET COMMITTEE:** Bell reported that the Street Committee meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Streets Department.

Cavanagh thanked the Street Commissioner for taking extra time with the Planning Commission and ABR meetings to get the restroom going. She thanked Canton as well.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Bell reported that the Building Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department office.

**Bell made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Cindy Matejcik for a four-year term to the Board of Zoning Appeals, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes all. Motion carried.**

**POLICE CHIEF:** The Chief advised that there is an increase in the traffic signal mast arm in the amount of \$2,183 due to the original survey which posted one of the masts over a gas line. It was necessary to move the proposed location about 10 feet into the 5197 Bell LLC property.

**SAFETY:** Canton made a motion to approve increased cost of the traffic signal mast arm in the amount of \$2,183, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

**Canton made a motion to approve the operating agreement with the South Russell Police Association for the car show and to authorize the Mayor to execute it, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

**Canton made a motion to approve the easement for the traffic signal support on the property of 5197 Bell LLC and authorize the Mayor to execute on behalf of the Village, seconded by Galicki.** The Solicitor advised that once approved by Council, it would have to go to PC for approval and be recorded with the county. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

The Chief reported that the body armor grant in the amount of \$4,836 was received. The Gov Deals auction ended on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The total received was \$14,329.10. Service Department equipment totaled \$623.10. Police Department equipment including the 2018 Ford Explorer totaled \$13,706.

The Chief advised that per the discussion of the two proposed crosswalks on Bell Rd., the estimated cost would be \$15,000 to \$16,000 per crosswalk. This would include two solar panel LED signals at each location. Cavanagh asked if this was in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Chief said yes, that they said it was safe to budget about \$16,000 per location. Berger asked if this included any of the sidewalk or ramping that might need to be done. The Chief said that this was for the signals and installation of the signals only. The Chief explained the operation of the signal whereby the light would only flash when the button was pushed. Cavanagh said it would be a learning experience for drivers. Galicki provided Cavanagh the example of a similar crossing signal in Chardon. The Mayor said that the Village needs to be careful and take its time on installation of the crosswalks and provide education. Canton said it will be a great teaching experience for Gurney Elementary School. Bell asked if there were any safety grants for such projects. The Chief will research this. The Solicitor asked if there would be signs prior to the crosswalk alerting drivers. The Chief thought the signs were posted right on the masts on the Maple Highlands Trail light and possibly one on approach. This could be done with the proposed crosswalks.

Berger asked that the committee contact CT Consultants regarding researching grant money for this project since the Engineer would be involved.

Canton said the next Safety Committee meeting would be held on March 2, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Police Station.

**HR COMMITTEE: Cavanagh made a motion to approve the Holiday Luncheon date of December 15, 2023 at noon, seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Cavanagh acknowledged the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training packet that was distributed to Council. Berger asked what courses were required. Galicki reviewed the requirements for Elected Officials, Mayor, pro tem, and Department Heads. Bell explained he did both of the training units before the start of his term and thought it was worthwhile in explaining when Elected Officials needed to be involved, when to stay away, and also how the system really works. It takes about four hours. Galicki and the Fiscal Officer noted the importance of the training relative to the examples of the recent East Palestine and Oakwood Village incidents. The Fiscal Officer explained that with such incidents, it is important to know the proper way to respond and how to communicate with the surrounding communities. Berger advised that the committee is recommending that Council members gain compliance by June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.

Cavanagh advised that the committee would be meeting at 1:00 p.m. on March 2, 2023.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** Cavanagh stated that the Mayor knows more about the Masonic flag donation but understood that it was ready to go. The Mayor said that they approached the Village and said they had \$5,000. There was discussion on what they wanted to do, and he tried to talk them into



solar, but solar can be terribly expensive. What is proposed is a 25-foot flagpole, a brick walkway from the parking lot on East Washington St. that is 30-40 feet long to a bench with a plaque at the base of the bench. There will be a 300-watt lightbulb that shines on the pole. They will give the Village \$3,000 for the project and want a ceremony when it is complete. There will be a delay in getting the electricity there. In developing the project, the Mayor found that the Village is paying almost \$100 per month for lighting the flagpoles, which is \$400 per month. It is \$5 to \$10 of electricity and \$90 for a meter. The Mayor advised the Streets Committee will discuss alternatives to spending \$5,000 per year just to light up some flags. Bell noted that information was distributed stating that solar was \$7,500. Galicki said that the previous information put out by the Mayor was that 8 solar panels would have to be installed and the cost was prohibitive. Panels that are less than one square foot operate the Flock cameras. He asked if the draw was any more to illuminate a flagpole. The Chief said an LED with high intensity could be significantly affected with the solar panel and he explained that the solar panel is charging a battery pack which only runs the cameras when they are being used. A high intensity beam of light running constantly could be a significant drain on a solar panel and may not work in the winter months. The Mayor explained that the person who quoted \$7,500 said that in December, 15 hours of solar power would be needed because of the greyness. An insulated building would also be required to hold the battery.

Galicki noted that from a finance perspective, Council has heard what the Masons plan to give and what the Village would like to do, but has not seen anything that discusses the total of what the flagpole will cost the Village. He recognized that there would also be the cost of the energy to illuminate the flag, but wondered if quotes had been obtained for the bricks, pathway, installation, etc. The Mayor said all of this can be done for less than \$3,000. The Village has the bricks, and the Service Department staff will do the job. The bench will be \$800. The Mayor is waiting for the Masons to come up with the wording on their plaque, which will be at least \$300. The Mayor thought the Village would be making some money on the project. Berger pointed out that the Village will be spending \$1,200 per year to light the flagpole, which makes no sense to him. He loves the idea of having the flagpole, but he questioned a donation that would cost the Village \$1,200 per year to operate the \$3,000 gift. Berger thought the solar option needed to be further investigated for this and other locations to eliminate the ongoing monthly electrical charges.

Cavanagh asked Galicki if the flags had to be illuminated overnight. Galicki said yes. As long as the flag is being flown, it must be illuminated. The Fiscal Officer recalled having a small solar light on the flag in the Cemetery. Galicki described what had been used and said it did not adequately illuminate the flag. Galicki acknowledged the costly requirements for solar and thought the technology was not there yet although it was a great idea.

The Solicitor advised that if the Properties Committee planned to recommend the installation of a brick walkway, the Building Department should be involved because the park is a conditional use, and the walkway might require a PC review. Galicki asked if there would be a prohibition from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC). The Mayor said no because this is Village property.

Cavanagh, who pointed out that she was a child raised by generations of Masons, said that the donation is a nice gesture and hopes Council comes to some kind of solution.

**Cavanagh made a motion to approve the change of the Cleveland State University film event from February 17<sup>th</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

**Cavanagh made a motion to hold the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party on July 23, 2023, at the park, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

**Cavanagh made a motion to approve the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities, seconded by Canton.** The Mayor distributed a list of the proposed activities and added that he made some changes of which Cavanagh was unaware. He said that if Council wanted to do everything, it would cost about \$10,000. This would be in addition to the money allocated for the Fall Festival. The Fiscal Officer advised that this was budgeted in the General Fund under miscellaneous as a place holder, not for the actual activities which had not been discussed. The Mayor said there would be a band concert in conjunction with the Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce that might include food and drink. There would be a new logo. The Village would participate in the Blossom Time Parade and would include a police car, bike patrol, Mountain Road antique bicycle, candy, business trucks with business logos attached to the sides of the trucks, a Model T carrying the Village's oldest living resident, banners, flappers, farm wagons, and other possible items. There would be a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. There would also be a lecture tour of the Rarick Cemetery, a tea party with local historians about life in the 1920's, and possibly a grant from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) relative to the interurban railroad. He is also proposing an expansion of the annual Fall Festival to include 1920's type crafts like glass blowing, blacksmith, etc. There will be a biplane flyover and other historic activities. There will be a kids' movie night at the pavilion and everything for this could be rented and popcorn, drinks, etc. provided. A pamphlet could also be created for the history of South Russell which might be one of the bigger expenses. The Mayor advised that the pavilion should be reserved for July 23<sup>rd</sup> and all the dates in September for the Fall Festival.

Galicki said he was concerned about the costs of the activities. He asked whether the Village would be paying the entrance fee for the commercial vehicles that would be participate in the parade. The Mayor said they were volunteering. Galicki wondered if they would be bearing the expense of \$500 to be in the parade. Emergency vehicles and police vehicles can participate for free, but commercial vehicles or other vehicles with political candidates, for example, cost \$300-\$500 according to pricing from several years ago. Is it inferred that the Village would be picking up these costs? Cavanagh did not know but asked if the Jaycees would look at the group as part of the South Russell group or would they be looking at each vehicle separately. Galicki thought there was an issue addressed previously by the Solicitor about Village vehicles participating in the event displaying commercial signs. Galicki verified that it costs the Village about \$4,000 just for the Fall Festival picnic, and the Fiscal Officer said it is about \$7,500. Council budgeted \$10,000 for the Village activities, but she questioned the potential expense of paying for parade participants as well as the legality of displaying commercial signs on Village owned vehicles. It also needs to be determined whether the other activities like glass blowing would be permitted. The Solicitor agreed that these were definitely questions. She explained that typically, the Village would not have vendors at the Fall Festival, and it would be a change to have vendors selling their wares. The Mayor advised they would only be doing demonstrations. The Solicitor verified there would be no sales or advertisement posted. The Mayor said they would definitely have a sign. The Mayor said there had been vendors for years like the ice cream truck, caramel corn, etc. Cavanagh asked if Chagrin Pet took credit for all the cider they do, and the Mayor said no that he does it for free. The Fiscal Officer said that he does put advertising up, which has been questioned.

Berger noted that Council approved holding the event in the park on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Fiscal Officer said that this was only reserving the park for that day. Berger said the list of activities was a great working list, but not something Council should presently approve as the activities that will happen until it gets fleshed out more and there is more detail to include costs. Council needs more information. Canton asked if it would make more sense to incorporate it into the Fall Festival instead of having two activities. The Fiscal Officer said that costs would still need to be determined. Berger suggested moving the Fall Festival to July 23<sup>rd</sup> to honor the Village's birthday as the festival for the year. Galicki explained that his concern was that without having an idea of what everything will cost, he saw how it could grow three to five times. Berger suggested tabling the motion pending Properties Committee having more discussion and getting more information to present to Council. Cavanagh asked for clarification about what the \$10,000 was set aside for, and the Fiscal Officer explained it was just for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Council must still weigh in on what will be done. Cavanagh explained that she had no intention of exceeding the \$10,000 and added that this would be the only centennial celebration any of them would experience.

An example provided by Galicki was that every year for the Fall Festival, the Parks Committee comes up with great ideas and there have been times where it wanted more activities. However, they have had to work within the budget. He thought they could achieve a comfort level with knowing how much it all would cost. He reiterated that the four hour Fall Festival costs the Village \$7,500. Cavanagh said this would have been good to know when they were doing the budget. She understood that she could not go beyond the \$10,000, and Berger explained that she could come to Council with a request for more if there were justification. Galicki concurred.

The Mayor asked if there were any objections to anything on the list. The Solicitor said she initially thought the proposal was to have the advertisement put on the Village trucks. She asked how the Mayor planned to solicit the business trucks. The Mayor said he went to a couple of people and asked if the Village could use their trucks, and they said sure. He asked if the Village could put logos on them, and they said sure. Galicki asked if the Mayor informed these people of the potential expense, and the Mayor said no. He suggested waiting to see if this was the case. The Solicitor thought it would cost something. She expressed doubt that every business would be represented, and the Mayor said that every business would have the opportunity to provide a 24" by 24" logo. The Fiscal Officer asked how they would be notified. The Mayor said by him. The Fiscal Officer clarified that he would notify all 300 businesses. The Mayor said it would also be in the newsletter and in the paper. The Solicitor was concerned about businesses that might be left out. Bell verified that the Village could not have sponsorships, and the Solicitor concurred.

Cavanagh said she was confused because there were township trucks or fire trucks in the parades, but the Village could not have a vehicle. Galicki explained that the Village could have Service Department, Police, or Fire vehicles. The Fiscal Officer added that these vehicles can be involved, but they cannot display advertising for a private business.

Cavanagh said that she has spent a great deal of time with telephone calls to the blacksmith, glass blowers, and wood carving business and wants to know if there are strong opinions about whether the Village will have the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Fall Festival, or combined. Galicki advised that it is good to know the pricing structure of the different vendors.



The Fiscal Officer clarified that Council wished to reserve the pavilion for July 23<sup>rd</sup>, as well as September 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> potentially for the Fall Festival. This would require a motion.

**Cavanagh tabled her motion to approve the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities until further details are forthcoming, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion tabled.**

**Cavanagh made a motion to reserve the pavilion for July 23<sup>rd</sup>, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to be amended once the Browns' schedule is out with firm July 23<sup>rd</sup>, seconded by Canton.** Bell asked if there would be a rain date, and Cavanagh said no because it is the actual date. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Regarding the list, Cavanagh said after talking to two glass blowers, there is not a lot of interest. The blacksmith cannot come July 23<sup>rd</sup> but was open to the fall dates and wanted to know right away. The wood carver can come July 23<sup>rd</sup> but needed to know the fall date. The Mayor said his plan for July 23<sup>rd</sup> was to go to a couple of residents and say, look, we want to do this party, you have this amount of money, handle it. Let us know what you are going to do. Cake, ice cream, get it done and come to us when you have it planned and we will pay for it and let's go. The Solicitor asked if this was creating an ad hoc committee, and the Mayor said he was just going to call up a couple friends and say, hey, handle this. The Fiscal Officer said they would be discussing Village business and making Village plans and thus it is a committee and it is a public meeting. It will be paid for with Village funds. The Solicitor agreed.

The Fiscal Officer asked about the proposal for a Village logo and asked if this would be permanent or a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo. Cavanagh said she has not gotten that far with it. Canton proposed using the current logo and adding, 'Celebrating 100 years since 1923'.

**Cavanagh made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment to the Parks Committee of Greg Gamm to a four-year term, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all Motion carried.**

Galicki asked about the proposed publication and asked if it would be ready in July and Cavanagh hoped to have it done before then. Galicki noted that it is March and wondered if it had been started. Cavanagh said it is in her head. She added that it can be added to the website.

Canton advised that the committee would be meeting Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in Village Hall.

The Mayor said that regarding the restroom, the price keeps going up. There is a \$16,000 NatureWorks grant available. However, the Village would not know whether it would receive the grant until fall which means the Village cannot spend a penny until that time. This would mean the Village would not have the restroom this year. Properties Committee would discuss this.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE:** Berger advised that the committee would meet March 24, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

Cavanagh asked if the committee could discuss getting the meter cost reduced on the flagpoles.

#### **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

Canton introduced an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract with the Chagrin Valley Dispatch Council for IT services and declaring an emergency. Canton made a

motion to waive readings, seconded by Cavanagh. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Cavanagh. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2023-15**

Bell provided a second reading of an ordinance approving amendment No. 1 to the contract agreement between Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. and South Russell Village for the South Russell Village Manor Brook Stream Restoration Project, authorizing the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1, and declaring an emergency.

The Fiscal Officer indicated that CRWP would be needed to do the final project report that will be due by March 31<sup>st</sup>, but there is an issue with availability of Council members who are able to vote on the ordinance. Council agreed on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 8:25 a.m. in Village Hall. Berger verified he and Canton were not needed for the meeting and the Solicitor concurred. Their absence would not need to be approved.

**BILLS LIST: Galicki made a motion to ratify the bills lists of 1/30/23 in the amount of \$19,544.23, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried. Galicki made a motion to approve the bills list of 2/27/2023 in the amount of \$32,311.52, seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

**NEW/OTHER:** Galicki, Bell, Berger, and Canton had no new business.

Cavanagh said that like Bell, she was highly disappointed with the resignation of Eric Kimball. She has had people call her home and register the same.

The Mayor addressed tensions with topics like selling green space and building more condominiums with HOAs in the Village and he said to stay calm.

**At 8:30 p.m., Canton made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the possible purchase of property and conferring with the Solicitor regarding to pending or imminent litigation pursuant to Sections 121.22(G) (2) and (3) of the Ohio Revised Code and invite the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, the Solicitor, Lieutenant, and Police Chief, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, Cavanagh, Galicki, Bell, Berger, and Canton. Motion carried.**

Council reconvened at 9:33 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being that there was no further business before Council, **Canton made a motion to adjourn at 9:33 p.m., seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

  
William G. Koons, Mayor

  
Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki