

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Police Chief Rizzo, Street Commissioner Alder, Administrative Assistant Galicki, Solicitor Matheney, and Engineer Haibach

VISITOR: John Buda, Leaview Ln.

The Mayor called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Administrative Assistant read the roll. **Cavanagh made a motion to approve the September 25, 2023, Special Council meeting minutes, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.** Regarding the minutes of the September 25, 2023, Regular Council meeting, Cavanagh referred to the last page and said she was unaware that it was necessary to have minutes from the Centennial Luncheon. The Solicitor advised that the meeting was noticed as a Special meeting of Council. **Canton made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2023, Regular Council meeting, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.** **Bell made a motion to approve the Special Council meeting minutes for the Budget work session, seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

MAYOR’S REPORT: The Mayor stated there is a Health District Levy, Issue 23, and the Village’s Police Department Levy, Issue 26, on the ballot.

The Mayor addressed a variety of topics to include that the Chagrin Falls Middle School cross country meets are going fine, that he has been unable to secure a location to hold the meeting with Village businesses, and that there would be an event for former Police Chief Laderer. Additionally, the Veterans Luncheon information has been sent out and the guest speaker will be Jim Finley, the Chagrin Valley Fire Department Fire Marshal and Iraqi War veteran. It will be held on Monday, November 13th at 11:30 at the Sleepy Rooster.

Cavanagh asked about the memorial service for Laderer, and the Chief explained it is a private event and by invitation only.

FISCAL OFFICER: The Mayor reported that the Fiscal Officer provided her report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Berger had no report. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be Friday, October 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Berger noted that Finance Committee minutes were distributed to Council from the September 29, 2023, meeting.

SOLICITOR: The Solicitor had nothing to report.

ENGINEER: The Engineer reported that the two big projects for the year have finished up and he is in the process of closing both out. These were the Bell Rd. Traffic Signal Project which went swimmingly well. The contractor, Perram Electric, did a fantastic job addressing the concerns of the Engineer and the Police Chief and keeping the traveling public flowing through the work area. He felt they deserved a commendation from the Village for their work. The project stayed relatively within

budget. The awarded contract amount was about \$238,000. There was one change order of approximately \$1,000 for upsizing the pole foundation after it became necessary to move the pole's location to avoid a gas main conflict.

The Road Program also went really well. Specialized Construction did a good job and the work was just within the awarded contract value despite adding some extra repair areas throughout the Village. The Engineer will obtain pay estimates and the close out documents to provide to the Fiscal Officer this week.

The paving of Chillicothe Rd. was discussed. The Street Commissioner thought that by the end of this week or next week the paving will occur in the Village.

Berger stated that in the Budget work session, there was a question about the renewal of the CT Consultants contract. The Engineer said he had the CT contracts group preparing it. If there was no objection from the Village, he thought it would be largely the same contract that it had been without any substantial changes in scope of services and cost. Berger asked when this would be provided to Council, and the Engineer thought it would be in the following week.

Canton referred to the corner property and asked if CT Consultants could provide ideas of what the Village could do with it. The Engineer said that they would be happy to assist the Village, but preferred it be more of a grass roots Village initiative with some help from CT to build the ideas. Cavanagh and Canton advised they had ideas.

STREET COMMISSIONER: The Street Commissioner distributed his monthly report for September. He reported drainage work would start in the north park tomorrow with completion next week. The Mayor expressed concern about the cross country meet, and the Street Commissioner said they will backfill as they go.

Berger referred to the Budget work session and asked the Street Commissioner and Engineer about a realistic number for the Salt Dome for the budget. The Engineer said the last number he provided to the committee was \$680,000. Porter advised that a \$400,000 quote had been provided in the Budget work session but he thought \$675,000 had been budgeted. The Engineer said this was still a good number. Galicki added that a recommendation was made to expand the project to include garage space for various vehicles. It will be necessary for the Engineer to consider the changes to determine what additional costs may be involved. Galicki thought the \$675,000 had been based on a similar Orange Village project from 2022, and suspected inflation would have increased the cost. The Engineer thought the prices would remain on par. Galicki reiterated that it would be helpful to have the latest and most realistic cost for next year's budget. The Engineer advised this was discussed in the Streets Committee meeting and he is having the CT Architecture Department refresh the quote based on the current scope. If the Village would like to expand or pare down the scope, adjustments can be made after the preliminary number is determined.

The Mayor stated that the Village would be removing the responsibility of doing the MS4 Report from the CT Consultants contract. The Engineer explained there was no specific provision in the current Municipal Services contract for the MS4 report. It just always fell under hourly services. They will simply be doing fewer municipal service hours since Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) will be picking up that task. The Solicitor asked if the Village had entered into a contract with CRWP for this yet. The Mayor said no. The Mayor said it would be done the first of the year.

STREET COMMITTEE: Bell reported that the committee will coordinate with the HR Committee to consider seasonal employees to help with snow plowing due to injuries, physical therapy, and recovery time for some of the Streets Department employees. Although he thought the remaining staff would find a way to make it work, he did not want them to work so many hours that it would be dangerous for them to be out in the trucks. Bell concluded that it may not be a bad idea to have a bench at all times, but in the upcoming months, he thought it behooved the Village to look into opportunities. Canton asked how much the Village could depend on Chagrin Falls. The Street Commissioner explained that there is an agreement with Chagrin Falls, Russell, and Bainbridge Township and he could call to ask. Canton thought they should be notified now. The Street Commissioner agreed but added this would be the case if there were a possibility of being called out. Porter noted that it is bilateral, and they can call the Village. He added that the Village has had part-time, seasonal, winter help in the past. He thought it was something to investigate, but snow could be coming soon, and it might be in the Village's best interest to identify a candidate for part-time employment. The Fiscal Officer will want to know where the money will come from for this, but he thought there had been a line item for this. The Street Commissioner said this had been removed when they started cutting the grass themselves. Cavanagh asked if it should be put back in. Bell suggested waiting to see where they wind up through the committees first.

Bell reported that there was a visitor from the community at the Streets Committee meeting asking about a sidewalk from the Chagrin Falls line out to Chillicothe Rd. The original ask was from Ridgewood out to the park and then someday from the park to Chillicothe Rd. Bell acknowledged that there were many factors involved to include community feedback, feasibility with engineering, and potentially taking it to the voters. The Engineer was going to provide a wild guess number for this project. The Engineer said he emailed it to the committee just before the meeting. The committee wanted to discuss it before revealing it to Council. Galicki added that the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) addresses sidewalk issues and who bears the expense. It may not necessarily be the Village but may be property owners, which would necessitate their cooperation. Bell thought there had been some work-arounds with syntax used in neighboring communities calling them pedestrian recreation paths, but it is early. The committee will develop an overview and the individuals have been invited back to give feedback at the first meeting in November when the Engineer will be present. If it is something the community really wants, then it moves on and they figure out the next step later. Cavanagh said the next step will be if sidewalks are being done, a bike path should be created. She could hear it now. Bell acknowledged that it could open Pandora's Box.

The Mayor addressed those viewing the meeting via YouTube and said the meeting will be Monday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m. during which the sidewalks would be discussed.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Bell referred to discussion in the Budget work session about the Inspection Solutions contract billing thus far. The contract maxes out at \$48,250. Through September, the Village has been billed \$43,000. \$5,250 remains for the monthly retainer and inspections. An option is to max out and tell the community there will be no more inspections until 2024 or Council can come up with a solution. Bell referenced the Fiscal Officer's suggestion of a budget amendment, but Bell did not want to do this right now. He thought there was room in the existing budget to help. \$7,245 was budgeted for the Zoning Inspector, who had only worked an hour and a half for the Village this year. He was not certain that this amount plus the remaining contract amount would get the Village through the rest of the year. Regardless, if it is necessary to go that route and use other line items, Council and the Mayor would have to give written approval per the contract with Inspection Solutions.

Cavanagh said she had worked with the Building Inspector a lot and he cannot predict what will come his way. If it is possible to take the Zoning Inspector money, it should carry the Village to December 31st. Bell reiterated that he would rather not amend the budget. Bell suggested waiting until next month to see where the Village stood and then go step by step. He added that the Building Inspector is reasonable and does not charge every time he goes out. The Solicitor asked if the \$7,245 was for Building Department payroll expenses because there may be a restriction on moving those to general expenses. Bell said he would call the Fiscal Officer on her return to discuss options. The Solicitor asked if this situation occurred in previous years. Berger thought it had occurred three years ago. He added that it is difficult to predict the expenses because the number of permits issued does not necessarily correlate with the expected use of the Building Inspector. Berger did not think the Village was being overbilled but rather Inspection Solutions had more work this year resulting in the Village exceeding the budget.

POLICE CHIEF: The Chief submitted his month-end report and had nothing further to report.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Canton stated that the next meeting will be on November 2nd at 9:00 a.m. at the Police Department.

HR COMMITTEE: Cavanagh reported that the HR Committee met on October 6, 2023, and the minutes were distributed. The committee met with Jim Budzik. What stayed in her mind was mostly for the Streets guys regarding observed holidays versus actual holidays with regard to overtime pay. The committee decided to acknowledge the actual holidays since those cannot be celebrated with families on another day. Cavanagh stated that the committee also talked at length about off-duty violations like operating a vehicle impaired (OVI). As a school nurse, had she gotten an OVI, she would have been scrutinized. The committee will discuss this further at the next meeting. She was willing to listen to what anybody had to say, but can you trust someone? It is a big deal.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE: Cavanagh said Rob Arnold with Evergreen Cemetery, Chagrin Falls, spoke to the committee on October 5, 2023, about cremation rules. He does not support requiring vaults for cremains. They do not allow glass, but do allow wood, metal, hard plastic, resin, etc. A question that was discussed was whether the Village wished to provide cremation vaults, and the committee determined it was not interested in being in the business of selling the vaults. They can be acquired from the Funeral Home or online.

Cavanagh verified that the requests had been submitted for the Golden Gate Lodge Masonic flag project, and the Administrative Assistant concurred.

The Park Committee will meet October 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Cavanagh stated that the Mayor did a walk with CRWP in the park. The Mayor said that Greg Gamm from the Park Committee joined the walk as well as a friend of Pete McDonald from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. They had their yearly conversation with the resident on Bell Rd. He said they discussed what these residents are doing in their backyard is very close to the park and they have this discussion every year that this is our property and that is your property. Other than that, there were no issues noticed by McDonald, who will provide a written report. Additionally, McDonald contacted Paul Pira from Geauga County Parks about a burn. Cavanagh added that if there is a burn, it will come up fast based on the weather conditions.

PARK COMMITTEE: Canton said that the subject matter for the upcoming Park Committee meeting will be what worked and did not work with the Fall Festival.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE: Berger reported that the committee will meet Friday, October 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Cavanagh introduced an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with Thrasher, Dinsmore, & Dolan to act as the Village’s Solicitor for the time period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency. Cavanagh made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Galicki asked for discussion before the roll call since his question pertained to waiving readings. During the Budget work session, the Solicitor’s contract specifically came up. He recalled that Berger brought up issues relative to changes to the contract, and he recommended that the Finance Committee review the contract and have a discussion prior to going forward with the execution of the contract. Galicki indicated that if Berger was comfortable with waiving readings and not reviewing the contract, then by all means they could go forward. Berger stated that the Finance Committee would like the opportunity to have that discussion. Porter suggested it remain at a first reading.

BILLS LIST: Berger made a motion to ratify the bills list of September 29, 2023, in the amount of \$53,137.43 seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

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


Porter said he had been playing phone tag with a third vendor for the solar panel project. He was hoping to get in touch and discuss the matter with him and send him the information that was provided to the two other companies so that he might make a presentation on Friday.

Canton reminded Council that he would not be present at the next Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council, Cavanagh made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki