

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024 – 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, Street Commissioner Alder, Solicitor Matheney

VISITORS: Daniel and Mike Wise, Perry Ln., Chagrin Falls; Chantel Michalek, W. Summit, Chagrin Falls.

The Mayor called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. Porter was absent. **Bell made a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of February 12, 2024, seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

VISITORS: Berger stated that the Public Utilities Committee met on Friday, February 23rd, during which a presentation was made by Daniel and Mike Wise. Berger emailed the presentation to Council. Daniel Wise works for Owl Energy Partners, a solar developer based in Chagrin Falls. Mike Wise stated he is an attorney with McDonald Hopkins and represents IMC Solar, which he said was one of the best solar developers in Ohio. IMC and Owl have a joint venture in development work. Berger advised that the Public Utilities Committee has been investigating the concept of solar energy for the Village. A couple of quotes were received from other vendors which ranged from the high \$30,000 all the way up to \$100,000. The numbers that Daniel Wise will present are significantly higher. Berger asked Wise to explain the proposal. Wise distributed his presentation and stated that the proposal involves two solar projects. There would be a ground mount right outside the Police Department which would be \$159,300. The other would be a solar canopy costing \$162,500 which would be used to power four battery integrated fast chargers which would be located under the canopy. The cost would be \$1,200,000 for the four units. They have battery storage, and it is projected that they can charge 26 cars at night. During the day they would be storing power. There will also be two AC chargers attached to the Police Department to power the police vehicles. Wise addressed the network subscription fees for 8 public and 4 private ports and the extended warranty for 8 units. Wise indicated that the grant provides money for police vehicles and includes hybrids so that it would not be necessary to go to full EV. Full EV is preferred, but hybrids are referenced in the grant information.

Berger stated that previously, the discussion had involved projects ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000. He asked Wise to explain why his proposal was for a \$2.2 million project and to explain the advantage of the proposal. Wise stated that the advantage was that the project was completely covered by the grant program, which is under the Inflation Reduction Act and is called the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). The point of the program is to provide funds to offset carbon production. In order to qualify for the grant, it is necessary to meet the requirements of fleet modernization, renewable generation, battery storage, and infrastructure upgrades. This proposal does not have infrastructure upgrades but it can if necessary. Berger asked why Wise was presenting such an aggressive proposal. Wise stated that the lowest rung of the grant is \$2 million

to \$10 million, and anything less would be rejected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Berger asked what the time constraints were for the submission of the grant application, and Wise responded that the deadline is April 1st. Berger asked Wise if he had spoken with the Ohio EPA about this project, and Wise said he had. The Ohio EPA said that on a State level, this project would be right up their alley. Berger asked what the obligation was for the Village. Wise said the Village would have to pay for a grant writer, which would be \$15,000 total. \$5,000 would be for OWL Energy Partners to assist and \$10,000 for the grant writer. Berger concluded that the risk would be \$15,000 to put in the grant application and if the Village did not get the grant, it would lose \$15,000. If the Village got the grant, the Village would have to figure out how to make a \$2 million project go forward.

Mike Wise explained that there will be an actual procurement event whereby three bids will be obtained for the different parts of the program. It is possible that better pricing may be seen when it is bid out. Canton noted that the Chief was not fully in support of 100% EVs. The Chief said there are a lot of unknowns with EVs, but he would be onboard if it were a hybrid situation. However, with hybrids the project cost would be less about \$120,000 in the cost of the cruisers and \$40,000 in the chargers. He asked where they would make this up to meet the minimum. Wise clarified that hybrids are less expensive than EVs. Wise explained that the easy addition would be more battery which would mitigate the need to go out and get more service from CEI. The Chief clarified that he was referring to the battery in the canopy, and Wise concurred. Galicki verified the batteries have limited service life, and Wise said they do. Galicki asked how many years they lasted, and Daniel Wise said it is estimated at 10 years. Galicki wondered if this took into account Northeast Ohio conditions and Wise replied that it is an average. Galicki concluded that it was all speculation, and Wise agreed. Galicki surmised that replacement of these batteries would fall on the Village, and Wise said yes.

Galick asked Daniel Wise what his background was in energy distribution or the energy field. He said that Owl Energy Partners has about 20-25 projects. Galicki specified that he wanted to know about Wise's educational or personal experience and Wise responded two years. Galicki asked what he had done during this time in terms of design, sales, etc. Wise said his role is in site analysis and site acquisition. He looks at coal mines, landfills, and properties for the possibility of solar. He also reviews electric bills to determine savings. He works with two of his brothers, Michael and Ethan, who do design and finance respectively. Galicki asked if the project would take the Village entirely off the electric grid, and Wise said no but it will save the Village money on its bill. Galicki explained that the dynamic of most systems currently in use is that they contribute to the energy provider by gathering solar power. The provider distributes it back and provides a discount. Wise said the premise of the project would be that the ground mount solar will offset the base electric load. The solar canopy would offset the load from the chargers, so on most days, the Village would not have power go back on its bill and would not have to pay extra for the chargers. The ground mount would offset 80% of the electric bill. Regarding the Public Access Charging Stations, Galicki asked if there would be charge to the public. Wise said yes and explained it is a revenue service to the Village. Galicki referred to the presentation and noted that the police vehicles would have to be attached to the charging station for 4-10 hours as opposed to the public use fast chargers. Galicki asked if Wise had any analysis of the standard length of a charge with a police vehicle with its added electronics and required equipment. Wise said it would depend on the make and model of the vehicle but he did not have numbers. However, he said that this can be a mix and match project. The Village could take two of the fast chargers and put them by the Police Department and have two of the regular chargers in the public area. Galicki verified that they had no statistical analysis

of the standard charge of police or emergency vehicles used in a winter environment like that in Northeast Ohio. Wise said they could obtain this information. Galicki explained that the Village would not want to put the public at risk by having three to four electric police vehicles out of service because they had to be charged. He further stated that it was reported in the news that during a recent cold spell, individuals with electric vehicles found that their batteries were sapped fairly quickly. Such a situation would introduce risk to the community in terms of first responders. Data that would support these concerns would be helpful.

Mike Wise noted that the plan has an incredible amount of redundancies with the combination the two types of chargers, which the Village could prioritize. Galicki said he would not argue against redundancy, but wanted to examine the potential of other costs which the Village will face in the near future. This could include replacement of vehicles. EVs currently might have a service life of five years. The costs associated with replacing batteries for the average citizen are prohibitive. Most people offload their EVs after a couple of years. What will the implication be when the Village has to replace batteries or vehicles, or repair the vehicles, and the potential of reduced reliability. He understood Wise was in the business of selling, but Galicki wanted to know the other costs associated with this project. He did not know that the Village was prepared to meet the April 1st deadline.

Canton said 123 years ago, Henry Ford said he had something that could replace the horse and people said it would never happen. You have to have a vision and try to take a look at the future. He thought solar and alternative energy will be the future. There will be costs to the Village, perhaps. Canton asked what the life expectancy of solar panels is, and Mike Wise said 30 years. Canton added that there is no idea of what replacement cost would be in 30 years. He continued to say that in the event the Village got the grant, it would behoove Council to have a line item in the budget to start saving for future Councils so they can pay for a replacement for the system. Mike Wise stated that 80% of the Village's electric bill will go away because of the solar panels and the Village will have a revenue stream to do the type of planning to which Canton referred. Canton referenced past discussions of putting solar panels on the Service Department roof and asked if this was still a consideration. Berger explained that the ground-based array would replace this. Canton noted that the Village was in the infancy of the process and Wise categorized it as the second of a nine-inning game.

Bell referenced the police cruisers and charging stations and asked if the requirement was to have hybrids that plugged in or whether non-plug-in hybrids were permissible. Daniel Wise said they could be non-plug-in hybrids. Bell concluded that the charging stations would be a moot issue. Wise said the ones on the Police Station would be, but the fast chargers would be mostly for the public and a revenue stream for the Village. Bell advised that in 2023, over 100 solar companies went bankrupt, which made him nervous relative to warranties, service contracts, supply chains, etc. With regard to the payback offsetting the Village's electric costs, he was concerned about the potential for the State legislature to change the net metering payback. Mike Wise said Ohio had not been friendly to renewable energy. However, in Ohio it is permissible to build to 120% of the customer's load, which is more liberal than a lot of states. It is also possible to build on property adjacent to the customer's property. There is a community solar bill pending in Ohio, so there is discussion of renewables within the Republican caucus. He said Bell was spot on with the risk being the net metering issue. The system has been designed so that it is not a 120% system and there will be very few electrons going on the grid, which mitigates the net metering risk. Additionally, once you have the tax credit, you have it. If the Inflation Reduction Act were to go

away, it will not matter with regard to the tax credit. Bell asked who would be servicing the warranty. Wise indicated that Owl Energy Partners would get a bid from Kokosing and the Village would contract with them to provide service for the life of the system.

Cavanagh noted the short window provided to apply for the grant. Daniel Wise explained it is a federal grant and currently there are three applicants according to the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA). Mike Wise thought there will be more given the amount of available money. He advised that he does work with all energy. He is on the Oil and Gas Commission and was just involved in leasing property for shale development. And he is currently before Council pitching a solar project. This administration put billions of dollars into green energy. Wise was asked by Council to find a grant program to drive down the Village's costs. He had not been aware of this program when the request was made, but went out, found a program, and met with a bunch of people who said this project would be iconic for South Russell. South Russell would be one of a kind for this region.

Berger explained that typically, Council would take time and ask questions about this matter. Regrettably, the committee received the information Friday morning and have an April 1st deadline. If the Village is going to engage with a grant writer, Council must be willing to move quickly with admittedly a lot of holes in the program and not understanding all of the details. Based on the letter of intent presented to Council by Wise, would Council want to spend \$15,000 for the opportunity to get a \$2.2 million grant with all the unknowns? The Mayor asked the Solicitor what would be needed to vote on the issue. The Solicitor suggested discussing it and she assumed a motion would be done. Berger raised the question of whether the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) grant could be used to apply for this federal grant. If not, it would be \$15,000 of taxpayer money for the opportunity to receive the grant. Galicki stated that in his experience, with the federal government especially, there is no free lunch and there is always a price attached. He referenced the Village's 319 grant projects where the Village received funds, but the caveat was that the land had to be used for the purpose in perpetuity. Galicki asked what restrictions the federal government had placed on this. In years to come, if the Village determines the project is not working, can it plow it under? What are the caveats that go along with the federal money? Daniel Wise stated that it would be necessary to keep the project for 30 years because they want to track how much carbon is being offset in those 30 years. The Village will need to keep track and report this data, which includes vehicle mileage and power bills.

The Fiscal Officer asked if the grant was a matching grant or a reimbursement? Was the expectation that the Village will pay up front and then be reimbursed or would the grantor pay the bills as the project progressed? Wise said it does not have a match. The Fiscal Officer reiterated her question about whether it is a reimbursement grant, and Wise said no, it would be after the funding is issued. The Mayor said that it would basically be betting \$15,000 to get \$2.2 million. Galicki said that is one way of looking at it, but conversely, it is not free money and there is an impact on the Safety forces and other impacts that are not being articulated. They should be looking strategically and not tactically by being attracted by free money. There will be other costs associated with it to include labor for tracking the entire project, and the unknown impact on Safety forces. He concluded that the Mayor was making it very simplistic and was not accurate in stating that it was \$15,000 for \$2.2 million.

The Chief asked about the issue of the charging unit battery replacement with a five-year lifespan for the batteries over the next 30 years. Wise said there is an 8-year warranty for the fast chargers

and regular chargers. Galicki indicated that after 8 years, the Village would be looking at replacement, and Wise concurred.

Cavanagh said that she heard the Chief say he liked hybrids more than EVs. The Chief explained that in his research, he found a lot of unknowns with all electric vehicles because the police have a substantial amount of equipment which draws a lot of current. He does not have metrics to look at an existing EV because they are not popular. There is not a lot of data to show how long a battery would last or whether he could expect to get an entire 12-hour shift out of a battery with radios, camera systems, mobile data terminals, and printers. These systems require that the engine be running and charging the battery. The hybrids work perfectly for this and have provided savings. He did not know if an EV would be able to sustain the amount of draw with the equipment alone, and this does not include the lights, sirens, etc. Daniel Wise offered that data could be obtained if the Chief selected a model of vehicle. This is not a decision that needed to be made early but can be made along the way and then the budget determined from there. Cavanagh asked if there was a way to do a breakdown of the charging for the physical plant and exclude the vehicles, or would it have to be the whole thing? Wise explained that it could be a project where the vehicles and chargers on the Police Department are excluded, but it would involve more equipment added to the other components to make up the cost. When discussing public charge, Cavanagh asked if this meant people would be coming and charging at the Village. Galicki said yes that it would be like a gas station. Wise concurred and explained that with the volume of traffic in the area, there would be a lot of usage. He could obtain revenue estimates. Cavanagh asked how this would affect the Police Department with people pulling in to charge, and Berger explained that the fast chargers would be located across from the Street Department. Berger asked the Street Commissioner about industry use of EV and hybrid heavy equipment. The Street Commissioner said they do not last long. In delivery vehicles, the finding is that they cannot make an eight-hour period with a large truck with a heavy load. Berger asked about hybrid trucks and construction equipment, and the Street Commissioner did not know but could look into this.

The Mayor stated that the Village had been happy with the hybrid police vehicles and he thought that the longer the Village could keep them to avoid going to EVs, the better.

Galicki asked Wise how many Northeast Ohio communities Owl Energy Partners had pitched this program to, and Mike Wise said no others and explained that they were approached about contacting South Russell about solar. Mike Wise further explained that Councilman Berger said that they needed to find a grant in order for the Village to do the program. They found a grant that required a \$2 million project in order to access the grant. They put together a project and it did not make any sense to pitch it to another community. If the Village turns it down tonight, they will go pitch it to someone else. Galicki thought there would be a lot of takers, but being a pioneer means making the ruts in the dirt that other wagons follow.

Canton asked how long the grant had been in existence. Daniel Wise said for about a year. The planning grants were the first initiative for States and Cities, but moved into phase two which are grants for which municipalities can apply. Canton asked whether the Village would have had more time to consider the matter if the project had been developed 8 months ago. Wise explained that at that time, there would have been no guarantee that this project would have been deliverable due to the different potential routes of the funding. Canton clarified that he was asking how many months it had been since a Village like South Russell in Ohio had the opportunity to even vote for something like this? Wise explained that it had been several weeks since the information was

released. Canton asked why the Village only had a month to make a decision. Cavanagh explained that it was an EPA decision.

Regarding the arrays, Bell asked if the Village would be able to move the location over the course of the 30 years or would they have to remain where they are. Wise said there is a big cost associated with moving them, but they could and to his knowledge, it would not negate the grant.

Cavanagh wanted to know what Berger thought since he had studied it more deeply than she had. Berger said this was not the way he would do it if he had the time. However, with the deadline being 30 days from now and with the information gathered by the committee, he realized that if the Village had to pay for it, they would never do it because it is way out of the scope of what was being considered. It is thinking outside the box. The Village said it needed money and OWL Energy Partners found a grant program. The buy-in for the application stage is \$15,000. He cannot say what else will happen. He has had 72 hours to think about it where everyone else has had less time. For the opportunity, he is willing to spend the money to put in the application and see what happens. Canton said he was concerned about the X factor, but is looking at this as the future, and the future is in alternative energy.

Regarding potential changes in technology, Cavanagh asked if there was any chance that the EPA would pay to upgrade the equipment. Wise said no, but there could be the possibility for a program like this in the future. There was no guarantee and there would not be one exactly like this one. It is part of the Inflation Reduction Act, so it will not be done next year necessarily. Mike Wise said that commercial solar arrays have not been around for that long, but the longevity of the ones that were the pioneers had exceeded initial projections. There are arrays producing at 60% capacity 40 years later. This is encouraging that the panels would last that long.

The Mayor asked Berger to make a motion. **Berger made a motion to allow the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with IMC Solar for the initial phase of going to complete a grant application for a solar project and the cost of that application process not to exceed \$15,000 by April 1st, seconded by Canton.** The Fiscal Officer needed to know where it would come out of the budget if it cannot come out of the NOPEC funds. Berger said they would have to amend the budget. The Solicitor referenced the portion of the motion to approve the agreement and asked if there was anything other than the proposal. Berger provided the Solicitor with the agreement. The Solicitor verified that IMC would be preparing the grant application and asked if Council was authorizing IMC to submit it on behalf of the Village, and to sign it, or would the Village have to sign it. Mike Wise said the Village has to sign it. The Solicitor said that Council would have to come back to approve it before April 1st. **Berger amended his motion for them to prepare the grant application for signature by the Village by the Mayor.** The Mayor asked if the Solicitor wanted to wait in terms of reviewing the agreement and the Solicitor said no. **Roll call – ayes, Cavanagh, Bell, Berger, Canton. Nay – Galicki. Motion carried.** Mike Wise asked who the point of contact would be with the Village, and Berger indicated it would be the Mayor.

Chantel Michalek, Chagrin Falls Booster Club, addressed the dimensions of a sign the Village would allow to be displayed along Bell Rd. for a spring fundraiser. She explained that over the past 13 years, the Boosters have reinvested over \$1 million to students on and off the field. In the past, the spring fundraiser was directed towards the high school, but they would like to get it to be seen as more of an incorporated Chagrin community event. Posting a sign on Bell Rd. at the park would allow younger families to see the sign. They would want to post it before April 1st because the

event, a dinner dance, will be held April 12th in Chagrin Falls Town Hall. The Street Commissioner said the sign would be displayed to the northwest of the pavilion along Bell Rd. Michalek said it would be double sided, but it had not been made yet. The Mayor suggested she speak to the Street Commissioner about this. Michalek said that if the sign were approved, she would like to hang it in mid-March and keep it up according to Village rules. Berger asked the Solicitor about the applicable ordinance, and the Solicitor explained this would definitely be outside the temporary sign parameters as far as the size and location. The Mayor suggested putting the sign up on March 12th to March 22nd. **Berger made a motion to allow the Chagrin Falls Boosters to have placed on the Bell Rd. park a sign of 3 feet by 40 feet approximately from March 12th to March 22, 2024, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Canton abstained. Motion carried.** Michalek verified that the Street Commissioner would approve and put the sign up and take it down and return it. Berger asked that once the sign is designed, Michalek email it to the Mayor for presentation to Council to review the verbiage.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor distributed a sheet summarizing a cyber security virtual training event he attended. The Fiscal Officer also attended the training and advised she was glad the Village would be going with the county Automatic Data Processing (ADP). She further explained that ADP would do tests with employees and elected officials to train them with what is and is not safe to open.

The Mayor also addressed a variety of issues to include correspondence received from local citizens pertaining to how the Village would be dealing with Issue 2, the annual MS4 stormwater report meeting held on February 23rd, Hyfi Sensor reporting, and an upcoming meeting with the Rolling Ridge Homeowners' Association (HOA) president to discuss the path.

FISCAL OFFICER: The Fiscal Officer distributed her report. The Village is still waiting for the MRF funding for East Washington St. The paperwork will be reviewed by the County Commissioners on February 27th for approval of the payment.

The Fiscal Officer clarified that the motion made at the previous meeting was to keep the committees as they are for this year. The Mayor concurred.

A calendar has been developed and will be shared with Elected Officials and Department Heads that contains deadlines, meetings, Village events, etc.

The Fiscal Officer advised that approval would be needed to advertise for the Village Wide Yard Sale. Balloons had been purchased and would be at the Building Department for pick-up like last year. **Cavanagh made a motion to approve the Yard Sale Advertising for the date of April 20th, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Berger reported that the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for March 11th at 9:00 a.m. Notes from the previous committee meeting were distributed to Council. Neither crosswalk was in the budget for 2024. Regarding costs, the Chief explained that the LED fixture would be \$16,000, \$10,000 for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approaches, \$1,000 to \$1,500 for engineering, and an estimate of \$3,000 to \$4,000 for painting. This would mean the crosswalks would be \$31,000 each.

SOLICITOR: The Solicitor had nothing to report. She explained a Supreme Court decision regarding taxes collected by employers during the pandemic.

Berger asked if there are dollar amount limits which Department Heads are able to approve and if this is by ordinance. The Solicitor said yes. Berger asked if the dollar limit is determined by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) or determined individually. The Fiscal Officer believed it was in the ORC and the Solicitor was familiar with a Codified Ordinance. Berger was wondering if it needed to be increased. The Fiscal Officer explained that if it was something discussed and approved with the budget, then the Department Head can sign off on it regardless of the amount. If it was something no one knew about and over \$3,000, then it would need to go to Council for approval. Galicki asked if this also entailed Department Heads approving contracts, and the Solicitor agreed and explained that they cannot after a certain amount. Galicki noted that there is an ordinance before Council that is authorizing a Department Head to enter into a contract, where the phraseology in the past has been the Fiscal Officer and the Mayor. The Solicitor concurred and said this is a departure, but anyone can be authorized to enter into the contract. Berger asked the Solicitor to determine what the limit is under the ORC. The Solicitor further advised that in general, any agreement that has some significant language should be reviewed in particular for the standard indemnification clause to which the Village may not agree and which would void the agreement.

The Street Commissioner explained that prior to 2019, the Waste Management contract would increase with every three-year period and went without checks and balances. In order to prevent that, he was assigned to monitor it at the contract period. The Solicitor explained that the proposed agreement has conflicting language in it. It was also over the dollar amount.

STREETS COMMISSIONER: The Street Commissioner reported that the well on the corner property was tested. The flow rate is not adequate at a gallon per minute. He does not have the water quality test results. It is very shallow, and the water recovery is not adequate for use by the other Village buildings.

The Street Commissioner is getting quotes for the Fairview project, salt dome demolition, and the salt structure land clearing across from the Police Station. The Shred-it contract for 2024 is with the Street Committee and the Waste Management agreement is before Council.

STREET COMMITTEE: Bell reported that the committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 7th at 7:30 a.m. in the Street Commissioner's office.

Bell made a motion to approve 2024 Shredding Day to be held on Saturday, November 2nd at 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., seconded by Berger. The Mayor asked if this was a change, and the Street Commissioner explained the date was changed due to availability of Shred-it. All other vendors were either booked or much more expensive. The Fiscal Officer explained that it was also strongly suggested that the Village set up the 2025 date. Berger verified that the motion was for the date and not for approving the contract. The Street Commissioner said it was under the dollar amount so he could approve it. Cavanagh verified the Village got enough people to make it worth it, and the Street Commissioner said there were 10,000 pounds last year. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.** The Mayor proposed October 18th as the 2025 date.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: The next Building Committee meeting will be held Thursday, March 14th at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department. Regarding the minutes from the last meeting, Bell

acknowledged that Council had not officially approved the new park/pavilion use form and there are still some items that need to be addressed.

The Mayor asked Bell if he knew anything more about the Cleveland Clinic adding EV chargers, and Bell reported they are working with the Building Inspector on this.

POLICE CHIEF: The Chief called Council's attention to forms provided by ADP that require their signatures.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Canton stated that the committee met February 16th and the minutes were distributed. The next safety committee meeting will be March 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Police Department.

HR COMMITTEE: Cavanagh reported that the committee will meet on March 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. They will be discussing evaluations.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE: Cavanagh reported that there was an issue of a family that wanted to purchase a total of eight cemetery lots. The committee discussed it and decided that they were fine with a one-time exception to exceed the 6-lot limit. **Cavanagh made a motion to permit Mrs. Ellyn Wilkoff to purchase two extra grave lots to give them a total of eight at the current resident rate, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

In answer to Cavanagh's question about Cemeteries, the Solicitor reviewed that in the absence of a cemetery committee, the cemeteries fall under the Properties Committee. The Mayor advised there would be further discussion about Berger's question about a Cemetery Committee this year.

Cavanagh stated that the Properties Committee will meet March 14, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Village Hall. At that time, they will decide on a Park Committee meeting to address some park issues. She reported that Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) will be doing another wetland south of the playground soon.

PARKS COMMITTEE: Cavanagh advised that the meeting schedule will be decided on March 14th by the Properties Committee.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE: Berger reported the next committee meeting will be April 5, 2024, at Village Hall.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Berger introduced an ordinance decreasing Street Maintenance transfer revenue \$156.02 and declaring an emergency. Berger made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call - ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2024-19**

Berger introduced an ordinance repealing Ordinance 2024-14, authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2024 Energized Community Grant, and declaring an emergency. Berger made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2024-20**

Bell introduced an ordinance approving the 3-year service agreement between the Village of South Russell and Waste Management of Ohio, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$4,000, authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to execute the 3-year service agreement on behalf of the Village of South Russell and declaring an emergency. Bell made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Bell made a motion to adopt, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2024-21**

BILLS LIST: Ratification of the February 15, 2024, bills list will be addressed at the March 25, 2024, Regular Council meeting.

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

Cavanagh reported that she disputed her property revaluation. The county was responsive, and she had to fill out a form and will appear for a hearing.

Canton reported he will be absent from the March 25th Regular Council meeting. Berger made a motion to excuse Councilman Canton from the March 25th Council meeting, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council Cavanagh made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki