

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

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

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

VISITORS: Ann Dunning, Chardon; Jim Kusa, Auburn Home Builders; Alyssa Johnson and Nat Ziegler, Power a Clean Future Ohio; Gregg Gamm, Annandale Dr.; Greg Studen, Manor Brook Dr.

The Mayor called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. **Porter made a motion to approve the Special Council meeting minutes of April 8, 2024, seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024, Regular Council meeting, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

VISITORS: Alyssa Johnson and Nat Ziegler, Power a Clean Future Ohio (PCFO), addressed Council. Ziegler, a program manager, explained that PCFO is a non-profit that has worked statewide since 2020. Its mission is to support local governments and climate action plans, projects, and implementation. The organization recognized that the way to reduce emissions in Ohio would be by working at the local level. As a nonprofit, free services are provided to local governments through funding by philanthropy and grants. In order to join PCFO, local elected officials must pass a resolution to become a member community. Ziegler explained that PCFO partners with the member communities to determine what makes the most sense to reduce costs to the local government, businesses, and residents through clean energy sustainability projects, as well as how to grow the clean energy economy in Ohio, recognizing the workforce development opportunities that exist in renewable energy generation. To reduce emissions at the local level, PCFO helps communities understand where their greenhouse gas emissions are coming from and what projects they can implement to reduce the number. They look at everything with an equity of justice lens to implement equitable clean energy policy for members and for those who are most impacted by climate issues.

Johnson acknowledged that local communities are doing a lot of great work around sustainability but recognized that they have a lot of priorities. Having added expertise to address sustainability and climate is a benefit PCFO offers by pulling together technical assistance providers and experts in energy and sustainability planning. All of what they do is with the lens of keeping things achievable, measurable, equitable, and economical.

After passing the resolution, the community would designate a point of contact or project manager with whom PCFO would work. Then, the team meets to determine the next steps which include the schedule of meetings, what projects to prioritize, etc.

Johnson advised that PCFO has 50 local governments that are members, and South Russell would be the first in Geauga County. PCFO provides a network of member communities in order to best leverage resources. Johnson described the suite of services provided by PCFO to include

conducting an electric vehicle (EV) Fleet inventory assessment, greenhouse gas inventory, tree canopy assessment, peer to peer networking, community choice aggregation programs, and solar code updates. They work with the member communities and technical providers to tailor the needs of the municipality.

Johnson addressed the infrastructure grant assistance program and advised that there is an abundance of federal grants right now. Often the communities do not have the resources to review all the opportunities to find the right fit. As program managers, PCFO will get the community's goals up front and then do some scoping of potential future grants in order to prepare the community. In conjunction with this, PCFO will do editing and competitiveness reviews and help identify collaborative partners through the member network. She provided an example of working as a conduit between the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and member communities with determining where potential EV chargers could go. Additionally, PCFO provides webinars in which they break down larger grants and discuss requirements, timelines, etc.

Through a presentation, Johnson provided details of work performed by PCFO in area communities.

Berger asked if Johnson could provide the amount of grant funds obtained by PCFO for their members. Johnson did not have an exact number and explained that a lot of what PCFO does is provide general information hoping that they can help build capacity and then the communities will go after grants. As an example, she said that Solar for All announced that \$156 million is coming to Ohio with an additional \$156 million that will be going to a coalition application that PCFO helped organize. This includes solar money for Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati. Part of the collaborative effort with the five PCFO cities will be roughly \$50 to \$60 million in solar for the five cities in addition to the \$156 million from the State. Additionally, PCFO was able to do a grant review with Canton on an infrastructure grant program. They used feedback provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a rejected application to create a new successful application.

Porter advised that Council was considering entering into a contract with YellowLite for a solar project in the amount of \$33,000. He described a \$2.2 million solar grant recently considered by the Village but found the Village did not have the appropriate demographic. Porter described areas on Village property that might be suitable for solar in the future. After seeing how the first project went, he thought having the support of PCFO might be helpful. Johnson described her work with Moreland Hills. Ziegler clarified PCFO works to research and "right size" grants and financing strategies.

Cavanagh asked how PCFO is funded. Johnson explained that it is through the Cleveland Foundation, George Gund Foundation, the Energy Foundation, as well as being listed on subawards for federal grants.

Galicki asked about the assistance PCFO provides in finding grant sources and clarified that PCFO does not write the grant for the municipality. Johnson concurred, but said in some instances, members of the technical team have been brought in to do deeper work. For example, if the Village needed to hire a grant writer or get a request for proposals (RFP) out to hire an entity to do some sort of project, PCFO could provide the templates and language for that. Galicki offered that a lot of grant money is easy to get, but a lion share of the work is after getting the grant in terms of administration, reporting, etc. That burden would still be on the municipality. Johnson agreed. PCFO is happy to be a sounding board and thought partner in the grant reporting process as well as

conducting reviews, edits, and providing feedback. Galicki further discussed the funding entities for PCFO.

Bell addressed trees that had been removed in conjunction with stormwater mitigation and infrastructure work in the Village. He asked for a description of a tree canopy assessment. Johnson did not fully know the answer but would follow up with Bell.

The Mayor would provide a copy of the resolution to the Solicitor to review. He tasked the Public Utilities Committee with discussing this and suggested he and Berger have a meeting with the mayors of Moreland Hills and Chagrin Falls.

The Mayor introduced Ann Dunning, an architect, former resident, and former member of the Architectural Review Board (ARB). She will be discussing designs for a restroom in the park. The plans were distributed to Council. Dunning introduced Jim Kusa, Auburn Home Builders, who has done a lot of work in Geauga County. Dunning and Kusa have worked together extensively and are able as a team to present design, code, financing, and site information for their clients. Dunning explained that she got involved with the project after being contacted by the Street Commissioner. She has extensive experience in designing and manufacturing restroom facilities, including prefabricated models. Dunning explored prefabricated models for the Village, in particular the Green Flush model.

Dunning reviewed her work list that describes all things that need to be considered, to include a building, how it connects to septic or sewer, drilling of a well, electricity, contractors, a Village project manager to supervise the project, and someone to oversee the maintenance of the project. This was Dunning's primary concern because every detail has an effect on what the Village must do to take care of it. She referred to examples she provided to Council of restroom buildings in area parks. One of the buildings had evidence of mold at the foundation, which she attributed to having septic. She felt it was critical to attach the Village restroom to the sanitary sewer. This cost would be over and above the cost of the building. Dunning reviewed the three different Green Flush models and their associated amenities and those costs. She provided a cost comparison sheet and described how they ranged in price from \$120,000 to \$175,000. In addition to the prefab unit that is chosen, there will be charges to crane it in place, foundation expenses, utility hook-ups, lighting, heating, etc. The problem with the prefab units, according to Dunning, is that if it were ordered today, it would not be delivered until July of 2025 because there is a 10 month wait. When building on site, the best part is that drawings could be done by September 1st, and probably the Village could have it built by May of next year.

Porter thought Dunning was indicating that the prefab unit would be less expensive than the design build model. Dunning thought it would be pretty even. Initially she thought the prefab unit would do it, but there are a lot of factors. She explained that the Village needed to determine what its needs were with the facility and its pieces and parts and then build the project based on costs and the schedule.

Galicki observed that an \$80,000 version of the restroom was not an option, and that the Village would be looking at about \$150,000, not including all the utilities that must be established. Dunning explained that it is a tiny building with lots of big utilities costs. It would be impossible to do for \$80,000 and she had concerns about the details that must be considered as well as the aesthetics.

Canton envisioned having a restroom that matched the park and had two toilets. Most likely, it would be hooked up to the sewer. It would have to be functional and look good. Dunning saw the value of the investment in the restroom and the value to those who use it. Canton added that there will also be five or six households across the street looking at it.

Galicki asked who constructed the restrooms for Geauga Parks. They were primitive but functional. He wondered if they are similar to those presented by Dunning. She explained that she showed similar models that involve the vault underneath and the building set on top of it. It is a simple building, but in the Village's case, it would not be out in the woods.

Jim Kusa advised he could provide approximate costs as far as utilities and give the Village an idea of how much it would be to tie into the sanitary sewer and bring in water and electricity. If it has water, it will have to be heated. He advised that whatever the Village chooses, it all comes down to cost and what the Village wants to present. A unit will have a cost, but there is also the cost of maintaining it. A prefab unit is just a matchbox and will not last in terms of longevity and maintenance. Galicki asked what the range of cost would be to bring in utilities. Kusa said that to run underground electric for the building would be about \$8,000. Sanitary sewer would involve bringing in a civil engineer. It would be necessary to horizontal bore under the street and then to the restroom which could run anywhere from \$18,000 to \$30,000. The well would be \$12,000 to drill and another \$3,000 to bring it to the building. In sum for utilities, it would be about \$53,000.

Berger thought that the cost would be between \$200,000 and \$225,000. Kusa estimated that the cost of building a restroom with heat, two lavatories, cement floor, stainless steel fixtures, infrared heaters in the ceiling and a cement pad that runs to the parking lot would be \$200,000 to \$225,000 for the complete package.

Greg Gamm preferred a stick-built model over the prefabricated. He asked what amp service would be needed. Kusa responded 200 for a commercial light duty primarily due to heating. Gamm asked about the size of the sanitary line, and Kusa said four-inch. Gamm suggested that steel doors would be necessary and asked whether Council had considered when the facility would be locked at night and reopened. Cavanagh said it had been discussed along with shutting it down for the winter. Gamm brought up having a pump house along with the well. He asked what Council had allocated for the restroom in the budget, and the Mayor said \$86,000.

The Mayor advised that no one from the community had come forward to say they want the restroom and no one lives more than two miles away, but on the other hand there will be three large events in the park this year. In an ideal world, he would not want the Service Department staff cleaning bathrooms and would want them to be able to stand at the door with a power washer and that's it. He noted that since 2014, there had been minimal damage at the park. The Mayor did not want to go overboard worrying about vandalism. Dunning thought it was wise to use materials that can be fixed for maintenance purposes.

Greg Studen asked if a public water supply would be used. Dunning explained that the Street Commissioner obtained the cost for a well at \$12,000. Studen said he was referring to having water that can be treated because it will be a public restroom. He wondered if the EPA would require the water to be tested and deep chlorinated, which would be another projected cost. Galicki did not think it would have to be chlorinated necessarily but was aware it would have to be tested periodically. Studen advised that he would suggest the Village revisit assessing the need for the

restroom. He uses the park quite a bit in the summer and cross-country skis there in the winter. He noted that skiers and dog walkers use the park and then go home in the winter. Studen asked Council to assess the need and weigh it against the cost and amenities that are included. He added that if it is a public restroom, it becomes a roadside restroom. Porter noted that the restrooms have been discussed since 2014 and the Village is not in a rush to get it done this summer, but the cost estimates keep increasing with time. \$225,000 is 2/3 of a Road Program. He thought the Parks Committee should weigh in on whether the Village needs a restroom and what amenities should be included. Studen said his question was about the scope of the need. When he sees the portable toilets go up in the park in spring, he likes it. This is one level of need, and it goes up from there in terms of how much it would be used and how elaborate it will be. This is the question in his mind.

Berger asked the Fiscal Officer how much the portable units are for the season, and she replied about \$1,800. Berger noted that \$1,800 goes a long way to \$225,000 in one shot. The need should be considered. Studen advised that the cost was not one shot. When the facility is put in, there will be heat, electricity, and maintenance costs, so it is \$225,000 capital investment plus these expenses. It would not surprise him if the Village paid \$1,800 per year to run the restroom. Porter said before the pavilion was built, there was a question asked about why the Village was building it. However, it is used all the time. Dunning offered that people come to expect such facilities when so many parks have them.

The Mayor said that the matter will be discussed at the Park Committee meeting the following day and then by the Properties Committee. There will be further discussion at the Regular Council meeting on May 28th.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor distributed his report, which is Attachment A. He addressed a proposal for a burn in the East Washington side of the park for just under \$10,000. The Park Committee will discuss this.

The Mayor asked Cavanagh to have the HR Committee consider holding a luncheon at Augie's honoring our First Responders on Friday, May 22nd.

Other matters addressed in the Mayor's report included the submittal by Davey Tree to expand the wetlands in the park, United States Geological Survey (USGS) well monitoring, power loss in the Village due to the April 12th storm, issues with the new traffic signal also due to the storm, and anticipated increases to the Chagrin Valley Fire Department costs.

The Mayor asked for clarification about the need to go out to bid for building the salt dome and park restroom. The Solicitor explained that there was an Ohio Attorney General opinion that came out recently reiterating a previous Ohio Attorney General that opined that with Sourcewell, a joint purchasing program group, it is not necessary to follow competitive bidding for equipment, but it is for construction and construction costs. In her opinion, the salt dome and the park restroom will both have to be competitively bid.

FISCAL OFFICER: The Fiscal Officer distributed her report. She also distributed the Tax Budget worksheets to Department Heads and copied the committees. The Fiscal Officer explained she needed to know the big things that are being planned for next year. The Tax Budget is when the Village figures out its revenues for the next year and when she must figure out all the transfers that will be needed to cover the expenses. Once this is certified, this limits the budget in the fall. She

asked that the committees discuss changes and/or big projects that will occur next year and get those back to her by May 20th.

The Fiscal Officer explained the legislation pertaining to the Bell Road East Reserve Fund. The Fund was set up for two years because the Village thought it would be doing Bell Road East in 2024. Since it is not being done this year, it is necessary to close the fund and open a regular Bell Road East Fund. Because it is a reserve fund, the Village can take the money and put it back into the Income Tax Fund to fund the Bell Road East fund. The legislation specifies that approximately \$498,000 of the \$500,000 will be moved back because approximately \$2,000 was used.

In the event any Council member wished to attend the Empowering Local Leadership Conference in Washington D.C., the Fiscal Officer explained that it would cost approximately \$1,200 - \$1,400 per person for travel and hotel.

The Fiscal Officer advised that during the meeting with the Village's insurance representative, it was revealed that in addition to having contracts with vendors at the Fall Festival, it is also necessary to have insurance and paperwork from the ice cream and popcorn vendors as well. They cannot simply show up and sell their products because it is a Village event, they need to supply the necessary documentation to the Village prior to the event.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Berger reported that minutes from the Joint Treasury Investment Board (TIB) Finance Committee meeting were distributed. Essentially, the general account for checking for the Village is at Huntington Bank. A secondary account is with STAR Ohio, which pays between 5.25% and 5.5%. The Committee discussed moving money from the checking account to STAR Ohio to take advantage of the interest, leaving no less than \$1 million in checking.

The Finance Committee will meet next on May 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Berger addressed the cost of additional cabling relative to the installation of the new security for the Village's computer systems under the Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Board. A suggestion was made to run cabling underground from Village Hall to the Service Department, which would eliminate a secondary entry point. Through discussion, it was determined that it would be advantageous to have this connection in the event the Police Department were to join the system. There is legislation to amend the expenditures with ADP to include the cabling cost in the amount of about \$10,000.

Porter offered that it seems like every three months, ADP is turning around and asking the Village for something else or saying the Village needs to upgrade, etc. Galicki advised that it is associated with installation and questioned the comparative costs involved with being held for ransom. The Mayor added that they have not been the most impressive business with their procedures, but he still thought it would be a good deal.

Berger explained that the system the Village currently has in place is not adequate and makes the Village vulnerable to cyber-attacks. It is necessary to upgrade its capabilities for protection. He reiterated that there is a cost to suffering an attack. Additional costs are being added, but the Village is being upgraded to the best technology available for security. The Chief explained that the justification for the additional work was to add fiber connection from Village Hall to the Service Building, which would eliminate one firewall and one annual license fee. It is not a big expense or savings, but in the long run, having the connection will make it easier to expand if needed.

The Fiscal Officer offered that the Village's insurance was pleased with these improvements planned by the Village.

SOLICITOR: The Solicitor advised that there is a new system through the United States Postal Service (USPS) where bulk mailing is all online. To become a participant user, it is necessary to complete an agreement. However, the agreement included an indemnification clause but also the option to contact USPS to make changes to the agreement. In order to do the bulk mailing, the agreement must be changed. The Solicitor spoke to a person and submitted the changes via email. She was somewhat concerned about the timing for the next newsletter.

STREET COMMITTEE: Bell reported that the Street Commissioner shared that with the Earth Day roadside cleanup, there were 14 volunteers who picked up 35 bags of trash along Bell Rd. and Chillicothe Rd.

Regarding the stormwater work on Fairview, Bell advised that the contractor experienced some difficulty with hitting a substantial rock that necessitated heavier equipment and additional digging. Through consultation between the Chair of Finance, Fiscal Officer, Solicitor, and the Mayor, the additional costs were approved with the intention of ratifying them at the present meeting.

The next committee meeting will be held on May 2, 2024, at 7:30 a.m. in the Street Commissioner's office.

Bell made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 – Final with Specialized Construction for the 2023 Road Program, a reduction in the total contract in the amount of \$46.78, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Bell made a motion to approve Construction Progress Payment No. 2 – Final payment to Specialized Construction for the 2023 Road Program in the amount of \$300,094.71, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Bell announced that Trash Day will be Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with the entrance being by the Police Station.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Bell said that the committee met on April 11th and the minutes were submitted. Regarding credit card payments with the City Force software, the Building Department Administrative Assistant is contacting the vendor to determine the initial costs for implementation and ongoing costs.

Cavanagh raised the issue of the mandated Geauga County septic inspections, which are twice a year. She thought this was too aggressive. Bell advised it was from the Ohio EPA and the county must administer it. Currently, it is only for the NPDES systems, which are newer systems. Eventually it will be all systems. Cavanagh thought this was ridiculous and the Village needed to let the county know how it felt about this. The Solicitor advised it is the State and the county was funded to do it. Cavanagh clarified this was occurring in all 88 counties, and the Solicitor concurred. She added that it was not necessarily a new law, but it took time in getting it funded. Bell explained that there are residents who have the newer systems who received a bill for the inspections which precipitated complaints to the Village.

The next Building Committee meeting will be May 9, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department office.

POLICE CHIEF: The Chief reported on the GovDeals auctions. Year to date, they have brought in \$2,067, \$1,787 of which was from the traffic light parts. This is in contrast to having listed the whole traffic light for \$1,000 and then \$500 without any bids.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Canton reported that the committee met on April 11, 2024, and the minutes were distributed. The next meeting will be May 9, 2024, at noon in the Police Department. Regarding the crosswalks, the committee recommends going forward with the two crosswalks, one at Gurney and one at the park. If the budget does not allow for two, then the committee recommends going with the one at Alderwood. Porter asked if money had been budgeted for the crosswalks, and the Fiscal Officer said no. The Fiscal Officer clarified that Canton wanted the crosswalks in 2024, and he concurred. Galicki advised that there are a lot of unbudgeted projects. From the Finance Committee perspective, if the money is available, he would consider one this year and one the following year. However, as a member of the Finance Committee, he is uncomfortable with how many unbudgeted requirements the Village has and worries that the Village could find itself in extremis if Council does not flesh this out. The Fiscal Officer is trying to work to get the numbers, but it seems like more projects are being added without necessarily having the budget to support it. Canton agreed with the suggestion of one crosswalk a year over two years. Galicki responded that if they find the money is not available, they might have to look to next year's budget. Berger suggested adding this to the next Finance Committee meeting.

HR COMMITTEE: Cavanagh stated that the committee met on April 15th and the minutes have not been completed. The committee discussed evaluation forms for the departments, records retention policy, and policy statements. For consideration of Council, Berger drafted a resolution that will hopefully decrease the questioning of breaks when employees are on callouts. Berger said the policy statement would be going to the Streets Committee for review and consideration. The Street Commissioner had already seen it.

Berger made a motion that Council approve a \$100 donation to an appropriate charity in memory of Ted Holt, seconded by Cavanagh. Berger advised that the committee discussed that as a continuing policy, the Village would either follow the guidelines from the family as to an appropriate gift or perhaps in Holt's case, a donation could be made to the Lakeland Community College Police Training Program in his honor. Galicki thought that previously Council had addressed standardizing what would be done in terms of contributions. The Fiscal Officer explained that there is no policy. A motion had been made for recognition of unpaid board members with a proclamation and a \$50 gift card. Because gift cards are a problem, it will be necessary to change this and come up with an official policy. The motion was not for employees, so a motion was necessary. Berger further explained that this motion was a one off to take care of the situation, but HR will draft a policy for Council's consideration to standardize the policy. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

The Mayor asked that the committee discuss a First Responder's luncheon at the May 9th meeting since it will require a motion at the May 13th Council meeting.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE: Cavanagh said the next committee meeting will be May 9, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. They will continue to discuss the park restroom.

PARKS COMMITTEE: Cavanagh reported that the committee will meet on April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. and will discuss the Brown's schedule, Fall Festival date, and the park restroom. The Mayor added that an Eagle Scout candidate will be presenting his project to do a map of the park that will resemble Charlie Cimperman's project. Cavanagh added that Charlie Robinson, whose Eagle Scout project is in Rarick Cemetery, recently had his Eagle Court ceremony.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE: Berger reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. At the last committee meeting, residents from Fairview Rd. attended to discuss storm water issues. At that time, a meeting was arranged for last Friday, April 19th, at which residents of Fairview Rd. and Hemlock Rd. met with Berger, the Mayor, Council member Cavanagh, and the Engineer to discuss storm water issues. The residents provided Berger with pictures that showed drainage areas that had not been addressed in years and are causing water to back up. The committee will look at these issues and where they occur on public lands, the Village will have to address them. There is another issue under Hemlock Rd. where there are two inadequately sized drainage pipes. The Engineer will meet with the county engineer who handles the work for Russell Township because it is right on the dividing line between municipalities. Consideration will be given to putting in a 40-inch culvert under the road. Without this, there would be no point in clearing all the ditches because the water would just back up.

After reviewing information about previous flooding on Fairview from 2011, Porter noted that although it occurred in a different part of the street, many of the same problems existed with clogged ditches and undersized culvert pipes. He felt that coordination with Russell would be crucial in resolving the drainage issue.

Canton reported that the home on Teaberry Circle that butts up against the pond is still having flooding issues and water continues to breach the pond. He spoke to the Street Commissioner about this, and the Street Commissioner will take a look at it. The Mayor reported other incidents of flooding. There was a brief discussion about the previous work that was done by the Village relative to the drainage with the Country Estates ponds.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Berger introduced an ordinance amending the joint agreement between the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Board and the Village of South Russell for additional services in a total amount not to exceed \$49,950 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 2024-37**

Berger introduced an ordinance requesting the County Auditor to certify to the taxing authority the total tax valuation of the subdivision and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by a specific number of mills 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 2024-38**. The Mayor clarified that the Village would not be raising taxes and was just getting prepared to renew a levy which will come due in 2025.

Cavanagh introduced an ordinance approving the operating agreement with Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market, Inc. for a license to use a designated portion of the parking areas and driveways of the

South Russell Village municipal property at Chillicothe Road and Bell Road as a farmers' and artisans' market for the time period of May through October, authorizing the Mayor to execute the operating agreement on behalf of the Village, and declaring an emergency. Cavanagh made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Canton. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Cavanagh made a motion to adopt, seconded by Canton. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2024-39**

Berger introduced an ordinance transferring from Income Tax Fund to the Safety Fund up to \$675,000, Operating Fund up to \$185,000, Special Land and Building Fund up to \$350,000, General Fund up to \$535,000, Parks and Recreation Fund up to \$10,000, and Large Equipment Fund up to \$100,000 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 2024-40**

Bell introduced an ordinance amending the excavation proposal and estimate agreement between the Village of South Russell and Watts Excavating LLC in a total amount not to exceed \$16,000 which includes the additional work encountered at the worksite and possible future add-ons, ratifying the approval of the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, and Chair of the Finance Committee for such additional work, and declaring an emergency. Bell made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Bell made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2024-41**

Berger introduced an ordinance transferring up to \$200,000 from the Income Tax Fund to the Street Fund 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 2024-42**

Berger introduced an ordinance rescinding Capital Project Fund - Bell Road East Reserve Item 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 2024-43**

Berger introduced an ordinance amending the 2024 Annual Appropriations increasing General Fund expenses \$4,950, Street Fund expenses \$266,170, Safety Fund expenses \$9,000, Income Tax Fund transfer expense \$200,000 to Street Fund, and Special Land and Building expenses \$33,120 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 2024-44**

Canton introduced a resolution approving the appointment of Mayor Holzheimer-Gail as the representative of the Cuyahoga County 9-1-1 Planning Committee and declaring an emergency. Canton made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **RES 2024-45**

Bell introduced an ordinance establishing a capital projects fund to be known as “Bell Road East” and declaring an emergency. Bell made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Bell made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2024-46.**

Porter provided a second reading of an ordinance approving the proposal submitted by YellowLite, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$33,620 for the purposes of providing solar power to the Village, authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract with YellowLite, Inc. in accordance with its proposal, subject to receipt of a contract acceptable to the Village Solicitor. Porter made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Porter made a motion to adopt, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2024-47.**

Berger made a motion for Council to approve the Fiscal Officer to move funds in excess of \$1 million from the Huntington Bank account to the STAR Ohio account and therefore as necessary to move funds from Huntington to STAR Ohio or back to maintain a minimum of \$1 million in the Huntington Bank checking account, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

BILLS LIST:

Berger made a motion to ratify the bills list of April 15, 2024, in the amount of \$95,550.69, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER: Galicki, Porter, and Canton had no new Village business.

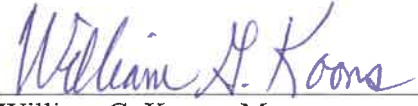
Cavanagh asked when submissions would be needed for the next newsletter. The Fiscal Officer thought it was the beginning of June, but she would email the date to Council.

Bell wished the Jewish residents of South Russell a happy Passover.

Berger said he would be absent from the May 28th Council meeting. Porter added that he also would be out of town. A decision will be made as to the possible cancellation of the second meeting in May at the May 13th meeting. **Canton made a motion that Council vote and approve the absence of Council members Christopher Berger and Mark Porter at our May 28th meeting, seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

The Mayor reminded Council that on May 13th, there would be a Public Hearing on the Zoning Code changes at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council Cavanagh made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 p.m., seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.


William G. Koons, Mayor


Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki

Mayor's Report for April 22, 2024

The scene of the park shows water flowing across it before French drains were installed.

Following a tour of the park with the street commissioner, Greg Gamm from the Park Committee, and a representative from The Davey Tree Company, we have received a proposal for a burn of the park that will be discussed with the Park Committee on Tuesday and with the Property Committee at their normal meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 1:00 p.m.

The most recent issue of the Ohio Township News contained six articles dealing with civility, bullying, Dealing with Difficult Residents, Staff and Elected Officials, and how to respond to negative online comments. I suggest, when finished, Ruth give her copy of the Ohio Township News to Chris Bell, Dennis give his copy to Mark and I will give mine to Chris Berger and Jerry.

The tenth annual Honor the First Responders event will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 5:00 p.m. at The Triangle where local police and fire personnel will be honored.

I will be asking Council Member Cavanagh, HR committee chair, to make a motion at the May 13 council meeting to Honor South Russell First Responders with a luncheon at Augie's on Friday, May 24, noon.

Davey Tree has submitted their proposed map of the .22 acre wetlands to be created south of the playground.

The United States Geological Society, USGS, tested the well near Fawn Court and the well on Kensington Circle. These two wells are not used for domestic use. No results yet.

The webinar on Ohio Climate Change: Understanding Extreme Weather and Local Impacts was one of the best.

Thursday, April 18, there was a meeting with our state representative to try to assist The Sleepy Rooster to obtain a liquor permit.

The village-wide yard sale was Saturday.

Will we need competitive bids to build salt dome and the park restroom?

The storm on Friday, April 12 knocked out power for some of SRV. Lake Louise lost power from Friday, 7:30 p.m. till Sunday, 9:00 p.m. Ten men and six trucks spent most of Sunday installing a new pole at the north end of Haskins Road in Bainbridge in Lake-in-the-Woods.

The February 22nd article in the CVTimes had the following:
Chagrin Valley Fire Department has 63 employee.
2023 saw 2,000 calls, an increase of 5% over 2022
Storms and an aging population are causing more calls.

3.5% increase on concurrent calls often results in off-duty responder call-ins.
The number of off-duty employees is decreasing due to age and housing costs.
Mutual aid is with Bainbridge, Orange, Russell and Solon.

70% paramedics, some EMTs

70% of two-million-dollar budget is personnel.

2022 4 fulltime staff 24/7

2023 5 fulltime staff 6pm -6am

2024 5 fulltime staff 24/7

2027 6 fulltime staff 24/7

CVFD has applied for \$300,000 from Ohio's open capital budget program.

Legislation is in tonight's packets to name Euclid Mayor Holzheimer-Gail as our choice to serve as the Chagrin Valley Dispatch's representative to the Cuyahoga County 9-1-1 Planning Committee.

Harvest for Hunger, 20 years, Jake ^{Fried} Friel, 3,600 pounds, \$100.00

Rent assistance

WDC

Mayors' convention

OML conference

Sidewalk letter

resident comment

Manor Brook trees and flooding

GCTA directory