## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS TAX BUDGET HEARING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025 – 7:00 P.M. MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Bell, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki, and Porter
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Berger
OFFICIALS PRESENT:	Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Police Chief Rizzo, Street Commissioner Young, Solicitor Matheney
VISITORS:	John Buda, Leaview Ln., Carrie Schloss, Hickory Hill, Chagrin Falls

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance and then announced the Tax Budget Hearing. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. Berger was absent. Canton stated that the proposed 2026 Tax Budget included estimated revenues for the General Fund of \$1,513,361 with estimated expenses of \$1,655,849; Safety Fund revenues of \$2,054,243 and expenses of \$2,100,524; Operating Fund revenues of \$569,287 and expenses of \$609,330; Road and Bridge Fund revenues of \$243,541 and expenses of \$59,500; Special Revenue Fund revenues of \$3,632,653 and expenses of \$3,399,395; Capital Project Fund revenues of \$2,931,935 and expenses of \$2,640,711; and Fiduciary Fund revenues of \$120,000.

## Porter made a motion to adjourn the Tax Budget hearing, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The Mayor called the Regular Council meeting to order. The Mayor proposed changes to the minutes of the May 27, 2025, Council meeting. Regarding the moment of silence for Katy Brent, he noted that she was the Chagrin Falls Education Association Leader, and math teacher. He also offered thanks to Cavanagh and Canton for the nice words they had to say about Brent. Porter made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2025, Council meeting, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

**VISITORS:** Carrie Schloss, Co-Chair for the Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport Committee, provided an update to Council. She reported that Kelly Estes, a committee member, had moved out of the area, and a replacement will need to be identified. Once this person is determined, Council will be informed. Schloss reviewed that the committee's recommendations for phase one of the plan were from Gurney through the park to Spring Drive and then connecting into Chagrin Lakes with some crossings. This would connect the most people to the park and about 50% of South Russell residents to each other, the park, and the schools. The committee has been working with Rich Washington, Verdantas, who is looking into this path. The committee also met with the residents who live on the north side of Bell Rd. between Gurney and the park and across from the park towards Spring Dr. The Mayor sent out direct mail to these houses inviting them to a meeting at South Russell Village Park and three of the households attended out of about 10 and there was no opposition. The people living directly across from the park asked why it would be on their side of the street instead of a path through the park where there is a lot of open land. In general, it seemed that people were supportive and would be using the trail and/or have children who would use the

trail for safety reasons. Efforts continue to reach the residents who did not attend the meeting and to provide them with a personalized survey.

Schloss reported that Washington discovered that the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA) funds could be spent on a narrower path than previously thought. So, the trail could be five feet wide instead of ten feet, in a specific half mile segment. Additionally, this project would likely be within the \$800,000 budget. The next steps are to do a cost estimate with grading and materials, and to complete the preliminary study of the master trails plan throughout the Village to explore the broader connection. This information will be provided to the committee at the June meeting on the last Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in Village Hall.

Cavanagh was surprised that more people did not respond to the correspondence. Schloss reiterated that the committee would try one more time to get responses from these residents to be sure their perspectives are taken into account with design considerations.

Porter asked if five feet would be wide enough, and Schloss responded that there were previous concerns about wider paths being too wide for going through residents' yards. She felt that anything that could get walkers and kids on bikes off the road is wide enough. She acknowledged that a wider path would be preferable, but what is feasible and what can actually get done is a good option. She clarified that at five feet, it would not be considered an official recreational trail and would be designed for pedestrian use according to federal guidelines. However, it could be used by slower moving bikes.

The Mayor added that although Washington was given an opinion by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) that the \$800,000 is loosely written, the Mayor would still like to have it in writing about what the Village can do. The Mayor further reported that he learned that Orange Village put in sidewalks but made them a little larger and called them trails. Orange Village will maintain them. They received \$5 million from Pinecrest to do this. Bell added that there were stipulations involved which included making the sidewalks/path curved. The Mayor will speak to the Pepper Pike Mayor and get his opinion. The Fiscal Officer advised that the NOACA grant is an 80%-20% grant, which means NOACA could spend up to \$800,000 and the Village would be on the hook for about \$200,000.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** The Mayor said he had Kelly Estes' letter of resignation and further advised that she is going to become the Medical Director for the U.S. Soccer Federation in Atlanta. Cavanagh made a motion to accept the resignation of Kelly Estes as the co-chair of the trails committee, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The Mayor addressed correspondence from the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing (ADP) about a recent malware attack affecting many Ohio municipalities. He urged the Village to remain vigilant with computer security. He gave ADP credit.

The Mayor spoke about Detective Kevin Spackman's award for the Geauga County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Spackman shared the award with all the law enforcement officers in the county. He was nominated by Prosecutor Jim Flaiz.

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, the Mayor described how he was provided a trail tour of Chagrin Falls, Solon, and the Metroparks by Chagrin Falls Mayor Tomko. Tomko asked the

Village to consider creating something to get from the South Russell Village Park into Frohring Meadows. The Mayor explained that from Frohring Meadows, it is possible to get into downtown Cleveland and out to Garrettsville and potentially to connect to Aurora. The Mayor commented that he had a good discussion with Mayor Tomko, which also included the bike to school event.

The Mayor discussed the creek that runs from Bel Meadow under Chillicothe Rd. into Manor Brook and said that it has provided drainage for people north of the creek almost to the Russell Township line. There may be one more home that will be connected to drain all the backyards. He also advised that he, the Engineer, and Kim Brewster of Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) walked the Manor Brook Flood Plain looking for growth sticks which protect new trees. There was discussion with the Manor Brook Gardens Homeowners' Association (HOA) regarding the extent of mowing that was permitted within the project. All in all, the Mayor said everything was working with the project.

The Mayor showed pictures of the Sugar Bush silt pond and explained that the flow of water goes from Manor Brook through Fox Run and then hits Sugar Bush. Currently, there is an island in the silt pond, which the Village helped clean out about two years ago. The two possible solutions are that the Village continues to try to get all the silt coming from Manor Brook or to tell Sugar Bush to bite the bullet and return their lake to a stream. He met with Sugar Bush residents who were very concerned.

A picture of the Eagle Scout observation deck in the park was displayed.

The Mayor raised the question as to whether there should be designated male and female restrooms at the park, which he thought the Park Committee should consider.

The Mayor showed local bocce ball courts. Cavanagh asked about the materials used, and the Street Commissioner said it is crushed oyster shells.

Gurney Elementary School had a year-end event at the park with an ice cream truck, which has also been proposed for the Village bike ride in August.

The Mayor thought there should be a Special Council meeting next week for the following: to hire a new Street Department employee, the Street Department Clothing Policy, Fall Festival date, and a motion to remove the corner lot to include three trees, asphalt, brick, curbing, and to level the property. Galicki said this was not the wording discussed at the Properties Committee meeting, but it is a topic. The Mayor continued that the agenda for the Special Meeting would also include approval of a resolution supporting Geauga Soil and Water. He explained that Geauga Soil and Water is asking the Village to support their program through a resolution.

The drone garage grand opening luncheon will be next Wednesday, June 18th at noon. It is an employee potluck and will include the two new Police Department officers and hopefully the new Street Department employee.

On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., there will be a bike ride that will start and end at the park. The route will go from the park to Alderwood Tr. to Sorrelwood Ln., and return. Mountain Road Bike Shop will be there with a truck and tent to make any last-minute service calls. The event will be open to walkers, strollers, and bikers. It is just a half mile out and half mile back. There will be an ice cream truck with free ice cream and the total estimated cost will be about \$700 for overtime and the ice cream. If the weather is bad, it will be canceled and there will be no expense.

Steak Two is coming to Burntwood in 2026. The Mayor sent an email to the Plain Dealer pointing out that the restaurant will be in South Russell, not Chagrin Falls, but the reporter responded that the businesses want to be identified as being in Chagrin Falls.

The Mayor proposed holding a retreat from Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup> to come up with plans for committees, to have a trails update, and discussion of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Cavanagh clarified this would be for a couple hours. Regarding the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Mayor wanted to raise the 250<sup>th</sup> flag at the park on January 1, 2026, at noon, and then have a bonfire and s'mores. Galicki asked what the status was of the \$5,000 grant for the 250<sup>th</sup>, and Cavanagh said the Village was turned down. Galicki clarified that anything the Village would elect to do to celebrate would come out of the Village's pocket. The Mayor concurred.

Pete McDonald will walk the park with the Mayor on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m.

The Solicitor reminded the Mayor about ratifying the approval of the luncheon and food purchase for the Service Department interviews. The Mayor explained that they met with the candidates and had the Service Department employees come. They spent \$40 on pizza. Cavanagh made a motion to approve the luncheon for the Service Department interviews last week ratifying the payment of \$40 not to exceed \$45, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, Bell, Canton, Cavanagh, Porter. Nay – Galicki, because it was an after-the-fact expenditure. He stated that funds needed to be approved before they are spent. The Mayor said that when he spoke to some of his colleagues, they do not get into this little stuff and have it all handled differently. The Mayor will find out how they do it. Galicki said that perhaps they do not hold as many luncheons and do not have the issue, and the Mayor said that is not what they say.

**FISCAL OFFICER:** The Fiscal Officer distributed her report. Her recent focus has been on completing the Tax Budget and will send the bank reconciliation and the May financials out to Council when they are complete. She explained that the Tax Budget must be filed by July. She sends it to the county, and the Budget Commission reviews it and decides what amount they will certify for the Village's revenues. Last year, Treasurer Hitchcock told her that a perfect budget would be to have 20% cash carry-over at year end of the Village's expenses. She is currently at 13%. Previously, the Budget Commission complained that the Village's cash balances were too high, but last year they said the Village was too low. This year she was able to improve it a little from last year.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**: Canton reported that the Treasury Investment Board (TIB) met on June 2, 2025, and the minutes were distributed. Meeder Investments reports that management fees will increase from \$5,000 to \$7,500 per year. The Village's investments are projected to earn \$37,000 in 2025 and \$39,000 in 2026. The next Finance Committee meeting will take place on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in Village Hall.

Canton made a motion that Council adopt the 2026 Tax Budget as presented during the Tax Budget Hearing, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Bell asked if there was an update on the proposed elimination of property taxes at the local level. In looking at the budget, so much of the revenue is from property taxes and this makes him nervous. Canton speculated that this may be a political effort to get the legislature to discuss other avenues, and this might just be a trial balloon. The Fiscal Officer said there are concerns and she forwarded the information provided by the Ohio Municipal League (OML) asking Council to reach out to their representatives. If the required signatures are obtained and it goes on the ballot in November, it will start in January. Townships would go bankrupt because everything they get is from property taxes since they have no income tax. It would be very bad. Furthermore, the legislation contains no alternatives other than getting rid of the property tax. The implications of such action were discussed by Council. The Fiscal Officer advised that the Village receives about \$1.7 million in property taxes. Porter observed that this would take a large bite out of the Village's budget. He reasoned that the Village has income tax, but it would not be possible to increase it to the point of making up for the loss of property taxes. There was further discussion about changes with replacement levies. The Fiscal Officer clarified that the Village mainly does renewal levies, not replacement levies. The Solicitor explained that a replacement levy is basically an existing levy that is being renewed, but it is being replaced at the current value as opposed to the value in the year it originally passed. She believed that all replacement levies will be eliminated.

**SOLICITOR:** The Solicitor addressed a discussion at the previous Council meeting about the Village's camping ordinance and potentially changing the definition to include RVs as part of the prohibited camping. She advised that RVs and where they can and cannot be stored are addressed in the Zoning Code, and she was of the opinion that there was no need to amend the camping ordinance. The requirement is that the individual must be an owner of the property at which the RV is located as well as a permanent occupant of the house in order to use the RV. She reiterated that there was no reason to change the camping ordinance because the Village is covered with the RV provisions. The Mayor asked about the instance where a family member comes to visit from out of town in an RV and parks it in the driveway for a week. The Solicitor said this is an issue and there is a conflict in the Codified Ordinances. There is a property maintenance Codified Ordinance that states that vehicles can be stored in the front yard for 72 hours only, which includes RVs. In the Zoning Code, it is necessary to be the owner of the property and a permanent occupant of the house in order to store or park the RV on the property. This will need to be adjusted. Cavanagh wondered if this pertained to the park, and the Solicitor explained that only in residential districts are RVs permitted to be stored or parked. The Mayor thought the Village should take a look at this. He added that vehicles are not permitted to be parked in the driveway in front of a house for more than 72 hours.

**ENGINEER:** In the Engineer's absence, the Mayor described a drainage issue between Country Estates and Laurel Rd. and explained that the residents want the Village to address the problem. It is the result of a swale filling in over time. A similar situation is happening on Sheerbrook due to the Wembley development and residents want the Village to fix the problem. He spoke to the Engineer, who suggested redoing the trail of the Bainbridge/South Russell interurban line and installing a swale to catch the water. The Mayor thought if residents were given the choice of having a swale or people walking through the back of their property, they would not want either. There is nothing the Village can do, and that is the word that will get back to them. It is regretful but it is their problem. If the Village were to get involved, it would cost a fortune in legal work, and he did not think the Village would want to provide that service to the residents. Porter thought this topic had been discussed previously and that the same conclusion was reached. It was a matter of a swale that had not been cleaned out. The Mayor concurred.

**STREET COMMISSIONER:** The Street Commissioner submitted his monthly report. Cavanagh noted that the Street Commissioner had a busy month. The Street Commissioner said it had been busy with projects, but not a lot of projects. Cavanagh added that a lot of time was spent on the interview process for the new Service Department employee. Porter asked if the stacks had been corrected on the new restroom facility, and the Street Commissioner said that had not been done yet and he was waiting for the surrounding ground to be firmer. He added that it did not affect the restroom and was purely cosmetic.

STREETS COMMITTEE: Cavanagh said there is a lot going on and the interviews took some time. The large plow truck needed to be repaired. The \$36,000 for which she was preparing to ask will come from the Large Equipment Fund. The Fiscal Officer stated she included it in the Street Maintenance Fund in the appropriations amendment. The Mayor asked if more information was needed given the amount of the expenditure and asked if Cavanagh wanted to put it off a week. Cavanagh said no. Galicki asked if there was an itemized list of what needed to be repaired, an accurate estimate, and a determination on whether it is more equitable to repair or replace. As a member of the Streets Committee, he had not been provided with this information. The Street Commissioner said he gave a glance over the estimate for the Streets Committee to look at a few months back. To try to repair the existing system as the dealer builder has suggested, it is a hodgepodge of parts that were random parts on a shelf thrown into it. Had this truck been used to plow a parking lot or just a private road that does not see the traffic that the Village has, it may function. However, the system on the 2018 truck is what will be mirrored so an operator can run either of the trucks and the two systems would be the same whether it is the 2018 or 2020. This system allows the operator to plow and salt at the same time. The current system on the truck only allows to do one or the other, which causes gaps in the road where there is no salt. The Mayor proposed having a Streets Committee meeting and then a Special Council meeting to get the \$36,000. Cavanagh agreed and asked the Street Commissioner to get copies of the estimate for the committee. The next Streets Committee meeting is June 16th at 3:00 p.m. Porter asked why they are waiting because the Streets Committee already provided the estimate several months ago. He asked what was being repaired, and the Street Commissioner explained that the full operating system for salt control and hydraulics would be replaced. There will be efforts to reuse parts, if possible, but otherwise it will be a complete replacement. Porter noted that a new truck would be \$150,000. The Street Commissioner said that a new single axel, outfitted five-ton truck, runs about \$280,000. Porter did not recall spending that much on any of the trucks. The Street Commissioner was aware of that, and explained that in the past, the Village purchased demo trucks, which had been used to show other municipalities. This resulted in the first problem that the Village originally had with this truck, which was moisture in the tanks. This will be the third upfit for this truck. The first upfit that came in was that cookie cutter demo truck they bought. They found a lot of moisture in the hydraulic system, which is death. The Village had already paid to have the truck upfitted, and here we are. This will be the last time. Porter suggested making the motion for the repair. The Fiscal Officer asked if three quotes were obtained. The Street Commissioner said he got one through the dealer. Companies that did this type of work in the past are all fading off. Everyone is going towards a fleet mentality truck build, so they want to build you five trucks all the same truck and they do not custom build. Cavanagh made a motion to go forward with the repair for the large plow truck, 2020, it is \$36,000 for the repairs, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Cavanagh reiterated that the next Streets Committee meeting will be on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. but perhaps the time will change to before the Special Council meeting. The Mayor added that for the Special Council meeting, the agenda should also include voting on bids for the salt dome and paving. The Fiscal Officer explained that the Village has the bid, but it is necessary to give the paperwork to the Solicitor so she can write the legislation for the agreement. Cavanagh would contact the Solicitor. The Mayor reiterated that it can be considered at the June 16<sup>th</sup> Special Council meeting. Porter asked if the Engineer will be available for this meeting, and the Mayor did not know but did not think he was. Porter thought it would be valuable to have him there to answer questions about the salt structure as well as the Fairview/Hazelwood project since July 1<sup>st</sup> is coming and the Village can bid out now but cannot award until after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Cavanagh stated that the committee will be meeting on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. in the Building Department. She added that it was nice to have the Building Department Administrative Assistant back.

**POLICE CHIEF:** The Chief informed Council that the garage addition is nearly complete. He thanked the Street Commissioner and Thad Blair with the Service Department for helping with grading and landscaping.

He added that by the end of the week, there should be pavement markings on the crosswalk.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE:** Bell stated that the committee will meet Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the Police Department.

Bell made a motion to approve Kids Day with the South Russell Police Department on July 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and to purchase food for the event, seconded by Galicki. The Chief explained that this event will be replacing the Bike Rodeo and will be more of an open house to show families the Police Department, cars, and Ohio Drone Repair will be there to do drone demonstrations. Kids will be able to fly them. The Mayor asked if the Department had the donated drone, and the Chief said it has been purchased and is on its way. Galicki asked if there was a not to exceed cost for food, and the Chief thought between the pizza and ice cream, it would be \$300 max. Bell amended the motion to purchase food not to exceed \$300, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

**HR COMMITTEE:** Bell reported that the committee had spent a lot of time with the Streets Committee and will have a recommendation for a hire at the next meeting. The next HR Committee meeting will be on July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.

**PROPERTIES COMMITTEE:** Galicki reported that the Properties Committee met on May 29<sup>th</sup>, and the minutes were distributed. The next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The committee is prepared to go forward with a resolution to start phase one of the corner lot, but it is not prepared to make the motion. The Mayor said they knew what needed to be done and what it should say. Galicki explained that the wording was very specific and without the specific wording that was taken by the Mayor after the Properties Committee meeting, he was unwilling to wing a motion. The Mayor said that was ridiculous. Galicki felt it was ridiculous that the documented wording was not present. The Mayor told Galicki it was a motion to remove the three trees, the asphalt, the bricks, the curbing from the corner lot and flatten and landscape the property. Galicki said this was not the wording that the committee proposed. Dates were included that specifically

would prevent this project from being delayed until October at the conclusion of the Farmers' Market. The Mayor said that he provided a revised motion that took that out. It was highlighted in red. Galicki responded that this was not the proposal of the Properties Committee. The Mayor asked Bell what time the HR Committee meeting was taking place, and Bell said 7:30 a.m. on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Galicki added that the alleged revision was not provided to any members of the Properties Committee. The Mayor said he would check.

**PARKS COMMITTEE:** Cavanagh stated that there will be a Parks Committee meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the park. The agenda will include discussion of making the bathroom unisex, the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration, and the Fall Festival dates.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE:** Porter said that the Public Utilities Committee will be meeting on Friday, June 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Village Hall. The Mayor asked that the meeting agenda includes the resolution for the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District contract.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Canton introduced an ordinance approving the amendment to the schedule of fees of the investment management agreement with Meeder Public Funds, Inc., authorizing the Mayor to execute the amendment on behalf of the Village, and declaring an emergency. Canton made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-32** 

Canton introduced an ordinance transferring up to \$276,200 from the Income Tax Fund with up to \$230,000 to the Special Land and Building Fund and up to \$46,200 to the Special Road Fund and declaring an emergency. Canton made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-33** 

Canton introduced an ordinance amending the Annual appropriations increasing Street Maintenance Fund expenses \$11,000, Operating Fund salary and benefit expenses \$60,000, Income Tax Transfer expenses \$276,200, Special Land and Building expenses \$230,000, Special Road Fund \$92,400, and decreasing the Bell Road East Capital Fund expenses \$1,127,071.62 and declaring an emergency. Canton made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-34** 

Canton introduced an ordinance de-certifying \$1,269,769 in revenue for the Bell Road Capital fund and declaring an emergency. Canton made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-35** Porter asked for clarification, and the Fiscal Officer explained that the paving of Bell Rd. was budgeted for 2025, but it will not happen until 2026.

Canton introduced an ordinance certifying \$100,000 in revenue for the Income Tax Fund and declaring an emergency. Canton made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-36** 

BILLS LIST: Canton made a motion to ratify the bills list of May 30, 2025, in the amount of \$27,355.06, seconded by Porter. Voice vote - ayes, all. Motion carried.

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

Porter made a motion that there be a Special Council Meeting on Monday, June 16th at 7:00 p.m. and the subjects will be a motion to hire a new Street Department employee, motion to create a Street Department Clothing Policy, motion to approve the Fall Festival date, a motion with regard to the corner property as it is commonly known including the removal of three trees, asphalt, bricks, curbing, and to level that property, a motion to approve the resolution supporting Geauga Soil and Water, ordinance to award the contract for the salt building contract, a motion for the authorization to go out to bid for the Fairview/Hazelwood project, and discussion of the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District, seconded by Bell. Voice vote - ayes, all. Motion carried.

Bell made a motion to excuse Councilman Berger from this evening's meeting, seconded by Porter. Voice vote - ayes, all. Motion carried.

At 8:12 p.m., Bell made a motion to enter into an executive session to consider the employment of a public employee pursuant to Section 121.22(G)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code and to invite into the executive session the Mayor, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 8:26 p.m. Cavanagh commented that she was surprised that Lynda Macha, who owns the property across from Rarick Cemetery, did not attend the meeting concerning the trails since her property could be one that has the trail run through the front yard. The status of this property was further discussed by Cavanagh.

The Mayor said the Solicitor will be approaching Cotesworth for an easement.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council Porter made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Ullian L. Koons

William G. Koons, May

Danielle Romano pobi Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki