

# Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

June 12, 2024

Mayor Robert Flanagan called the meeting to order, Bob also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Roll Call

Present: Mayor Robert Flanagan, Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell, Jordan Castello, Colby Rinehart, Carol Merritt, Fiscal Officer Ricky Burkhead, Administrator Dirk Davis, Solicitor Michael Shaheen

Absent: Zach Gaston,

## Guest(s)

Stephanie Castello, Chuck Little, Larry Taylor via Phone

## Reports

The Fiscal Officer E-Mailed Fund Status, Cash Summary by Fund, Fund Ledger, Payroll, Receipt Register & YTD Appropriation status reports to Council Members, Administrator, Fire Chief & Mayor. Colby Rinehart made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes, seconded by Jordan Castello, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

## Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Larry Taylor called in and addressed council and discussed the natural gas prices potentially increasing by 50% very soon. Larry stated that the current rates are above the market but that will switch soon. Larry stated that the election results will change how things go. Larry stated that the savings on electric for Bethesda residents so far this year is around \$150,000 for the community.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report:

- Larry Merry from the port authority has the plans for the four way project and bids will be opened tomorrow. Larry is going to get us copies for council to review. We can adapt things into the project if we wish.
- Dirk presented estimates from Scott Lucas, Laroche Tree Service and D&D for tree cutting. The low bid is Scott Lucas for \$1,200 for 303 South Main and \$1500 for Gail, and \$1,200 313 South Main. Carol Merritt made a motion to approve the cutting of 303 South Main and Gail Avenue for a total of \$2,700 from Scott Lucas, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.
- The message board total cost is up to \$1500. We need a cut limestone cap for the top of the brick to keep water out and help the sign last longer. Projected cost is \$2,680, and we need to decide if we proceed or not. Colby Rinehart made a motion to purchase the stone and split it 50/50 General/Fire, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Abstain, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes. Dirk stated that the brick was laid by Brent Gay and Bryan Mason.
- The dirty trailer on Willow is in the process of being demolished and removed. The person will need a building permit once they get building a new home there.
- Seven people were notified for high grass.
- Someone wants to purchase the Nazarene Church and turn it into a house. Is there a permit or any zoning? Mr. Shaheen said that they need to check the deed if there are any restrictions but the village does not have any.
- The Barber downtown is interested in buying the lot beside of his shop and asked if it was for sale. Mr. Shaheen stated that the property would have to be advertised for sale and bid out if we ever wanted to sell it. Mr. Shaheen asked what he wanted the property for. If the property was wanted for parking we could probably lease it and if for a building it would need sold. Mr. Shaheen stated that if it is ever sold we should place a minimum build and a first right of refusal.
- There was an EPA inspection and it went well and a report will be forthcoming.
- The equipment grant for water and sewer equipment was approved and we are ordering the equipment.
- Mowing on the railroad bed to the water meter pit was discussed in length. Bridgeport equipment rental for a John Deer is \$450 a day for an excavator and mower and \$1425 a week. Dirk stated that Goshen TWP has offered us a grader to work on the ditching. Dirk stated that we need to put stone on it as well since we haven't since 2015. Colby asked if the John Deer was a grinder or mower. Dirk stated it was a mower. Dirk stated that he would rent his excavator to the village for \$200 a day. Ruth and Jay asked what if something breaks on it. Dirk stated that he would be for any equipment failures and not the village. Jay asked how many days it would take. Dirk stated that it should only take 3-5 days. Jordan Castello made a motion to rent Dirk's excavator for \$200 a day not more than 5 days, Dirk's Insurance coverage for the machine, and Dirk pays for any damages, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

## Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council (Continued)

June 12, 2024

Fiscal Officer Burkhead presented the Goshen Township fire contract for July 2024 thru July 2027. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the renewal, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes. Rick stated that the audit is complete and will be released in the next week or so and will be on the auditor’s website. Rick stated that Zach Gust is getting us quotes and options for new time clocks. Rick presented Resolution 2024-7 which is the additional police levy of 1.5 mils and will bring in \$27,312 and cost residents \$53 per \$100,000 of property valuation. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-7, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

Police Chief Chris Storm emailed his monthly report to council. Get with Chris if any questions.

Solicitor Shaheen stated that the Fire contract was reviewed. Pike’s Paving is parked in his lot now but the police chief has the forms. Mr. Shaheen stated that we will be able to proceed with a default judgment. 209 Oak Street has informed him that the yard will be mowed. Chuck stated that the yard is now mowed. Mr. Shaheen sent letters for two residents about installing sewer backflow devices.

Mayor Bob Flanagan stated that he spoke to the people on South Main about mowing. Carol stated that she thought that the property was sold. Bob recommended that we mow the yard and assess the property taxes. Mr. Shaheen asked if the property owners would give us a deed in order for us to maintain it. Mr. Shaheen needs the name of the deceased owner and the contact for the estate.

A building permit for Anita McCormick on Depot Street for a fence was presented. Jordan Castello made a motion to approve the permit subject to a double check by council and survey, seconded by Colby Rinehart, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes. A building permit for Chuck Lyons for a screened porch was presented for approval. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the permit subject to a double check, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

The personnel committee presented a list of people and what cameras they should have access to. Access to all cameras is: Police Chief, Police Sergeant, Fire Chief, Mayor, Council President, Dave Green, and Assistant Fire Chief. Access to fire only is the EMS Squad Captain. Access to park only is the Park Board. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve these lists, seconded by Jordan Castello, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

Jordan Castello thanked everyone who helped with the Memorial Day events.

Motion to pay bills by Ruth Saffell, 2nd by Jay Van Horn with a unanimous vote.  
Motion to adjourn by Jay Van Horn, 2nd by Carol Merritt, with a unanimous vote.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.**

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Mayor Bob Flanagan

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Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.