

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

August 14, 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, Zach Gaston, Fiscal Officer Ricky Burkhead, Administrator Dirk Davis, Solicitor Michael Shaheen

Absent:

Guest(s)

Chuck Little, Jeannette Lucas, Dustin Roe, Rod Miller, Cindy Foose, Dave Green

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. Jay Van Horn made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Rod Miller asked if we have had any luck with EQT and the roads. Mr. Shaheen stated that we called again today and left a message but we have had no luck.

Dave Green presented a traffic study that he conducted at the 4 way stop. 226 cars went through in a half hour. 88 cars stopped at the stop sign and 138 did not. Dave suggested a flashing red light be installed at the four way.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report:

- The tree cutting in the park is ongoing. There are 19 trees to be cut on the village's side. Scott Lucas will cut trees for \$4500 per day and he should be able to cut most of them down. Chuck Little has cut 11 of the trees already. We hope to sell the logs of a few of the trees.
- The electronic message board is complete. We paid Brent Gay \$156.39 for supplies and the total project cost is \$4,374.76. Dirk thanked Brent Gay and Bryan Mason for all their help.
- Work on the railroad tracks is proceeding. The ditching is half done.
- The four way stop project was to start August 8th but they are up there surveying today.
- Work on the Virginia Street storm drainage project has begun. We hope to have this dug in four or five days.
- Goshen TWP is resurfacing their roads and they have asked us if we wanted the section done from Howard Abel's on Oak Street to the township line for \$1500 plus oil and stone.
- Front Street and Depot Street drainage is hopefully the last major project of 2024 and we hope to have it finished by the end of the year.

Fiscal Officer Burkhead stated that Chief Storm purchases a good bit of items for the police department and that he feels these should be paid on a village card rather than the village reimbursing him. Zach Gaston made a motion to get Chris Storm a village credit card but stipulated that any purchase over \$100 has to have approval from Rick or Council, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes. Rick stated that Zach Gust has stated that we need to replace Dirk, Theresa, and Dave's computers as they are very old and dated. Zach has agreed to have Rick purchase the hardware and Zach will setup and install them for a fee. Ruth Saffell made a motion to upgrade the computers, seconded by Jordan Castello, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes.

Solicitor Shaheen stated that Pikes Paving suit has been filed and is awaiting Judge Vavra. Jordan Castello stated that the ordinance committee was discussing a permit for fireworks within the village. Jordan stated that she had neighbors shooting and she had debris in her yard. Mr. Shaheen stated that dealing with the area a person has on their property is a lot of red tape.

Mayor Bob Flanagan presented a building permit for Ross Development Group to rehab a house on Oak Street. Ruth made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Jordan, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes. Bob presented a building permit for Ray Flanagan to install a double wide on McKinley. Carol made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Jay, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes. Dirk asked about a building permit for Wesbanco doing work on their drive thru. Mr. Shaheen stated that they should get a permit.

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council (Continued)

August 14, 2024

Mayor Bob Flanagan stated that Chief Storm would like to go to a class that is free of charge. Ruth stated that Chris would like to hire William Pelish part time for the department. Jay Van Horn made a motion to hire William Pelish as a part time patrolman and a six month probationary period, seconded by Colby Rinehart, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Ruth stated that Chris would also like to hire Paul Leek, who is the chief at Flushing, to help cover shifts. Jay Van Horn made a motion to hire Paul Leek as part time patrolman with a six month probationary period, seconded by Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. The cruiser was repaired at Dunning's. There were nine citations and one warnings last month.

Jay Van Horn stated that Chris Hunt couldn't be here this evening. Jay stated that Neil Hunt offered his resignation letter (which Jay read) resigning his position as assistant fire chief. Jay stated that the door is always open for him to come back and work on the department. Jordan made a motion to accept Neil's resignation, seconded by Carol, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Mr. Shaheen presented Resolution 2024-8 which approves the hiring of Dustin Roe as non paid Assistant Fire Chief effective August 1st, 2024. Colby made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-8, seconded by Ruth, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes.

Jay presented an application for Paige Pethetel from Benwood for an EMT position. Carol made a motion to accept the application pending a background check, seconded by Ruth, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Jay gave council the monthly Fire report. There have been 555 calls year to date compared to 446 in 2023 year to date.

Dirk mentioned that Jeanie Shepherd passed away and noted that she was the first female firefighter on the Bethesda Fire Department.

Jordan asked for a budget on Halloween treats and items. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve a \$1,000 budget for Halloween, seconded by Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Jordan stated that trick or treat will be on October 26th and she will be posting a flyer.

Motion to pay bills by Zach Gaston, 2nd by Jay Van Horn with a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn by Zach Gaston, 2nd by Colby Rinehart, with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Wednesday September 11th, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.