

## Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

August 9, 2023

Mayor Samantha Burkhead called the meeting to order, Samantha led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Call

Present: Mayor Samantha Burkhead, Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell, Cindy Foose, Carol Merritt, Rod Miller, Zach Gaston, Fiscal Officer Ricky Burkhead, Administrator Dirk Davis, Solicitor Shaheen

Absent:

### Guest(s)

Jordan Castello, Stephanie Castello, Phil Castello, Steve Avdakov, Robert Yoho

### 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. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes, seconded by Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes.

### Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Dirk introduced Steve Avdakov to give a presentation on making the park a historical district. Steve stated that the Epworth Cottage owners are trying to make sure that the park is sustainable and preserved. Steve stated that he is a preservation architect and has owned his own business for 25 years. Steve stated that the national registry is important and it designates historical sites without restrictions. Steve stated that it will help with grants and marketing. Steve presented maps of the proposed boundaries of the district which encompasses the cottage area and the park lake and dam. Jay Van Horn asked if Steve would consider seeing if the entire park could be included in this proposal. Steve stated that he would check and see if they park grounds could be added to this as well. Steve stated that it will cost around \$20,000 to do this and that he is asking Bethesda for \$5,000 commitment to be put with Steve's donations, the cottage owners \$5000 and a grant from Belmont County Tourism of \$5000 to complete this proposal and send it to the Ohio Historical Society. Steve stated that the payment would need to be made in a month or two. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve this project and have it include the park grounds if possible and the \$5000 fee, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes.

Robert Yoho stated that he lives on Summit Street and he has a neighbor whose cars are very loud and they have a dog that barks constantly. This is Fisher's old house. Jay asked him to fill out a complaint with the police Chief when the issues happen and not wait until council meetings. Jay stated that our procedures are that complaints need to be made with the police and then it is given to the committee or council. Jay stated that if it is reported when it happens the police may be able to address it right away.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented the administrator's monthly report to council:

- Mr. Shaheen responded to Dirk's questions pertaining to water and sewer bills. Glenwood is paying us tomorrow.
- There has been difficulty getting Zach Gust and Comcast to communicate and install the voicemail.
- Steve of Heritage Architectural Associates is here to discuss the historic district opportunity.
- Dirk got an estimate of \$5,693.98 from Zach Gust to fix the camera system and the phone system and there has been no vote. Still no vote.
- Water usage has been around 58k gallons a day which is down considerably.
- Second Street paving was discussed. Dirk gave finance options from General Fund and Street fund, and the county license tax fund. Cindy Foose made a motion to pave Second Street and old gym road up to \$80,000 in total to complete the two projects, seconded by Rod Miller, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Jay Van Horn - Abstain.

Fiscal Officer Burkhead stated that we have gun bash tickets for sale. Rick stated that the county auditor received our budget and both the fire and police levies have been approved and filed for this November ballot.

## Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council (Continued)

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Solicitor Michael Shaheen complimented Rick and getting the levy language figured out and the levies files as it is no easy task. Mr. Shaheen stated that he sent out a letter for special assessments for liens from Belmont County and it details the requirements. Mr. Shaheen stated that it needs to be approved by the second Monday of September. Mr. Shaheen stated that he will need a list of property owners, their parcel numbers, reasons, and amounts for the liens. Samantha stated that there is a list of delinquent water bills that Dirk has but feels some people were left off of the list. Jay stated that some resident's grass was mowed and we should assess any fees we spent on that also. Mr. Shaheen state that we should take advantage of this if we have spent money mowing a resident's yard.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead stated that the Bethesda American Legion sent a letter asking for donations to help improve their facility. Rod Miller suggested that we donate \$1000. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve a \$1000 donation to the Bethesda American Legion Post, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Zach Gaston - Abstain, Carol Merritt - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Abstain. Samantha stated that Larry Merry called her a few months ago about a grant opportunity. Right now the Belmont County TID owns the old gas station at the 4 way on SR 147 and North Main. Samantha stated that the port authority is going to widen the road and then turn the property over to the village to put a welcome to Bethesda area. Mayor Samantha thanked the commissioners for allowing Larry to pursue this grant. Samantha stated that she was told that the post would be removed as soon as possible and they project will begin as soon as it is approved.

Mr. Shaheen requested and executive session to discuss potential litigation and personnel.

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Rod Miller made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and potential litigation, at 7:41 p.m., seconded by Carol Merritt, Jay - Yes, Ruth - Yes, Cindy - Yes, Carol - Yes, Rod - Yes, Zach - Yes.

At 8:13 p.m. Mayor Samantha Burkhead declared executive session over.

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Police Chief Chris Storm stated that if there is no parking permitted on a street, that we need to put up no parking signs. Chris stated that he can't write parking tickets if it is not fair to everyone. Chris stated that there were 20 traffic stops last month and 11 citations. Chris stated that there were three arrests, 11 calls to service and seven business checks. Chris stated that there was also a four wheeler stolen outside of town that has been returned. Chris also asked for us to look into grant funding to replace the cruiser that is aging and is raking up mileage.

Motion to pay bills by Zach Gaston, 2nd by Ruth Saffell, with a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn by Rod Miller, 2nd by Cindy Foose, with a unanimous vote.

**The next meeting will be Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.**

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Mayor Samantha Burkhead

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Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.