

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

January 20, 2021

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

Roll Call

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

Absent:

Guest(s)

Stephanie Castelo, Phil Castello, Shirley Lucas, Larry Taylor, Bill Cox, JR Whiteley, Chuck Little, Dick Quinlin

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 December meeting minutes, seconded by Jordan Castello, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Larry Taylor from volunteer energy presented council with the community reinvestment check to the village in the amount of \$689.89. Larry stated that Volunteer Energy has been working with Bethesda for 10 years now. Larry stated that he wanted to revisit and see if council is interested in working on an electric aggregation program. Larry stated that at one point we had an electric aggregation plan but it wasn't implemented in properly. Larry stated that AWP changes rates four times a year and that over the last year Volunteer Energy rates were lower than AEP. Larry stated that under their plan, anyone can drop out of the program at any time with no termination fee. Currently there is a 12 month revolving plan that would allow us to revisit the plan approval annually. Larry stated that there would be a community reinvestment program with an electric plan too. Jay asked what happens with people are dealing with AEP and paying on a budget. Larry stated that there is no difference on how it works with people on a budget vs not on a budget and that it doesn't have anything to do with the aggregate supplier and that there shouldn't be any additional charges. Larry stated that we can take time with the program and discuss and try to get a good program that works for the residents and village. Jay asked for some data from the first time we tried this to see how the numbers were last time and how many people enrolled in the plan or left the plan. Solicitor Shaheen asked that we add this to the water committee and make it a utility committer and Larry work with that committee. Larry is going to come to the committee meeting and work with them. Samantha thanked Larry for coming and presented the community reinvestment check.

Samantha stated that she had a personal statement to make. Samantha stated that she recently has a personal battle and had someone to help her through it and she helped him when he went through his battle. She stated that there is not a lot of cancer support out there and she is going to start a nonprofit to help cancer victims and their families. Samantha stated that if anyone wants to be a part of this they are welcome to be a part of it.

Fiscal Officer Burkhead presented Resolution 2021-1 which is a contract to hire Michael Shaheen as village solicitor. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Jordan Castello, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Rick asked council to approve the budgets and appropriations for 2021 and to submit them to the county auditor. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve the budgets and appropriations, seconded by Jordan Castello, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Rick asked council to approve the removal but everyone but himself and Dirk from the access to the village safety deposit boxes with Wesbanco. Carol Merritt made a motion to approve that, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes.

Rick presented Dirk's administrators report.

- 1- Dirk has not heard anything about the contract for the street roller between Bethesda, Belmont, and Goshen TWP. Dirk hasn't heard about any payments from Goshen or Belmont. Rick was to pay Southeastern last month. Dirk asked the new solicitor to work on a contract for the use of the roller with Belmont solicitor.
- 2- Dirk asked that the contract for the street sweeper be re-written so that an employee from Belmont can operate the sweeper when they need it. Dirk would like our new solicitor to be involved in this.
- 3- The Virginia Street sewer project will begin in the spring around April or May.
- 4- Byron has been doing a great job with snow removal and needs to be commended for his work. Jim has a hard time getting to work where he lives when it snows, but when he does, he does a great job as well.
- 5- Allies and Anderson Addition have been double chipped and sealed by Pike's Paving. This spring if there are places that need repaired Pike's will make the repairs at no charge.
- 6- Mr. Anthony Gregor is interested in buying or leasing about 6.5 acres of land below the reservoir dam down to the sewer plant.
- 7- Barr surveying has completed the surveying for possible new roads from North Main to First Street, and Summit Street to Oak Street. Dirk would like to proceed with getting these streets dedicated and named.
- 8- Dirk needs Mr. Shaheen to work on an easement for installing drain pipe for storm water control on Gail Avenue to Liberty Lane.
- 9- The Community room is being rented about every two weeks and is starting to be filled quickly as spring nears.

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council (Continued)

January 20, 2021

Samantha reminded everyone about the book program she created for 0-5 year olds to get a free book each year for their birthday. Signup sheets are at the city building. Samantha asked if the village is interested in holding a fireworks display again this year. Jordan suggested doing a paypal account for people to send money. JR stated that a page dedicated to the fireworks would work on a go fund me. Rod stated that a go fund me makes a little more sense. Jay Van Horn made a motion to hold a \$10,000 go fund me for the purpose of funding the fireworks, seconded by Carol Merritt, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Fireworks will be tentatively scheduled for Sunday July 11th. Rick will ask Dirk to check with Mr. Braido to see if his property may be used again this year.

Jay Van Horn presented application for Brian Mason to be a firefighter. Rod Miller made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Jordan Castello, Jay Van Horn - Abstain, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Jay Van Horn presented an application for Zach Mason to be a firefighter. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the applications, seconded by Carol Merritt, Jay Van Horn - Abstain, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes.

Jay Van Horn stated that he needed two people from the village council to be on the Ohio Firefighters Dependents Fund. Ruth and Jordan agreed to be the designees.

Jordan Castello stated that she hopes to hold movies in the park this year. Hopefully we can get this off of the ground this year.

Solicitor Shaheen stated that he will be working on the several tasks that were given to him. Mr. Shaheen stated that the road dedication pieces has several steps but is not overly difficult and he will get us a protocol for what is needed to work on this. Mr. Shaheen asked what happened with the street sweeper. Rick explained that the agreement says that Bethesda must operate the equipment and that we would like to have that changed to allow for Belmont employees to operate it. Mr. Shaheen and JR Whitely discussed the paving roller and JR explained what he would like to see in the agreement. Rick stated that he would email Mr. Shaheen the email that JR sent him with the requests.

Jay Van Horn made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel, at 7:28 p.m., seconded by Carol Merritt, Jay - Yes, Ruth - Yes, Jordan - Yes, Carol – Yes, Cindy – Yes, Rod - Yes.

At 8:31 p.m. Mayor Samantha Burkhead declared executive session over.

Motion to pay bills by Jay Van Horn, 2nd by Ruth Saffell, with a unanimous vote.
Motion to adjourn by Jordan Castello, 2nd by Cindy Foose, with a unanimous vote.
The next meeting will be Thursday February 25th, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead

Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.