

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

June 10, 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, Carol Merritt, Cindy Foose, Solicitor Michael Shaheen, Police Chief Chris Storm
Absent:

Guest(s)

Stephanie Castello, Phil Castello, Bill Cox, Fred Thompson, Sandy Tomolonis, Debbie Mason, Neil Hunt, Chris Hunt, Alan Stonebreaker, Joni Davis, 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. Rod Miller made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Park Board President Debbie Mason and Joni Davis addressed council about a proposed ban on feeding waterfowl at the park. Joni stated that she met with the ordinance committee and asked for an ordinance banning the feeding of geese and ducks. Joni stated that we know it is tough to enforce but we need to try to stop people from feeding the animals if we are ever going to be able to cut back on how many geese there are in the park. Jordan asked about making an ordinance making it illegal to drop ducks off in the park. Jordan stated that the geese will come even if you stop feeding the geese because there is water and grass. Jordan asked if the park was going to tear up all of the grass. Debbie stated that this advice was given to us from ODNR and we were instructed to follow the steps to help with the issue. Debbie stated that even the babies are coming up to people in the park. Jordan stated that we need a median for the matter. Joni stated that she disagrees and that we need to stop feeding the geese so that they will move on and not make a home. Joni stated that she misunderstood Jordan and that at the committee meeting Jordan thought that this was a good idea. Samantha stated that there are a lot of people spending time and money trying to improve the park and that this is a step to protect everyone's investment. Dirk stated that we won't discourage people from feeding with signs alone. Rick stated that we just applied for a \$50,000 grant to rehabilitate the ball field and we have geese pooping all over the field. Dirk stated that people who are renting the shelters are complaining. Jordan stated that during the winter the ducks and geese have no food and that she goes and feeds them. Jordan asked if this ordinance passes is the board going to have her fined for feeding the ducks. Jordan stated that she goes up once a day and feeds them in the winter and provides a house for them. Joni stated that she understands but is asking council for their support to help stop the feeding of the ducks.

Chuck Little thanked everyone who helped with the Memorial Day parade. Chuck commended the police department for doing a great job.

Alan asked if council is aware that water trucks are going through town that are leaking stuff on the road. Dirk stated that they are brine trucks. Dirk stated that our contract with EQT expired and these trucks are not supposed to be going through town. Dirk and Solicitor Shaheen are going to see who to get a hold of for this matter. Neil stated that they are going clear down South 26. Alan stated that cars are still speeding through town on South Main and Oak Street. Samantha stated that she has made Chris aware of the issue and they are going to patrol the area.

Sandy Tomolonis asked if there was a way to put a slow traffic sign on the alley behind our house. Dirk stated that he would have a sign put up for her. Samantha is going to tell Chris to watch this alley as well.

Fred Thompson asked if we have a police department. Samantha stated that yes we have seven officers. Samantha stated that they are now setup and able to issue tickets. Fred stated that it is going to take a year to issue tickets. Solicitor Shaheen stated that we just informed him that the department is ready to go. Fred stated that he wants to file charges against his neighbor. Fred stated that he hasn't seen or spoke Chris. Jay Van Horn asked Fred if Chris was up to visit the issue. Jay stated that he heard about the conversation that was had between him and Chris. Jay stated that Chris has visited the situation several times. Fred stated that yes he did talk to Chris. Samantha stated that the case had previously gone to western division court and a decision was made. Solicitor Shaheen stated that if Fred wishes to file another complaint that he can give it to the chief and he will forward it to the prosecutor. Samantha stated that the chief will be here on Saturday afternoon and told Fred to get with him then.

Fiscal Officer Burkhead presented the six bids for the sale of the street trucks. Rick announced that the high bidder for the dump truck was the Village of Morristown for \$16,121.00 Cindy Foose made a motion to approve the sale of the dump truck to Morristown, seconded by Carol Merritt, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Rick announced that the high bidder for the F350 was Wayne Moore at \$3,000.00. Carol Merritt made a motion to accept the bid and sell the F350, seconded by Jordan Castello, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Rick stated that we should have a finance meeting to decide where to set the money until we decide how to use it. Solicitor Shaheen stated that he doesn't think we are done seeing government assistance so we might set this money back for matching funds. Rich asked for a motion to approve a \$500 budget from the General Fund to purchase a new safe for the police department from Tractor Supply. Ruth made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Rod Miller, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes.

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council (Continued)

June 10, 2021

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report:

- 1- License plates on the three new vehicles are installed.
- 2- 250 Hybrids have been put into the park lake and grass carp have been put in the reservoir for \$1500.00.
- 3- Dave is working with a company in Canada to get parts for the pump at the park lake fountain.
- 4- Dirk presented an estimate from Susan Bashmore to put new blinds in the community room for \$1480.00. Dirk recommended using this company to install new blinds. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the purchase of the blinds, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes.
- 5- New chairs have been installed in the council room and Theresa got us a great deal at Staples.
- 6- Mid Atlantic painted the double yellow line for \$1,656.60. Jay asked about the situation of paving on Main Street from the damage of oil and gas traffic. Michael stated that he knows a gentleman to call.
- 7- A water tap was installed on Green's old property as we could not find the old water tap. There was a big line over the meter pit from our main line. Dirk stated that we installed a top out on our main line so that we are not liable for the service line.

Jay Van Horn asked about John Bates retiring. Dirk stated that John has mentioned that he may retire this December. Dirk and Dave spoke to Doug Frye to see if he is interested in the job that requires 80 hours a month. Jay asked if it was possible to have the sewer plant lowered to a lower class to reduce the hours needed to operate it. Dirk stated that he has looked at this in the past and is going to look into this again.

Solicitor Shaheen stated that the agreement for the paving roller was not acceptable and he is going to contact the parties involved. Council has discussed purchasing the parking lot behind the library for \$12,000 in two payments of \$6000 one on 07/31/21 and the second on 01/31/22. Solicitor Shaheen asked if council wished to proceed. Jordan Castello made a motion to approve the purchase of the properties from Joel Braido and approve Resolution 2021-12, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Solicitor Shaheen did a first reading on Ordinance 2021-7 which is an ordinance to prohibit the feeding of wildlife in the park. Carol Merritt made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2021-7, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Jay Van Horn - No, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – No, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Solicitor Shaheen presented Ordinance 2021-7 which is an agreement with ODOT allowing them to maintain the state route through the village. Rod Miller made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Carol Merritt, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-7, seconded by Carol Merritt, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes. Solicitor Shaheen stated that the food at the fire department was delicious and that Jordan did a nice job on the Memorial Day festivities.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead stated that she and several others have met with Ohio GIG which is working to offer fiber internet in Belmont County. Ohio GIG is about a year to a year and a half out from getting to Bethesda. On June 17th there is a meeting at Union Local to discuss the project. Samantha said that anyone can go and support them if they wish.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead discussed having a community garden in the village's empty lot downtown by the barbershop next year. Samantha stated that this was brought up by a few people and over the next year she would like to prep the area and make it suitable for a community garden.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead stated that the police department is holding a raffle for three guns, a knife and some ammo. The tickets are \$10 a ticket and there are 500 tickets. Tickets will be sold at a boot at the Chautauqua Festival. Samantha stated that fireworks will be held on July 11th. The fire department is going to sell food outside of the event center and hold a boot drive at the same time. Festivities will start around 6:00pm.

Rod presented two building permits, Laroach for a garage and Taylor for a fence. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve both permits, seconded by Jordan Castello, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead gave council a paper copy of the police report which is available at the city building.

Fire Chief Neil Hunt thanked everyone who helped on Memorial Day with the chicken BBQ. Neil said the event was a big success. Neil stated that the ambulance we have on order will now be delivered in January due to supply chain issues.

Ruth Saffell made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Personnel and Contracts, at 7:57 p.m., seconded by Jay Van Horn, Jay - Yes, Ruth - Yes, Jordan - Yes, Carol – Yes, Cindy – Yes, Rod - Yes.

At 8:21 p.m. Mayor Samantha Burkhead declared executive session over.

Motion to pay bills by Jordan Castello, 2nd by Ruth Saffell, with a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn by Jordan Castello, 2nd by Rod Miller, with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Wednesday July 14th, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.