

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

November 10, 2021

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

Roll Call

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

Absent:

Guest(s)

Stephanie Castello, Phil Castello, Chuck Litte, Denise Miller, Bill Cox, Bob Orr, Lana Orr, Paul Fitch, Sherri Fitch, Shirley Lucas, Zach Gaston, Alan Stonebreaker, Mike Flowers, Jeannette Lucas, Mark Stiles

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

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Mark Stiles addressed council and asked if the alley behind his property is going to get opened and stone put on it. Dirk explained that three people do not want it opened all the way. Mark stated that he would like to have it opened at least to his property. Solicitor Michael Shaheen stated that if it is already an open alley that it would not need to be dedicated. Samantha stated that residents did come to council with concerns about the alley being maintained. Jay Van Horn asked if we can review the meeting minutes and see what the deal is with the issues. Jay stated that if we maintain it, we need to make sure we inform all of the property owners and let them what when and what is going to be done. Mark said that if it was maintained by spring it would be fine with him. Dirk stated that he would contact everyone and let them know the village intentions of opening and maintaining the alley.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report:

- Judson and Pear chip and seal will be complete in November sometime.
- There is no news on HB 168 grant applications.
- The Gail Avenue drainage has been completed by Jim and Byron. 12” storm pipe was installed along with three catch basins. Dirk commended Jim and Byron for their work. Hull surveyed the straight line on Gail for free to find where the West side of the street is.
- Gail paving update. The street prep work will need to be finished and then paving will commence. Paving will hopefully start Thursday and everyone on Gail has been notified. A resident contacted the Mayor and requested that their bank not be disturbed so the street was not widened. Samantha asked how the drainage will work on Gail. Dirk explained that a catch basin was installed on Maple at the bottom of Gail and the water will go there and then down the street. Dirk stated that eventually the catch basin will need to be piped down the street to the valley behind Masons so they catch basin is tied in to the storm drainage system.
- A catch basin was added on the west side of Virginia Street and another will be added on the east side by the park.
- Liberty Lane culvert replacement will start on November 22-23 and we will replace the 20” pipe with a 36”. Roger Morris quoted \$4,000-\$5,000 for the labor to perform the work. The Village will supply the material. If it doesn't start on 11/23 Dirk will have them start after Thanksgiving.
- Brian Mason is helping the village rehab the Christmas street lights. New LED lights have been ordered to work on them and get as many as possible working.
- Flags will be taken down on Friday.
- A salute to all who have served, Happy Veterans Day!
- Salt and grit for the winter has been purchased and we have in stock about 80 tons of each.

Solicitor Michael Shaheen informed council that he sent a letter to EQT concerning the condition of Main Street. A letter was also sent to Belmont regarding the contract for the use of the street cleaner. Jay Van Horn stated that item #11 should say Belmont and Bethesda. Mr. Shaheen agreed and will make that change.

Fiscal Officer Rick Burkhead presented Resolution 2021-14 which is a resolution to hire Emily Alleman as EMT. Rod Miller made a motion to approve resolution 2021-14, 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 Resolution 2021-15 to hire Danielle Strickland as EMT. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve resolution 2021-15, seconded by Carol Merritt, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes. Rick informed council that the Park Board was awarded the Natureworks Grant in the amount of \$31,920 in grant funds and about \$10,000 matching funds. This will completely rehabilitate the ball field at the park with new infield, fencing, and drainage. Rick reminded everyone that the Gun bash is Saturday and we are sold out but still have meal tickets.

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Mayor Samantha Burkhead stated that we have two applicants for the mayor's court position. Samantha stated that Jessica is currently doing the job and is going a great job. Samantha stated that we should plan the employees Christmas dinner. It was decided the village would provide the meat and everyone bring a side. Jay Van Horn made a motion to purchase \$100 gift certificates for the village employees, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes. Samantha stated that we are going the Christmas house decorating contest again and will post the information later. Samantha stated that we want to decorate the park again this year and if anyone wants to help they are welcome to come help.

Police Chief Chris Storm thanked everyone for the Fruit Baskets as they were much appreciated. Chris stated that there were eight traffic stops last month. Active shooter training was helped at the Sheriff's Office. Chris stated that he tested two cameras from Wolfcom and he is looking into other ones as well. Chris filed for a grant to help pay for some mandatory training required by the state. There was one stolen animal which was returned. There was a complaint about some goats on the road. There was a burning complaint. The police assisted with a couple house calls and a fire call. Bethesda PD assisted Belmont with Trick or Treat. The department conducted two animal welfare checks. Two weeks ago Chris went and met the people at the senior citizens center who have donated \$100 to shop with a cop. Chris stated that Jordan did a fine job with the fall festival. There is now a temporary evidence locker. Chris is working on a police manual. All of the officer but one have passed training. Chris stated that he would like to have drug councilors come in once a month and have meetings in the community with drug issues. Jay Van Horn commended Chris on the way he treats people and the compassion that he has for people. Chris stated that in the spring he wants to do a small explorer program for the kids and also hold a safety town. Chris stated that in the spring he will hold the movie in the park for the kids. Chuck stated that he would donate pizza for the movie as well.

Rod Miller presented a building permit for Neil Fankhouser for a fence. Rod made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

Dirk stated that a Delores Richardson came in and asked if the village would donate the use of the community room to hold a fundraiser for a gentleman with heart problems and major doctor bills. Cindy Foose made a motion to waive the rental fee for 11/13 & 11/14 for them, seconded by Carol Merritt, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

Dirk asked council to approve the contract for Roger Morris to perform the work on Liberty Lane. Jay Van Horn made a motion to approve it providing the solicitor is ok with it, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

Jay Van Horn made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Personnel and purchase of property at 7:38 p.m., seconded by Jordan Castello, Jay - Yes, Ruth - Yes, Jordan - Yes, Cindy – Yes, Carol – Yes, Rod - Yes.

At 8:25 p.m. Mayor Samantha Burkhead declared executive session over.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead stated that Chris Storms probationary period is up and that she would like to make the recommendation to remove Chris from probation and confirm him as the permanent police chief. Jay Van Horn made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – No, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

Motion to pay bills by Carol Merritt, 2nd by Cindy Foose with a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn by Cindy Foose, 2nd by Carol Merritt, with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Wednesday December 8th, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.