

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

November 14, 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, Zac Gaston, Rod Miller, Officer Ricky Burkhead, Administrator Dirk Davis, Solicitor Michael Shaheen

Absent:

Guest(s)

Stephanie Castello, Jordan Castello, Colby Rinehart, Chuck Little, Bob Flanagan

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 October meeting minutes, seconded by Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Chuck Little asked about when the lien that was placed on his property for unpaid water bills. Dirk stated that it was on the 13th of September. Chuck asked if he had a lien on his taxes. Mr. Shaheen stated that at that time Chuck had delinquent water bills along with several others that were over a certain period of time past due and then those amounts were given to the county auditor. Mr. Shaheen stated that the rule is that after a lien is filed that any further payment have to go to the county and not to us. Since Chuck paid the water department on October 3rd, then we have to send the money to the auditor. Chuck asked why his water bill isn't paid since he brought in a check and why he has a lien. Rick stated that it was not applied and was refunded to him because the payment on 10/03 was made after the lien was filed on 09/13. Chuck stated that the auditor told him to leave the check at the city building and to have Theresa write a letter to the auditor that the water bill was paid in full. Chuck asked why he is being charged \$14 for fees at the county. Chuck said that the village filed the lien and they should pay it. Mr. Shaheen stated that is not how the law works. Chuck stated that his business was shut down due to an accident and he couldn't get his water bill paid on time and then someone stabs him in the back and puts a lien on his property without any notification. Rick asked if Chuck was provided shut off notices. Chuck stated that he was not. Dirk stated that he was given shut off notices. Dirk stated that this account was delinquent several months. Dirk explained that he was asked to report on all delinquent water bills in the village to be turned over for liens. Mr. Shaheen asked how delinquent his bill was. Chuck stated that he did not know because his wife takes care of it. Chuck stated that they always pay the water bills and it may have been a little bit late. Samantha stated that the decisions for liens on all water bills was based on the amount and the time delinquent which was over 3-4 months. Dirk stated that Chucks was delinquent by four months. Dirk stated that he is speaking to county auditor to see how to get this resolved since the liens have not been processed completely by the county yet. The liens were sent to the auditor in mid September and Chuck came in to pay on October 3rd. Jordan asked about setting up an auto pay. Rick stated that processing credit cards online will create fees and make the process more costly and difficult for the water department. Jordan stated that Wesbanco no longer takes water bill payments. Rick stated that they have been taking payments. Dirk said he would talk to Wesbanco.

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

- Dirk stated that Alan Stonebraker and two residents on Gail have asked about trees by the streets and who is in charge of cutting trees. Mr. Shaheen stated that he had a client with a similar issue where someone tried to remove a tree from a right of way. Mr. Shaheen stated that if the tree is in the right of way and the village has unfettered use, then the village has the liability. If the village does not have unfettered use of the property then it would fall on the property owner. Mr. Shaheen stated that if we do not have a dedicated right of way and do not want to use the property for anything then it would not be the village's responsibility and the resident should speak to their insurance company.

Fiscal Officer Burkhead presented a loan agreement for \$23,200 thru the State Fire Marshal's Office to purchase a heart monitor. Carol Merritt made a motion to approve the loan agreement, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Rick asked council if they wished to give hams and gift cards to the village employees like years past. Rod Miller made a motion to approve the hams and Riesbeck's gift cards, seconded by Cindy Foose, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Rick stated that the brush truck needs to be advertised for bid submissions. Ruth Saffell made a motion to advertise three times in the Times Leader, seconded by Cindy Foose, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Dirk asked the fire department about donating the old truck to the street department. Zach said that he thought that it had to be offered back to the forestry grant people and if they didn't want it then it could be kept. Rick stated that the gun bash profited \$45,307.05 and asked for approval to send half to the fire fund and half to the park. Ruth Saffell made a motion to divide the profit in half and make the transfers, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Rick stated that year to date we have made \$17,418 from mayors court and have transferred \$18,000 to the police fund for the mayors court fines. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the transfers, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Rick stated that we are decorating the park again this year and asked for opinions on buying a large 30 foot Santa for the middle of the ball field and to ask for donations to help with the purchase. We hope to put up lights on November 19th.

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Solicitor Shaheen stated that a draft of the Pike Paving complaint is complete. Mr. Shaheen stated that he had a change of personnel at the office. Samantha stated that Columbia Gas dug up the end of Gail for a line repair but they should be fixing that issue. Dirk stated that Columbia should contact the village before they dig. Dirk stated that he is waiting on signatures and paperwork for the Johnson Road water line to be turned over to the village. Mr. Shaheen thanked council for being accommodating for the meeting date change.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead thanked everyone who helped with the gun bash and thanked everyone who helped build and deliver Veteran's Day baskets. Samantha stated that the Christmas parade is on December 9th at 6:00 and we will be having cookies and hot chocolate in the community room after. Samantha stated that the employee Christmas dinner is on Friday December 8th at 7:00 and it will be a covered dish dinner.

Andy Miller stated that there were six security checks, six calls to service, six traffic stops, and two citations last month. Andy stated that the yearly report is in everyone's mail slot which states that there were 145 traffic stops, three arrests, six charges, and two misdemeanor county charges.

An agreement for Ohio First Responder Grants LLC was presented to council to approve them to write a grant for new fire hose and new fireman PPE. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes.

Jay Van Horn asked if the village will donate a dinner for Thanksgiving and Christmas along with the Fire Department. Mr. Shaheen stated that he would sponsor two dinners. Everyone thanked Michael.

Cindy Foose stated that as an outgoing peep, she wanted to congratulate the incoming peeps.

Rod Miller stated that the corner of Pear and Judson is developing into the new town cat house. Rod asked Chris Storm to keep an eye on it.

Bob Flanagan discussed the trees along the road issue.

Motion to pay bills by Cindy Foose, 2nd by Ruth Saffell, with a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn by Cindy Foose, 2nd by Zach Gaston, with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Tuesday November 14th, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead

Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.