

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON JULY 7, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Kevin Gilmore called the July 7, 2008 meeting of the Ottawa Hills Village Council to order at 7:30 p.m

Mr. Reichert, noting the absence of Clerk Treasurer Katherine O'Connell made a motion to appoint Marc Thompson as acting Clerk Treasurer. Jim Walter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Roll was then taken with Council members Jeff Gibbs, Jack Straub, Rex Decker, Jim Walter, and Robert Reichert present. Also present were Mayor Kevin Gilmore, Village Solicitor Sarah McHugh and Village Manager Marc Thompson. Absent were Clerk Treasurer Katherine O'Connell and Council member Norma King.

Members of the audience included Nasrin Afjeh, Yarko Kuk, and Mr. & Mrs. Bellman.

Mayor Gilmore then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Gibbs made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2 meeting. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Decker reported that income tax collections were a little ahead of budget and expenses through June were at 44% of the budget.

Mr. Decker also mentioned a Public Employees Retirement System liability related to a former employee of the Village in an amount of \$10,000. He commented that it was unfortunate but an obligation that the Village could do nothing about.

Mr. Reichert reported on the July 1 meeting of the Street Committee. A substantial discussion occurred at the meeting regarding the upcoming paving west of Talmadge Rd. particularly related to the Forestview curve. It was agreed at the meeting that sidewalks would not be installed on the Forestview curve and that a rolled curb would be put in place on a limited basis. Mr. Reichert reported that the committee thought that inclusion of sidewalks could occur at a later date if necessary but would dramatically increase the amount of paved surface in the area. He also reported that the width of the pavement would be increased and would be consistent throughout the curve.

The Street Committee also reviewed the upcoming project including Pembroke and the side streets as well as Hawthorne Rd. Based on a survey of Halifax Rd. residents it was agreed that there would be no speed humps on Halifax although there would be one speed hump per block on Pembroke Rd. The Street Committee also discussed and approved a plan which would modify the configuration of the Halifax/Indian intersection. The paved area west of the island would be removed and the island would become a peninsula. Access to the nearby properties would remain.

Discussion also involved the proposal to extend the sidewalk along the south side of Bancroft St. from Hawthorne Rd. to Edgevale Rd. This would be approved if the two affected neighbors did not object.

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Discussion also involved 2009 projects including Orchard Rd. north of Indian and the side streets from Orchard Rd. and engineering for Issue 2 applications due later this year. The next Council agenda will include funding for engineering of these capital items.

Mr. Straub reported on a recent Services & Environment Committee meeting which approved resurfacing the fire bay floor in an amount of about \$6500.

The Committee also discussed at length the Village owned property at Indian and Bancroft St. where the sculpture garden is currently located. Mr. Straub reported that Larry Mitchell had provided a proposal of possible improvements to the area and commented that the committee thought that the area has not been developed as it might be. Committee discussion involved possibly making the area more formal and perhaps creating an outdoor meeting area but committee members agreed that they weren't certain of all the possibilities. Mr. Straub reported that the committee wished to proceed to employ a landscape architect to look at the various possibilities for this property.

Mr. Walter commented that it was a great place to put efforts since it is a major gateway to the Village and that the sculpture garden seemed to be a very good start as a way to improve the property.

Mr. Decker reminded the Council that the marketing advisory group is working towards gateway signage, one of which would be located on Bancroft St. at Secor Rd. He thought it was very important that the sculpture committee be involved in the gateway signage design.

Mayor Gilmore commented that use and development of this property may appropriately involve the Land Use Committee, also. Mr. Gibbs agreed stating that the Land Use Committee was recommending a contract with D.B. Hartt, Inc. and suggested that Mr. Hartt be made aware of the land and its potential uses. It was agreed that the gateway signage should be coordinated with the Land Use Committee as well as with the Sculpture Committee and the Land Use Committee should be involved with development of the point area.

Mr. Straub also reported that the committee heard a presentation from the Toledo Metropolitan Area of Council of Governments on habitat restoration. He reviewed the concept of wetlands mitigation and briefly described potential sites in the 4100 block of Brookside Rd. TMACOG has identified two options for improvement of the wetlands in that area. One of them would be a natural meadow and a second would be a more traditional wetlands. He commented that perhaps the entire Council should be made aware of the proposal at an upcoming Council meeting. It was reported that there is a public meeting to discuss the proposed project on July 22 in the community room at the elementary school.

Solicitor Sarah McHugh stated that the Boice case has been referred to Judge Jennings with a pretrial scheduled for Wednesday morning.

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She also reported on the lawsuit filed by Spring Valley Architects related to the Geresy Field construction. A pretrial occurred recently and Comte Construction was not in attendance. The trial has been set for December.

Mayor Gilmore, in recognition of the recent heavy rains and flooded basements experienced by several Village homes, assigned to the Equipment, Utilities, Buildings & Grounds Committee the task of investigating the flooding problems and recommending appropriate solutions to those problems.

Under the heading of old business a review occurred of the status of the Village website which included demonstration regarding the "Homes for Sale" portion of the website. The primary topic of discussion was the banner headline representing the Danberry Co. Recently, representatives of Danberry Corporation, with whom the Village had been working, indicated that this Danberry logo must be in place. This is contrary to previous understanding and it is the desire of the Village to assure that the website does not show favoritism.

There was consensus on the part of the Council that the presence of the Danberry logo was unacceptable. Contact will be made with Danberry Corporation to review possible alternatives.

Mayor Gilmore commented that the marketing firm, Team Z, suggested that the presence of the logo was not so significant as to warrant a major change. Mayor Gilmore agreed with the Council that the currently proposed situation was unacceptable.

Council member Walter reported that the turf project for the high school stadium has been put on hold but there seems to be a very strong commitment on the part of the school board to proceed with the project next summer. The Board of Education had concerns about the timing, performance bond, and a variety of other issues. They made their decision last Tuesday that the schedule was too tight to reasonably expect completion to occur. The Board confirmed that the project would not go forward in 2008 but they will involve a professional to thoroughly investigate the proposal and keep it moving forward for the 2009 summer. The Board seems convinced that artificial turf is the best way for the community to proceed.

Mr. Walter continued stating that many people were disappointed about the decision but that the Board remains committed knowing that the community is behind the project. He also stated that he hoped that the Village would maintain its commitment to the project. Mr. Decker suggested that a public meeting on the project would be helpful so that the entire community understood the implications of the project, its cost, and other relevant issues.

Mr. Gibbs reported on the Land Use Committee stating that it had met three times this year. The first meeting involved background about the community, zoning issues, etc. At the second meeting proposals from three land use consultants were reviewed and it was agreed that David Hartt of D.B. Hartt, Inc. would be asked to address the committee.

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The committee met recently with Mr. Hartt and concluded that he would be a good match for our community. Mr. Hartt has over 30 years of experience, serves on the Shaker Heights Planning Commission and seems to have a good understanding of the issues facing Ottawa Hills. Mr. Gibbs made a motion to authorize an agreement with D.B. Hartt, Inc. Mr. Decker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Walter reported on meetings involving the potential creation of a recreation district. He said that two members of the Council, Mr. Decker and Mr. Walter, along with two members of the Board of Education, Gretchen Rohm-Ensing and John Buckey, have been meeting regularly. They hope to have a report in place by the September/October time frame so that if a new structure was created it would be in place for a September 2009 starting time. He identified the main issues as scheduling of events, paid staff, and control of various assets. He concluded by stating that the group would continue to meet and would be issuing a report relatively soon.

Attention then turned to legislation.

Resolution 2008-13	Authorizing a contract with Crestline Paving and Excavating for repair and resurfacing of Brookside road, Falmouth Road, and Forestview Road in the Village of Ottawa Hills and declaring an emergency.
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Mr. Reichert moved to dispense with the rule requiring a Resolution be fully and distinctly read on three different days. Mr. Straub seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Reichert moved for the passage of the Resolution as an emergency measure. Mr. Straub seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Reichert moved for final passage of the Resolution as an emergency measure and Mr. Straub seconded, the roll being called the vote thereon was as follows: 5 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Mr. Decker made a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of discussion of acquisition of real property. Mr. Walter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Council moved into executive session at 8:39 p.m.

Council returned to regular session.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Village Council would be on August 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Kevin Gilmore, Mayor