

# Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

April 13, 2022

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

## Roll Call

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

## Guest(s)

Jordan Castello, Stephanie Castello, Phil Castello, Chuck Little, Neil Hunt, Chris Hunt, Larry Taylor, Debbie Mason, Joni Davis, Bill Cox

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

## Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Larry Taylor informed council that Volunteer Energy has filed for chapter 13 and that he is now with a company called Trebil Energy. Larry stated that all Bethesda residents that were on the aggregation program are now back on Columbia Gas. Larry stated that Trebil does have a gas aggregation program that Bethesda would be eligible for if they wished to vote on it again and sign up. Larry stated that the gas and electricity market is very high right now and that their proposed plans have a savings of about 2% and has a trigger point in case the rates drop significantly.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report:

- The \$1.50 water surcharge has been removed from the water bills as it was for a software upgrade.
- Dirk spoke to Pike's Paving and they are going to fix everything on Gail that needs repaired including catch basins and the lower part by Maple.
- Virginia Street sewer line has been delayed due to rain for the last three weeks. They are planning to start on April 25, weather providing. Materials have been delivered to the park.
- Rick Bostic is waiting on an engineer to come look at the steel beams of the garage. Rick has agreed to keep the price as it was quoted.
- Liberty Lane, Oak Street, and other park projects are still ongoing but have been held up by weather.
- Dave Green has completed the CCR report for 2022 and all issues with the EPA have been corrected.
- A new meter pit for McCormick's has been installed.
- We found out from Columbia Gas that we should not have been billed for the gas line damage as utilities are supposed to work together and not charge each other. We probably will not be refunded.
- The sewer plant generator needs a new tank and this is being looked into.
- The lift station generator is projected to be paid out of the second ARPA installment this fall.
- Dirk looked into lowering the insurance premiums by increasing the deductibles.
- Dirk asked permission to apply to use a Roadsaver crack sealant program. This program will train our employees on how to use the equipment and all we have to pay for is the sealant. There are several places we could use this. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve the use up to \$5,000, seconded by Carol Merritt, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes.
- The ODOT sale contract approval resolution needs to be approved by council so we can submit our request for salt to get state purchase pricing. Jay Van Horn made a motion to approve the resolution for ODOT salt purchase, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes.

Fiscal Officer Burkhead stated that he has the certificates for Belmont and Bethesda street sweeper insurance coverage. Both entities are now protected to operate the equipment. Rick stated that he has two quotes for the fireworks for this year. Rick stated that due to shipping costs and supply the fireworks price increase 25% for the same show as last year. Rick stated that the quote for the same quantity as last year is \$12,500. Rick asked Hamburg for a second quote adding some more fireworks to the show and that quote is \$13,750. Rick stated that the second quote would be nice to do if we can find the means. Rick stated that September 4<sup>th</sup> is booked and suggested that we do the firework Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup> if it is available and Mr. Braido agrees to let us use the location again. Rick stated that a year ago council had discussed covering half of the cost of the loading system for the new ambulance. Rick stated that the rest of the cost is about \$12,000. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the paying the remainder out of the General Fund, seconded by Rod Miller, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes. Solicitor Shaheen suggested that maybe we should look into raffling off a car or something like that and sell three or four hundred tickets at \$75 or \$100 and you have low odds on a big prize.

## Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council (Continued)

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Solicitor Shaheen presented Ordinance 2021-7 which is a waterfowl ordinance. Rod Miller made a motion to declare tonight the third and final reading of Ordinance 2021-7 and to approve the ordinance, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Rod Miller - Yes. Mr. Shaheen stated that he has sent the ordinance committee a draft form for the property maintenance violation. Mr. Shaheen stated that EQT has still not responded to the village regarding the condition of Main Street. The legislation for the alley behind the old VFW and the naming of the two new streets is at the engineer's office being completed. Dirk and Mr. Shaheen discussed the ability to place a lien on a resident's property for delinquent water bills. We need to review this. Jay asked if this is the water bill is an issue because we were not allowed to turn off the water during COVID. Jay stated that the water bill was also switched to different people's names at one point. It went from the owner's name, then to the renters, and back to the owners. Dirk stated that it was shut off when it was Fishers, and the bill was put into the renters name so that they could have water. Michael said that over \$600 this shouldn't be an issue. Mr. Shaheen stated that his office is still reviewing the employee handbook for approval. Mr. Shaheen stated that he will not be available at the next council meeting and Cole will come if that is ok.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead informed council that Neil has informed her that he is stepping down as fire chief effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve Neil's resignation, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Rod Miller - Yes. Samantha and council thanked Neil for his many years of service to the village. Dirk stated that Neil has done a wonderful job being fire chief for all of these years. Samantha stated that Neil was fire chief for 26 years and he has been on the department for 52 years. Samantha stated that the personnel committee interviewed Chris Hunt who would like to be appointed Fire Chief. Samantha made the recommendation to appoint Chris Hunt to the position of Fire Chief effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. Rod Miller made a motion to confirm the appointment, seconded by Cindy Foose, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Rod Miller - Yes. Samantha informed everyone that the Easter Egg Hunt is this Saturday at 10:00 and setup is at 8:30. Samantha thanked council, Micheal, Dirk, and Woodfield Savings Bank for donating to the Easter Egg hunt. Samantha stated that there is a planned road closure on SR 148 and we have to approve the detour for ODOT. Jay Van Horn made a motion to approve the detour, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Rod Miller - Yes.

Chief Storm stated that he is still working to get a destroy order for the computers in storage. Rick is going to check to see if the state has approved our state purchase program application. Chris stated that there were 24 traffic citations last month. Chris stated that there was a piece of missing equipment recovered recently.

Rod Miller presented a building permit for Richard Pelko for a room addition. Rod made a motion to approve the building permit, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Rod Miller - Yes. Council discussed the property on Oak Street.

Fire Chief Neil Hunt stated that the new ambulance is in and it is a very nice unit. Neil stated that the old ambulance was traded in on this new ambulance. Neil stated that there was a Frame made for the new ladder truck calendar on display in the council room. Neil stated that in May we need to start checking fire hydrants and doing testing. Dirk stated that he will coordinate with Chris and Neil to get these tests done. Neil suggested that it would be nice to do the tests on the weekends.

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Jay Van Horn made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and potential litigation, at 7:20 p.m., seconded by Rod Miller, Jay - Yes, Ruth - Yes, Zach - Yes, Carol – Yes, Cindy – Yes, Rod - Yes.

At 7:45 p.m. Mayor Samantha Burkhead declared executive session over.

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Motion to pay bills by Jay Van Horn, 2nd by Carol Merritt, with a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn by Ruth Saffell, 2nd by Jay Van Horn, with a unanimous vote.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.**

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Mayor Samantha Burkhead

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Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.