

# Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

December 13, 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, Zac Gaston, Rod Miller, Officer Ricky Burkhead, Administrator Dirk Davis, Solicitor Michael Shaheen

Absent: Carol Merritt

## Guest(s)

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

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

## Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Police Chief Chris Storm stated that there were 16 traffic stops, 11 citations, and 12 business checks last month.

Steve Abdekov gave council an update on the historical society designation progress. He is working on the outline and descriptive components for the site. Steve stated that the village park and lake will be included in the registry. Dirk stated that we need to get Steve a check for \$5,000 that council approved. Rick asked for a W-9. Dirk thanked Steve for all of his work on this and for helping include the village park in the project.

Bob Flanagan stated that we are going to be short a council member next year. Mr. Shaheen stated that council would vote on a new member at the January meeting. Council agreed to advertise the vacancy and to ask for applications by January 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Shaheen stated that a nomination can be discussed in executive session but voting has to be in the open meeting.

Administrator Dirk Davis discussed the sewer line issue on Lake Street. Dirk stated that we are going to try to file a grant application to replace the line from Gaston's to Willow Street. Dirk stated that Verdant's engineering is working on the drawing and estimates. We have until January 17<sup>th</sup> to submit the project. Dirk stated that two houses on Lake Street had sewer backup into their basements due to a blockage in the main line. There were several inches of sewer in their basements. Dirk stated that one of the houses has not been occupied for eight years and we do not know the status of the house. Mr. Shaheen stated that we need to try to make contact with the owner before just entering. Dirk stated that the furnace, water heater, freezer, washer and dryer had several inches of sewer on them. Dirk stated that we are working to help replace these items for the resident and then we will turn this over to the insurance company. Dirk stated that four check valves have been purchased to install at the residents to prevent backups. Dirk stated that we have been applying root killer to the line. Jay suggested that we install a new line from Virginia to Willow and replace the entire line. Dirk reminded IT Man Zac Gust to remove and repurpose the cameras in the city building. Dirk stated that the Union Local Band will be having a dinner on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Dirk stated that he donated the rental. Rick stated that there are to go containers and other items left over from the gun bash that we can donate to help them. Dirk stated that Valley Fence has installed the ball field fence and now we need to pay this to submit for grant reimbursement. Dirk thanked Samantha for the excellent job she has done the last four years. Dirk stated that she made things easy and always allowed everyone to do their jobs. Dirk thanked Rod and Cindy for being on his committees.

Solicitor Shaheen presented resolution 2023-6 which approved the takeover of the Mason's water line on North Johnson Road and be responsible for maintaining the water line. We will accept ownership and each resident will receive one tap, meter, and curb box at no cost. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-6, seconded by Rod Miller, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Mr. Shaheen presented Resolution 2023-7 which removes probation and hires Andrew Miller as permanent part time Police Sergeant. Jay Van Horn made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-7, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Mr. Shaheen stated that he has the complaint for Pike Paving and is seeking \$36,000 plus expenses for the cost to repair Gail Avenue. Mr. Shaheen stated that the filing fee is \$225 for the Belmont County Clerk. Mr. Shaheen stated that we have pursued every path with these people to resolve this matter.

## Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council (Continued)

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Mr. Shaheen discussed the maintenance of trees in a right of way. He stated that if we are talking about the strip of land between the sidewalk and the road it would be good for us to work with residents to agree to a mutual understanding that would be beneficial to all parties. Mr. Shaheen stated that if it is a dedicated right of way for us to use then it would be the village's responsibility. Mr. Shaheen stated that we should try to work cooperatively with land owners.

Mr. Shaheen stated that he is very upset that Mayor Samantha is leaving. Mr. Shaheen said that he never met Samantha before and he came on board with the village during a time of turmoil and she has always listened to his counsel and she has led with her heart. Mr. Shaheen stated that Samantha has always done good things for the residents, the children of the community and he has the utmost respect for her. Mr. Shaheen stated that Samantha epitomizes a public servant and it has been a pleasure to work with her. Mr. Shaheen stated that he appreciates all of the wisdom and support from Rod and Cindy as well.

Mr. Shaheen wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead presented the ODOT road maintenance agreement for plowing and maintaining. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Samantha thanked everyone who helped with the Christmas events and dinners this year. Samantha thanked Rick, Dirk and Michael for all of their work for the community. Samantha thanked Rod and Cindy for sticking it out and being on council.

Ruth Saffell presented Caleb Gotchel for Fire and Paramedic new hire and Michael Judd for Fire only. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve the new hires, pending background checks, seconded by Rod Miller, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes.

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Jay Van Horn made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel wages, at 7:18 p.m., seconded by Ruth Saffell, Jay - Yes, Ruth - Yes, Cindy - Yes, Zach - Yes, Rod - Yes.

At 8:34 p.m. Mayor Samantha Burkhead declared executive session over.

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Fiscal Officer Burkhead presented Housekeeping Ordinance 2023-4 for approval and reviewed the wage changes for 2024. Zach Gaston made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Cindy Foose, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Ruth Saffell then made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-4, seconded by Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes.

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

Motion to adjourn by Cindy Foose, 2nd by Rod Miller, with a unanimous vote.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.**

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Mayor Bob Flanagan

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Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.