

## Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

January 11, 2022

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, Zach Gaston, Rod Miller, Cindy Foose, , Mayor Samantha Burkhead, Administrator Dirk Davis, Jay Van Horn, Police Chief Chris Storm, Cole Antolak  
Absent: Solicitor Michael Shaheen

### Guest(s)

Stephanie Castello, Phil Castello, Chuck Little, Bill Jordan Castello, Fred Thompson, Dave Green

### 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. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

### Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Cole Antolak swore in Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell, Carol Merritt, and Jay Van Horn for their new council terms beginning 01/01/22 and ending 12/31/25.

Cindy Foose read a letter to council welcoming everyone on council and congratulated Zach on his new seat. Cindy stated that any past issues or discussion are done with and it's time for everyone to work together and get things done for the community. Jordan informed council that she turned all of her stuff in to Dirk.

Administrator Dirk Davis stated that he has no updates to report this month. Cindy and Jay asked about the readiness of the Virginia Street sewer project. Dirk stated that we have paid for the engineering and the permit and the project was estimated to cost around \$50,000. Dirk stated that we need to see if the permit to install is still viable. Jay stated that he was asking so that we may be able to move forward with it in the spring since we did not receive the grant funding.

Fiscal Officer Burkhead presented Ordinance 2022-1 which is the housekeeping ordinance with changes to EMS wages. Rick stated that Neil would like to give a \$1 an hour increase to all tiers of EMS employees as well as a \$1 an hour extra incentive if a person works 40 hours or more in one week. Cindy Foose made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Rod Miller, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-1, seconded by Rod Miller, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes. Rick presented the 2022 budget and appropriations that need to be approved and sent to the county auditor. Carol Merritt made a motion to approve the 2022 appropriations and the budgets, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

Cole Antolak introduced himself as standing in for Mr. Shaheen this evening. Cole presented ordinance 2022-2 which is the vacating of a 15 foot section of the alley behind the old VFW. Ruth Saffell made a motion to declare this evening the first reading, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead gave out the committee assignments for 2022. Meeting times are as follows: Finance/Personnel the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00, Police the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00, Ordinance at 5:30 prior to council meetings, Water/Sewer the first Monday of the month at 6:30, Fire the first Monday of the month at 7:00. Recreation will be scheduled as needed.

Rod Miller nominated Jay Van Horn for council president, seconded by Cindy Foose, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

Rod stated that the ordinance committee are trying to stick to the really bad and abandoned houses right now. 206 Summit, 209 Oak, Pear Street Trailer Court, 101 Willow, 103 Washington, and 106 Willow. Rod stated that 106 Willow has been turned over to the county health department. Council discussed 106 Willow and they issues with them not being hooked up to the water system as they asked to have the water shut off.

**Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council (Continued)**

January 11, 2022

Police Chief Chris Storm thanked the seniors at the senior citizens center for their help with the shop with a cop program and a special thank you to Mrs. Lucas. Chris thanked everyone else who helped and donated to the program as it raised \$4,800 in donations and made a lot of kids really happy.

Jay asked for a moment of silence for Dave Fitch who passed away. Dave was on the Bethesda Fire Department for many years. Jay reported that in 2021 there were 548 EMS calls, 83 Fire calls, 323 EMS transports, 63 Crashes, and in total 1041 calls responded to. Jay stated that there were over 800 EMS calls this year which is why we are trying to compensate the employees better and to attract new hires. Jay stated that we are still waiting to hear when we will receive the new ambulance. Jay stated that on December 9<sup>th</sup> a new compressor station was installed and we are an air station for the surrounding area to fill their air packs. Jay stated that there could be another burn house for the department to train on. Jay stated that this is a great opportunity for people to come and learn and see how things work in fire situations. Jay stated that there is only one paid EMT that lives in the village. Jay stated that he and Zach are volunteers and most of the firemen do live in town or are nearby. Jay presented an application for Vivian Iverson for EMT pending a background check. Carol Merritt made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Cindy Foose, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes.

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

**The next meeting will be Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.**

---

Mayor Samantha Burkhead

---

Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.