

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

October 29, 2020

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

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Samantha Burkhead, Administrator Dirk Davis, Fiscal Officer Ricky Burkhead, Ruth Saffell, Jay Van Horn, Jordan Castello, Rod Miller, Cindy Foose,
Absent: Carol Merritt

Guest(s)

Stephanie Castelo, Phil Castello, Pete Busack, Linda Reeves, Chuck Little, JR Whitley, Tori Powell, Shirley Lucas, Bill Cox, Larry Taylor, Fred Thompson

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. Jordan Castello made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor Samantha Burkhead asked for a moment of silence for Bob Murray and John McCormick.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead informed council that Jeff Menoski has resigned from being solicitor and the letter was given to her today at noon. Jay Van Horn made a motion to accept Jeff's resignation, seconded by Jordan Castello, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes. Rod Miller made a motion to advertise for a new solicitor and a part time police officer, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes. Samantha stated that Jeff has reviewed and approved the things that we need to decide on this evening but going forward we should not make and legal or major decisions until we have new legal counsel hired.

Samantha thanked Dick Quinlin, Shirley Lucas, and Debbie Mason for being Halloween decorating contest judges. Samantha stated that Brenda Moore on Depot Street won third place, Victoria Burley on Gail Avenue won second place, and Scott Blake on Spruce Street won first place. Samantha thanked Jay for purchasing the trophies. Samantha stated that we are also going to have a decorating contest again for Christmas this year.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report to council.

- Virginia Street Sewer line project is moving forward. There are two questions that needs filled out and Hull will then send to EPA for a permit to install.
- New Streets are ready to be properly named and dedicated.
- Municipal building cleaning has been taken over by Robert Guthrie and he will be working about 6 hours a week depending on need. Robert is on a six month probation.
- Dirk proposed the purchase of an asphalt roller from South Eastern Equipment for \$14,500 and possibly splitting the cost between Goshen TWP and Belmont. This would bring the cost down to \$4,834 for each entity. Kenny Davis will be discussing with Belmont's council. JR Whiteley stated that we would have to work out some sort of contract and maintenance agreement. JR stated that insurance would be less than \$50 a year. Dirk stated that all costs would be split three ways. JR Recommended that we include the \$5000 trailer, that the village still has to reimburse Dirk for, to be part of the deal so everyone has a way to haul it. Jay stated that the trailer needs taken out and some work done on it to make it operational.
- Dirk stated that Mr. Mann requested that McKinley Avenue be opened up back to their property. Dirk stated that JR let the township operator and equipment be used to help Bethesda with this. Dirk thanked JR. Dirk stated that this is a dead end street and meets up to an alley. Dirk stated that stone was put down so that they can access their property. Jay asked if there are pins for the street that were located and if the road is straight or crooked. Dirk stated that the road will be straightened out one the trees are cut down.
- Dirk stated that he is waiting to see if speed bumps on the alley behind Maple Avenue will be needed. Jordan asked about people requesting them on the main streets. Jordan told Dirk that there is a difference between a speed bump and a speed hump. Dirk stated that technically there shouldn't be parking on some streets but we have allowed if for many years.
- Dirk updated everyone about the North 26 alley. Dirk stated that Bob Stiles asked that the alley be opened up from his property to the north. Dirk stated that the Russell's and Artrip's have both sent opposition letters. Dirk stated that we have six miles of alleys that we maintain and 8 miles that we do not. Dirk stated that when a citizen asked for access to the rear of their property, that we have to give them access when an alley is present. Dirk stated that we will need to work on this alley in the spring of the year. Jay reminded everyone that we do not want people to build in any alleys. Jay Van Horn made a motion to proceed with negotiations for a contract agreement and to approve the purchase of the roller, seconded by Rod Miller, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes.

Fiscal Office Rick Burkhead asked council to approve a uniform allowance for \$400 for full time, and \$200 for part time employees. Jay Van Horn, made a motion to approve the allowance, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes. Rick presented Resolution 2020-4 which is applying for COVID Relief Funding. Rod Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-4, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes.

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Mayor Samantha Burkhead asked council if they would support giving \$25 gift cards with the Veterans Day baskets that we are going to put together. Samantha stated that the fruit is being donated. Cindy Foose made a motion to approve the gift cards, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes. Samantha thanked Bruce Miller for his help in coming up with names for the list of veterans. Samantha stated that if anyone has a name that they should let her know. Samantha stated that ODOT would like to use SR 147 has part of a detour for a slip repair on Route 9. The state should put up detour signs. Rod Miller made a motion to approve the detour, seconded by Jordan Castello, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes.

Jordan Castello stated that trick or treat will be from 5:00-7:30 on Saturday. Jordan hopes that everyone will social distance and have fun. Jordan stated that we will be planning Christmas soon.

Cindy Foose stated that the police committee is respecting the fact that everyone has differences in regards to the police department. Cindy stated that Pete is still the interim police chief and that he has agreed to continue to be the interim police chief. Cindy proposed that we table any kind of voting on the police chief position at this time. Cindy stated that right now we do not have a solicitor to ask suggestions at the time. Cindy stated that we have been stuck in this rut for a long time and that we as a village need to start moving forward. Cindy stated that everyone has an opinion and that we all need to respect each other's opinions. Cindy stated that she would like to let this go for now and move forward and focus on our community and focus on rebuilding the council. Jordan and Rod agreed. Jordan made a motion to increase Pete's wages to \$16.00 an hour from \$14.50, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - No, Ruth Saffell - No, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes. Samantha followed up and stated that if anyone on council asks her to put out a recommendation, she will but until that time she will not going forward.

Police Chief Pete Busack stated that there were six complaints and one car crash responded to. One arrest was made. Pete stated that he completed a felony case and forwarded it to the county prosecutor. Pete stated that Zach Pickens submitted his resignation and we need to accept it. Jordan made a motion to accept the resignation, seconded by Rod Miller, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes. Samantha asked if we should advertise for the position. Jay Van Horn made a motion to advertise for a part time officer, seconded by Jordan Castello, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes. Pete asked residents to watch for children on Halloween and that he would be out Friday and Saturday evenings.

Jay Van Horn presented an application for Shanna Hayes for an EMT position. Jordan Castello made a motion to approve the applications, seconded by Rod Miller, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes.

Larry Taylor from Volunteer Energy presented the gas aggregation renewal. Larry stated that there is a guaranteed 5% savings for the residents and this still includes a community reinvestment program. Rod Miller made a motion to approve the renewal (Resolution 2020-5), seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello – Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes.

Rod Miller asked about moving the November and December council meetings to November 19th and December 17th respectively. Council agreed.

Samantha opened up to public comments. Samantha stated that public comments means that anyone has a right to say whatever they want, but everyone needs to have respect for each other and not to yell at each other.

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

Motion to adjourn by Jordan Castello, 2nd by Rod Miller, with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Thursday November 19th, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead

Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.