

Bethel Village Council March 22, 2010

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, March 22, 2010, with Mayor James T. Dick presiding.

Mr. Cherry delivered the invocation, followed by Mayor Dick leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Upon roll call, the following members were counted as present: Council Members Priscilla Johnson, Janice Ireton, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, Tim Cherry, Mary Daugherty; Solicitor George Leicht and Village Administrator Travis Dotson.

Mayor Dick thanked Bethel Building and Loan for sponsoring this year's Council meeting videos.

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2010 meeting, as written, was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All ye.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Frank Manning addressed Council, as chairman of the Burke Trust Commission. The financial state of the trust was presented.

Mayor Dick presented the Bethel-Tate Boys' Varsity Basketball Program with a proclamation commending their undefeated season.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor James T. Dick

The 2010 Yard Sale Dates will be May 14-16, July 16-18 and September 17-19.

The Community Center rental fees are waived for the TOPS Weight Loss group, for all of 2010, the Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby meeting and the Cheerleader/Football sign-ups.

The Bethel Community Easter Egg Hunt will be this Saturday, March 27, 2010 at Burke Park from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. In addition to the Easter Bunny and the egg hunt, there will also be a magic show, crafts, snacks and drinks.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

Public Works is working on spring activities and trimming trees along the power lines on Starling Road. They will be working on curbs and cleaning out gutters in April in preparation for upcoming events.

The Lions Club's Pancake Breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. on April 17th, with the Clean & Green Litter Pickup beginning at 8:00 a.m. The US Grant Vocational School's greenhouse is having an open house that day, and the US Grant Community Appreciation Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Absent.

Solicitor George Leicht

Nil.

Police Chief Mark Planck

Dodge Charger will be picked up this week from Grant Vocational.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The next Finance Committee meeting is Monday, April 12, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

The Village's Wholesale Electric Contract ends this year. We are getting weekly updates from Duke and American Electric Power (AEP), with rates trending down. We will be reviewing contracts from both so that we can be ready to lock in our rates for the next contract period.

Public Works recommends the purchase of an even billing software module to finance for \$1443.80 with a \$219.80 annual maintenance agreement.

A motion to purchase the Budget Billing Module was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. All ye.

Village streets are being evaluated for repaving needs.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Gary Hutchinson

The next Safety Committee meeting is Monday, April 5, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Mary Daugherty

Nil.

Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton

Thanks to all who attended the Burke Trust Commission Meet & Greet and thanks to the Mayor for calling to speak to everyone. The occasion provided an opportunity for good dialogue. Ms. Burton clarified an issue regarding Burke Funds that were to be used for trees that were never purchased. Mr. Dotson has the name of an arborist in the area who we can hire for tree maintenance.

A motion to request \$500 for the Community Easter Egg Hunt from the Burke Trust was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All ye.

A motion to request \$1500 for a Community Survey Questionnaire from the Burke Trust was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Ms. Johnson. All ye.

Ms. Daugherty questioned how the survey would be done. Ms. Ireton and Mayor Dick discussed the survey's background, originating in 2008 with the Planning Committee. We need input from citizens before we can move forward with planning for the future of the Village in general, and the Plane Street district in particular. Mr. Leicht discussed concerns of an ad-hoc decision by planning and that to allow this to stand up to legal action we need to be able to provide clear documentation to show that this is what the residents wanted. He mentioned revisiting the zoning code in conjunction with the survey, through public meetings. The survey could be one of the steps in this process. He recommended the Village Administrator locate other local municipalities that have done this (Batavia), and find out how they funded the survey. Ms. Johnson spoke with Ron Dunn regarding the coordination with zoning changes and Mr. Dunn agrees that it might be a good idea. Mr. Hutchinson feels the zoning code is already in good working order and there's no need to go down this path of changing the zoning code, unless council has a good reason. There's no timeline on the process, though Mayor Dick stated ideally by Spring.

Ms. Judi Adams sent a letter to the Burke Trust Commission requesting the Burke Park road be repaved. Ms Ireton agrees the park pavement does need attention, but she does not have a price estimate for the project. The Village does not have a paving policy/process in place. Mr. Manning has not mentioned the project, but Mr. Dotson thinks such a project may be tied in with the walk path repaving.

A motion requesting sufficient funds to repave the road in Burke Park from the Burke Trust Commission was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Ms. Daugherty. 5 years – Mr. Hutchinson “nay.” Motion carried.

Other discussion included the purchase of new chairs for the Grant Memorial Building and placing picnic tables on concrete pads at Burke Park. Mr. John Wass expressed his dissatisfaction in waiting on concrete pads to be poured and the history of how long this has been in the works. Ms. Ireton assured him the goal is to get the project done right the first time. Ms. Gunn pointed out Burke Trust’s conservative spending, and noted Council is doing the same. Ms. Gunn discussed why the benches were not completed by Grant Vocational last year. Further discussion included the history of Burke Trust requests made, and not made.

Ms. Ireton received a letter of thanks from Keri M. Brooks, for her Burke Scholarship, and the help it has given her in furthering her education.

Planning Commission, Priscilla Johnson

Hopes to have a Planning Commission Meet and Greet soon.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Priscilla Johnson: Nil.

Janice Ireton: Congratulated all the wrestlers, and invited everyone to the Easter Egg Hunt.

Donna Gunn: Had the pleasure of going to the Clermont County Mayors Assoc. meeting, and the group has asked for a proclamation supporting the 2010 census. The group would like to have their April meeting in Bethel. She asked Mr. Dotson to send a list of the Council Members’ email addresses to Kenita Weaver.

Ms. Gunn also went to the County Health District’s annual meeting last week, Clermont County ranked 82 out of 88 in smoking/health issues.

She has also been approached by a resident looking for volunteer opportunities with the Village, and would like a list of needs compiled.

Gary Hutchinson: Asked about the fiscal analysis. Mayor Dick hasn’t heard anything yet.

Tim Cherry: Nil.

Mary Daugherty: Nil.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. John Wass asked for clarification of Bethel’s relationship to Easter Valley subdivision. The area between Easter Valley and the walk path is a swamp, and he owns to 50 feet of walk path. Discussion ensued on fixing the problem, and the drainage district that was setup with Easter Valley. Does the district include street drainage only, or back lots as well? Mr. Dotson stated the area is school property and the Village has a narrow easement to maintain the path itself.

Mr. Rus Whitley reminded everyone of the upcoming BAMFest, on May 8, 2010 and encouraged purchasing raffle tickets for various items. The funds being raised will be used to pay for event expenses, such as a shuttle that will be running between East Fork and the Village.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 883 SPECIFYING THE SALARY FOR THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, 2nd Reading

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 20713-20733) was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. All yea.

James T. Dick, Mayor

Angelina Burton, Fiscal Officer