

## Village of Shawnee Hills Council Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2021

Mayor Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council in Attendance: Mary Gates, Kathy Isern, Justin LaRosa, Renee Matney, Robert Thatcher and Todd Zimmerman

Also Present: Fiscal Officer Shirley Roskoski and Solicitor Brian Zets

### Minutes

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Isern to approve the minutes of May 24, 2021. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

### Agenda

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to approve the agenda with the following amendment: remove the apostrophe in 2021, Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed

### Executive Session

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Matney to go into executive session pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 G (1) to consider the appointment of a public official and invite in the Mayor and Solicitor. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Zimmerman to return to regular session. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

### **Appointment of a Council member to fill the seat vacated by Jeff Stacy with a term expiring December 31, 2021.**

Council member Zimmerman said do the candidates realize that you have to run to stay in this seat after December. You have to file in August to run for this seat.

Councilmember Thatcher said it was really interesting to hear all the backgrounds and review all the words everyone said. It is wonderful to have that many people come in and be interested in this position. It made for a very hard decision. We haven't made the decision yet, obviously, but we will. I just want you to know in advance it was very hard to discuss the candidates and you will see who we decide on.

Mayor Mathews said eight to twelve years ago there was no one who even ran. I appreciate you all for your interest.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to appoint Justin LaRosa to the council seat vacated by Jeff Stacy.

Council member Isern said Justin is a little bit younger and he maybe has an eye towards communication that would help the village get this job done. Be in better touch with the residents. It will be a different pace for that. Council member Zimmerman said I agree with you Kathy. I think he offered something that we all don't have. Council member Isern said this is not to negate the talents and experience of the other applicants. Council member Zimmerman said not at all. This was a hard decision to make for all of us.

Following vote on the motion is recorded; yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

Mayor Mathews swore in Justin LaRosa.

### **Solicitor**

Brian said I finished the DORA legislation and you should have that for the next meeting. The third reading of Ordinance 09-2021 needs to be amended by substitution. If you remember at the last council meeting there was one change at the end of Section 4 regarding the hours. Unless otherwise approved in advance by Council, Employee shall work no more than thirty (30) hours per pay period as Village Administrator. Previously it talked about no more than 15 hours per week. There was a discussion about it being changed. It was just a better fit.

### **Village Administrator**

Mayor Mathews said I had a discussion with Andy Johanni from Equity. He said they are reaching out to Bill Daulton again trying to purchase his property.

Tomorrow night the Riverfront Association will be meeting with an environmental attorney. They sent a letter to Columbus City Council and included the letter from the Delaware Health Department.

### **Visitors**

Dan Boggess said:

Good Evening,

I'd like to read this statement into the record. Shirley, I'll provide you a copy for the minutes as well.

So, tonight, presumably, you will be having the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and vote on the ordinance that will place the Police Chief in the dual role as Village Admin and Chief.

I believe this legislation has been discussed more than any other in recent memory, so I don't think we need to cover all that ground again – unless you have questions for me, which I'm happy to answer.

I would ask the Mayor and Council to think about why they have had so much public feedback regarding what you probably thought would be a simple, administrative process.

There is something going on here that isn't sitting well with many residents, and I believe the Mayor and Council are stubbornly proceeding regardless of public opinion.

I believe many of the residents' concerns would be addressed by slowing down and following a recommended path to hiring the Admin through creation of a job description specific to Shawnee Hills, an open application window, and a candidate interview process. All things the Mayor has agreed could happen for future situations.

Folks, process matters, and while I understand you are following the prescribed

legal process here, residents are telling you they want more transparency. Transparency that could be provided in the steps I just outlined.

I hope that before the vote is called, we can realize that tabling the ordinance, temporarily, to follow a true hiring process is a good thing. There is no need to rush to get the Chief in as Admin and only good things will come from an open and transparent hiring process.

I thank you for your time and am open to any questions you may have. I'm also happy to stay through the discussion period of the ordinance, in case you'd like my opinion, which admittedly, you've probably had enough of!

### **Legislative Actions**

First Reading – Resolution 10-2021 – A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract with Tax Exempt Leasing Corp. for a Lease Purchase agreement for a 2021 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Thatcher to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 10-2021 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, Matney, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Resolution 10-2021 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, Matney, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Zimmerman to amend Ordinance 09-2021 by substitution. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, Matney, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

Third Reading – Amended Ordinance 09-2021 – An Ordinance approving the Mayor's appointment of Russell Baron as Village Administrator and authorizing and directing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to execute an agreement with Russell Baron.

Council member LaRosa said being the new guy I don't really know how some of this works but I did attend a village community get together over the past weekend and this is what they had to say. It really did strike me that everybody was upset about the process, not Russ. Everybody loves Russ and they think he will do a great job. I think he will do a great job. I know we haven't voted on it yet but you can pretty much tell where I am going to go with it. To what Dan was saying earlier and this is the conflict and I heard from both sides and I think from how it is right now, even as a resident's point of view, I don't think that there is management to a point of certain things going on in the village that could be taken care of and Russ could really drive that to get it done. I know what you are saying Dan as far as the process. It is very important and I agree with you but to continue to not have that role fulfilled by someone who can get things achieved and get things done as long as it's been going on I think the appointment needs to be made because things are slacking and lacking that Russ can do.

Mayor Mathews said I agree we need to have a process and we need a lot of processes in place on the municipal side which is why we had discussions with Lexipol about uniform best practices federally.

Dan Boggess asked what is Lexipol.

Chief Baron said Lexipol is a risk management agency that deals with public administration policies for police, fire and government. They have a government section that is 40 policies, best practices, federal law that would apply to us; that we can modify for the village because not all of it will fit.

Mayor Mathews said in this particular situation, where we are economically, as Justin mentioned management wise, that was figured into this decision. While I wouldn't discount any process in this particular situation given historically what we have had as far as applicants, this is the way to go.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 09-2021. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, 1; Matney. Motion passed.

First Reading – Ordinance 10-2021 – An Ordinance authorizing the payment of the invoice received from Jeff Wyler CDJR of Columbus and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 10-2021 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, Matney, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 10-2021 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, Matney, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

First Reading – Ordinance 11-2021 – An Ordinance to reappropriate funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Shawnee Hills, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021 and declaring an emergency. It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 11-2021 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, Matney, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Isern to adopt Ordinance 11-2021 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, Matney, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

### **Bills**

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Matney to pay the bills in the amount of \$59,758.26. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, Matney, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Thatcher to approve the following treasurer's report:

|               |            |                      |            |
|---------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| General       | 179,224.26 | Weed                 | 3,514.30   |
| Street        | 322,903.67 | TIF                  | 41,367.62  |
| State Highway | 21,530.77  | TIF 2                | 12,702.29  |
| PD Body Armor | 810.52     | Police District Fund | 121,418.48 |

|                      |           |                    |            |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| Drug Law Enfct.      | 534.41    | Veteran's Memorial | 248.97     |
| Indigent Driver      | 385.84    | Sewer Operating    | 30,907.42  |
| Law Enfct. Trust     | 6,198.05  | Sewer Replacement  | 50,583.93  |
| Enfct. and Education | 1,220.85  | Storm Sewer        | 8,548.61   |
| Fire Levy            | 66,813.92 | Debt Service       | 121,030.10 |

For a total of \$989,944.01

Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, Matney, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, it was moved by Isern, seconded by Thatcher to adjourn. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, Matney, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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Fiscal Officer

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Mayor