

Village of Shawnee Hills Council Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2023

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, Administrator Russell Baron and Solicitor Brian Zets

Minutes

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Gates to approve the minutes of November 13, 2023 with the following amendment: on page 2, change *if* to *it*.

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

Agenda

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Zimmerman to approve the agenda. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Solicitor

Brian said I do have one follow up with respect to the Evans Farm JEDD. Last time I talked it was just a general idea of taking the DCFA funds, that 20%, and splitting it up. Justin had suggested just splitting it up 5% for each one. I reached out to Orange Township's Council and said there were no decision made by village council but this idea was thrown out. She took that back to the Board of Trustees, who kicked it around, and she got back to me and said Orange Township wasn't sure that that was an equitable resolution. The example that they gave was, if you take a look at Concord, right now they are receiving 5%. If they receive another 5% they would be doubling their share of the revenue. They came up with some math equation which had to do with the original percentages that each entity had, what their share was, and then using that percentage to get a new percentage of the 20%. This is not finalized by Orange Township but this was their idea that they were kicking around; Shawnee Hills percentage would go from 10% to 12.5%, the JEDD Board would go from 32.5% to 40.65%, Concord would go from 5% to 6.2%, Orange Township would go from 32.5% to 40.65%, This is something to think about.

Council member Isern asked if the percentages they came up with calculated correctly.

Brian said it is based on the proportional percentages of the four parties. I did not do the math either.

Council member Isern asked Council what their reaction to this proposed change by Orange Township was.

Council member Matney said it seems fair.

Council member LaRosa asked if anyone felt that the original percentages were still fair. Is there someone getting a percentage and they are really not doing anything.

Council member Gates said I don't think we have gotten to that point yet.

Mayor Mathews said the fact that they are cutting Delaware out is step one. That seems fair.

Kathy Isern said Delaware Finance Authority helped us get this set up and they will get paid for the work that they did. Once the thing is under way, they have no role to play.

Brian said this agreement can be changed in the future also if needed.

Village Administrator

Russ gave the following report:

Tree City- I submitted for the annual recertification. We also applied for the growth award from Tree City. There are annual things we can do and you have to get so many points a year. Some of it is maintenance, planting, partnerships, education, that kind of stuff. One of the things I worked on, and Brian helped me, was an agreement, or resolution, between us and Shawnee Hills Blooms to form that official partnership, which then allows us to claim some of their activities for Tree City, but it also gives us the public/private partnership that a lot of the grants like to see.

Power Outages and the booms – The squirrels are still at it. Edison said they will be adding more animal guards to the wires. I have no answers as to why it is all of a sudden, an issue, or how, or what the animal guards do but that was the explanation given to me by Ohio Edison. I guess there is a fuse that the animal trips when they get up there. The boom is the power transitioning in the lines when the fuse breaks off.

Our lights on Dublin Road – Every couple of street lights has a switch attached to it. Before, none of them were locked. The fire department doesn't like them locked. Someone keeps flipping the switches on our lights which then presents a safety risk for people. We have now locked the light so we shouldn't have random outages.

Tree Lighting – Starts Friday at 6:30 p.m. I heard Santa is coming. The Girl Scouts will be there to sing some Christmas Carols. The Civic will be providing hot chocolate and cookies. Blooms is still working on putting decorations out on the light poles and planters.

Police Chief

Russ said I want to remind everyone that we still have a toy drive going on until December 6. At the tree lighting we will be collecting canned goods, boxed items, there's a list here. We will be taking that to Delaware County People in Need.

I want to recognize Lieutenant Cullen. On October 10, 2022, Lt. Cullen was dispatched to Wendy's on an unconscious, unresponsive person. Turned out it was an overdose. Lt. Cullen

arrived on scene, directed the medics in, performed CPR on the individual and they are alive and well. Through our criteria and everything, this is a great example of why we are around and the things that our officers do. Looking through our stats for 2023, our officers have been to over 40 substance abuse, overdose, or mental health/suicide issue related calls where they actually interacted with the individual.

Through Lt. Cullen's actions the individual lived and the fire department administered Narcan and they got him to the hospital and he is alive and well.

I want to present Lt. Cullen with the Lifesaving Award and then the ribbon for his uniform for the CPR.

Visitors

Brent Drake said two weeks ago I was here and you explained that the right of ways were developed as the property was built on or developed. Across from Forest, there is a right-of-way with two houses on it. On the west side of Mohawk, on Forest Drive, weren't the property owners supposed to put a street in since the house was there.

Council member LaRosa said their driveways don't go down Forest. One goes down Beech and the other one is Ridge. They are not using Forest.

Brent asked if he could use that right-of-way. I was told there was limited access. Can I get put on that list to access that right-of-way.

Council member Isern said I am not clear what you are talking about.

Mayor Mathews said there is no road.

Russ said whoever develops those lots, they are responsible for developing any additional roadways that are required. Anyone who develops back there and requires access from Forest Drive will be required to put in Forest Drive.

Brent asked if he could have access to the right-of-way.

Russ said you do have access.

Brent said not if it is full of lumber and you can't drive or ride or walk through there without climbing over things.

Council member LaRosa said if it is an unapproved road then it belongs to the homeowner until it becomes an improved road. Technically that road exists on paper, legally, but it is not a road.

Brent asked if he was allowed to go in there and take the wood out back and cut those trees so I can walk back through there.

Brian said you are not allowed to cut down trees, even in the right-of-way, if you do not own the property.

Communications

Council member Zimmerman read the following statement:

I would like to make a statement to Carol Kender. On or about the date of November 14 of this year, there was a post on the Nextdoor website about Pulte Homes and the law firm of Isaac Wiles, which helped fund the Jerome Township trustee Wezlynn Davis' campaign.

I will read the post from Nextdoor originated by Edward Kunzelman – Brock Road – for the record:

“Pulte Homes of Ohio is currently building nearly 1500 homes in Jerome Township: Woodbin Village, Pioneer Crossing, Homestead @ Scott Farm, and new Dell Webb. Pulte's Attorney is a firm called Isaac Wiles. Isaac Wiles funded Jerome Township Trustee Wezlynn Davis' campaign, partners also made donation individually and through tertiary businesses. Pulte executives and Isaac Wiles are active in the BIA (Building industry Association) and its leadership. Jim Hiltz, with Pulte, currently sits on the Board. The BIA is the largest donor to Wezlynn Davis, Wezlynn Davis negotiates Zoning Regulations, Tax incentives and JEDD economics with developers and their attorneys, including private and offline meetings. Wezlynn Davis should no longer govern decisions associated with Pulte Homes, she should recuse herself.”

In the replies under this post, Carol Kender, from Shawnee Hills wrote: "I wonder if Isaac Wiles is supporting some of our council people."

For the record, Isaac Wiles is the law firm for the Village of Shawnee Hills. Also, for the record, I, Todd Zimmerman, have not taken any funds from Isaac Wiles. My final campaign finance report is on file and you may do a records request to check on the contributions and expenditures.

Carol, I was taken aback by your post. Knowing your background as a former news reporter in Montana, Maryland and Washington D.C. and as the current Director of the Shawnee Hills Chamber of Commerce, I am shocked you would choose to make a public statement like that without knowing the facts. You have created a negative image of the people who serve our village.

Mayor Mathews said I have a lunch set up with Dublin's Administrator this week. Last week Mary and I met with the riverfront residents that are dealing with Columbus.

Committees

Council member Gates said Finance met tonight. We did a wrap up for the year. Shirley talked about the review of finances. We spent \$33,740.38 over what was brought in and the carryover that we started out with this year was used for several projects, a couple of which was the Veteran's Memorial update, Fortin Iron Works, which was also part of the Vet's Memorial and also an update to an original water pump over in Frambes Park.

Our carryover amount in the general fund started out at \$519,000.00 at the beginning of the year and at this point we are at \$485,000.00.

RITA collections have been down and that is because in 21, 22, and 23 individuals overpaid and RITA had to do some refunds.

Council member LaRosa said Safety met. We went over a Safety report. Spoke with Russ about some cost savings items. Projections on vehicles going forward, figuring out what's the best options are. General idea of what's been going on in the village as far as our yearly lifesaving items, like Erin, and arrests. We will probably have another meeting at the beginning of the year to go over the full year of what was done.

Legislative Actions

Third Reading – Ordinance 28-2023 – An Ordinance to appropriate funds temporarily for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Shawnee Hills, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024.

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Gates to adopt Ordinance 28-2023. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Third Reading – Ordinance 29-2023 – An Ordinance amending Section 624.1 (Health Insurance) of the Village of Shawnee Hills Local Government Manual.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to adopt Ordinance 29-2023. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Ordinance 31-2023 – An Ordinance confirming the Mayor's appointment of Mycca Sassoon-Meyers as a full time Police Officer for the Village of Shawnee Hills and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Thatcher to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 31-2023 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Matney, seconded by LaRosa to adopt Ordinance 31-2023 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Ordinance 32-2023 – 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, 2023 and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Gates to suspend with the second and third reading and declare Ordinance 32-2023 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Thatcher to adopt Ordinance 32-2023 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Bills

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to pay the bills in the amount of \$169,779.38. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Treasurer’s Report

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Isern to approve the following treasurer’s report:

General Fund	485,517.54	Enfct. and Education	1,795.98
Street Fund	167,996.26	Fire Fund	95,133.95
State Highway	38,315.16	TIF Fund	73,424.93
PD Body Armor	4,305.17	TIF 2 Fund	53,886.84
Cont. Pro. Training	2,535.48	Police District Fund	155,028.25
Evans Farm JEDD	851.86	Veteran’s Memorial	298.97
Drug Law Enfct.	534.41	Sewer Operating	77,001.96
Indigent Drivers	385.84	Sewer Replacement	7,506.08
Law Enfct. Trust	3,259.20	Storm Sewer Fund	28,227.95
Am Rescue Plan	63,418.14	Debt Service Fund	87,925.18
Weed Fund	300.00		

For a total of \$1,461,647.86.

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

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, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.