

## **Village of Shawnee Hills Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 24, 2022**

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 Administrator Russell Baron

Absent: Solicitor Brian Zets

### **Minutes**

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Gates to approve the minutes of October 10, 2022 with the following amendments: on page 4, second paragraph, change out to our, on page 5, fourth paragraph, change Stare to State.

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.

### **Village Administrator**

Russ said I have been working with Equity to shore up the traffic light agreement. We had talked about pulling the crosswalk out and doing it at a later date. After talking with Chris, that is not going to be an option. The way the things are installed, the lights and the poles, it would cost way more to go back and redo it.

Still working to clean up some stormwater areas in the village to make things flow better. West Hiawatha is a small project that chokes into a big problem. Working with Chris on the overall fix for this.

There's another project on E. Hiawatha that we will start soon. We are waiting for a quote from Mike Eger. This will be to replace a pipe under the street.

Good news. The paving came in \$28,000.00 under the bid so we save a significant amount of change there.

I was made aware today about a petition that is circulating on the east side of the village to close Shawnee Trail because of the Equity development. We had talked about it and I think you might get something here in the future on it. Talking with Chris and the Fire Department, the Fire Department wasn't opposed to the idea but they kind of cringed at it a little bit. They wanted to look at their ingress and egresses. We have several options in between. I think closing the road is the most extreme and then absolutely no mitigation right now. Two opposite ends of the spectrum. Their traffic flows and Chris' traffic flows don't see an increase in the neighborhood. I'm sure we will see a couple more cars. I think we can be reactive to that and start with some

signage. There are plans, if we have to, to put in a concrete median so they can't turn left. There's an array of issues before we get to the level of closing the street. It is definitely something that we have had discussions about; at least at UST.

Mayor Mathews said I always thought that was for potential future development also.

Russ said if more things come in that area it might become more emergent, but, I still think, with the traffic light coming in it is going to be quicker to go to Glick and then out instead of snaking through the neighborhood.

Council member LaRosa said I thought the petition was for no traffic light and to get rid of that portion of Equity that comes out onto the Trail.

Mayor Mathews said no, there has to be a traffic light.

Russ said it met the need for a traffic light.

Council member Gates asked do you know who the majority of the petitioners were to close off the Trail. It was my understanding that there were a lot of people, close to the action, that did not consider that a good idea.

Russ said I didn't look. I just got it. A lot was on Shawnee Trail, Westview, Hiawatha, that area.

Lighting - I do want to point out that we are only changing the lights along Glick and Dublin Roads. There was one at the park that was changed. It needed repaired and they changed the light bulb out. Now that it has been transformed over to the LED, Mark has a dimmer bulb to put in the park. With the brighter lights on Dublin and Glick as we have talked about for years in Safety and UST, there is a need for enhanced visibility, especially with the crossings, especially with people walking at night. They are no longer manufacturing the high-pressure sodium bulbs so at some point, when the light goes out, Ohio Edison is going to say here is your LED bulb. All the GFI outlets on our light poles are bad. They installed indoor GFI's instead of outdoor ones. These all need to be replaced. The lights are 4000 k brightness. They are cheaper to operate. They last longer.

Ohio Edison will change over the overhead lights the first quarter of next year. Just on Dublin and Glick Roads.

### **Police Chief**

Chief Baron said trick-or-treat tailgate is from 4-6 on Sunday, October 30. Wyandotte will be closed at Shawnee Trail from 3:30 until 8 throughout the entire event. The Trail will close from Wyandotte to Scioto from 5:45 until 8:00.

Just a reminder, around us, we are starting to see the car break ins starting up again. It is getting darker earlier. Remember to take the valuables out of your car and keep them locked.

## Visitors

Kevin Lauterjung said he is a principal and a co-founder of Community Energy Advisors. I am here to speak with you tonight about your government aggregation program, the natural gas component, specifically. We have done a little bit of research on the history of your program. The energy market is what has thrown a wrench into a lot of our own natural gas and electricity bills. We happen to partner with the Shawnee Hills Chamber and we run their Chamber energy program. That is one of 150 Chambers of Commerce in the State of Ohio that we assist Chamber members and their communities with energy consulting and energy brokerage services.

We provide education and protection against some of the really bad actors that are in the energy market and then ultimately provide savings and risk management through supply contracts. We have been in business in Ohio for nine years. We specialize in running electricity and natural gas supply procurement by running a request for proposal process, casting a big net to a number of suppliers. We do provide government aggregation consulting services and support. We have a big sustainability program. We assist customers achieve net zero. We sell renewable energy certificates, carbon offsets and we assist customers through project management of solar projects, LED lighting upgrades and light.

Our office is in the City of Medina. We have a lot of business in northeast Ohio. Our Chamber Energy Program is in northern and southern Ohio and the Chambers of Commerce are throughout the State.

This is our understanding of your situation here with your natural gas government aggregation program. You entered into a contract with Volunteer Energy Services and you weren't the only community that was surprised and disrupted with Volunteer Energy Services filing for bankruptcy back in the spring. Your contract with them was from February of this year until January 2024.

You had a really nice rate of \$5.65 per one thousand cubic feet of natural gas. Because of that bankruptcy and because of all of your residents and customers of the aggregation program, they are back on the standard service offer, also known as the standard choice offer. The Columbia Gas price is determined by the monthly NIMAX, the monthly Henry Hub. It's the monthly rate that is traded on the last day of the month prior to what is known as the prompt month. Columbia Gas will add \$1.65 to the NIMAX and that is the Standard Choice offer. With the \$1.65 adder you can see that October's rate was set on the last day of September and that price was around \$6.90 for the NIMAX. With the adder that is why we are paying \$8.50 for October. In your prior program there were no early termination fees. That is a really nice design. At any point in time your residents decide to opt out they can at no additional cost to them and they can rejoin at any time. Your PUCO certificate expires on November 13. That will have to be renewed for the village to continue the government aggregation program. We can assist you in doing this.

Kevin went on to talk about the current market.

We would recommend to create a request for proposal and send to suppliers that would partner with you in the program. We would suggest looking at a two year and a three-year supply product with the suppliers as a way to work that price down. To get that averaging of those

longer-term future curves. For government aggregation programs you want to look at the fixed, all in, price. It needs to be simple, easy to understand and easy to compare to what the standard utility rate is.

Council member Isern asked how do you charge the village for your services.

Kevin said we charge five cents per mcf that would be in the rate. It is folded into the rate as a commission and we get paid by the supplier.

Council member Thatcher asked how long would it take to get some numbers on something like this.

Kevin said it would take until the first quarter of 2023 for your residents to see the government aggregation program rate on their utility bills.

Jean Nolan, 9505 Shawnee Trail, said I want to speak to the bright lights along Dublin Road. I think the poles are lovely and charming and I think the light fixture itself is too. The pole is high enough so that when you are driving through you are not blinded by the lights. I found that over in Powell you can hardly see the stop lights because the street lights are in your face. I think the lights here are too bright for our village. There's too much traffic here, there's too much noise and now there is too much light pollution in my view. I heard Russ say that he won't extend this down to Shawnee Trail or the side streets which I certainly appreciate because that is one of the reasons I moved here, to see the sky at night. I just wonder, by putting these fixtures in place, is it for us or are we catering to outside folks who come here to visit. I noticed that Muirfield doesn't have that on their main street. Tartan Fields, I haven't noticed lights like that in their business district, so to speak, if they have one. I talked to someone recently and they said it only takes one misstep to turn a lovely charming village into something trashy. This makes me think of that.

Jean said as far as a solution to maintaining our ambience. I talked to a lady today who was walking her dog on Shawnee Trail. She said she lives in Lucy Depp. I said that is such a nice place. Meaning no street lights, more or less. She said we try to retain the history and the respect for the history of that area. I have great respect for this community. I hope that the frontage roads bylaws might be changed so they don't all have to be commercial. I think that is one reason why these lights went up. We are going to have more and more businesses. We will have the brewery next to Hella's. Who knows what we will have across the street next to Straders. I noticed that if there is money to spend on the village, one of them I would like to see is the sink hole issue. I have a huge one next to E. Huron in my yard and another one developing right in front of my yard. I think underpasses under Dublin Road would be good.

Kim Lascola, 50 E. Pawnee, said I have lived here for eighteen years. From what I heard tonight there are a lot of moving parts to our lighting, from the type of bulbs to the brightness of the bulb. A lot of moving parts and very little wiggle room. I have a passion for conservation, in particular, birds, that may be something that you all might not know much about but last night there were about 131,000 birds migrated over top of us here in our fly way. They use our river and unfortunately can be distracted by our lights. I think the peak was 54,000 around three thirty this morning. There are things in place in the State of Ohio and across the Country to help us not

reinvent the wheel but perhaps turn down the lights in particular times of the year that are especially important to migrating birds. I also think ambiance is important to me as well. I would love to see downcast lighting but I have not found anything on the web, anywhere that might offer us the opportunity to retrofit any of our lights. Other than maybe perhaps Fortin Iron Works. I don't know what that expense would be. I can imagine.

Russ said I will be happy to meet with you. For downlighting, we would have to replace every fixture in the village. That would be very expensive.

Candice Myers, Delaware General Health District, said she had a couple of flyers to pass out. One is for the Flu/COVID clinics coming up and one is for the newborn and pre-natal home visits which we have started back up.

Mayor Mathews asked where is Shelia going?

Candice said Shelia is joining the PHAB Accreditation Board (Public Health Accreditation Board). This is a work from home job. She will be working with local health departments to help get them accredited.

Council member LaRosa asked if there was transportation available for elderly or disabled people.

Candice said either the DATA bus or Sourcepoint might have some resources.

Russ said Delaware County has a help line so if any of our residents have any issue they can call the help line. You can call the help line for many reasons and the person answering will get you to where you need to go. Their number is 740-363-1835 or 211.

### **Communications**

Mayor Mathews said I am having lunch tomorrow with Jane Fox, from Dublin, to see how we can work with Dublin on some of their projects that we can piggy back on, that may seem like a good idea. That we get a better deal if we go along with the flow. I have lunch with Craig from Shawnee Hills in Bloom on Thursday to discuss what he learned at the national convention he attended in St. Louis.

### **Pro Tem Report**

Pro Tem Thatcher said the November 5 Veteran's Day program is coming together. It is pretty much set. We have a speaker. We have bagpipes. It starts at 11:00 a.m. on November 5. We will be honoring the veterans in the village, on the Police Department and on the Concord Township Fire Department also.

### **Legislative Actions**

Third Reading – Ordinance 22-2022 – 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, 2022.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 22-2022. Following vote on the motion is recorded; yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Second Reading – Ordinance 24-2022 – An Ordinance creating, establishing and adopting a new compensation and pay schedule for certain non-police positions within the Village of Shawnee Hills.

Second Reading – Ordinance 25-2022 – An Ordinance amending Section 4 of Ordinance 34-2019, thereby amending the Village of Shawnee Hills Police Department staffing matrix and increasing the starting pay for part-time Police Officers, full-time Police Officers, Sergeants, Lieutenants, and the Police Chief.

Second Reading – Ordinance 26-2022 – An Ordinance to appropriate funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Shawnee Hills, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023.

First Reading – Ordinance 27-2022 – An Ordinance to hire Richard Ey as a full-time Street/Maintenance worker for the Village of Shawnee Hills, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

Council member Matney said the last time we created the position and now this is to have him fill the position.

Russ said correct. Brian even questioned whether or not we needed legislation to do that. I figured we have done it in the past so we will just do it tonight.

Council member Matney asked if he is already working forty hours a week.

Shirley said no.

Council member Matney said I was trying to get away from the emergency measure. We need to get him working forty hours right now?

Russ said it sure would be nice to get some of these projects done.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 27-2022 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded; yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 27-2022 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 Gates, seconded by Isern to pay the bills in the amount of \$117,621.02. 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 Zimmerman to approve the following treasurer's report:

|                     |            |                      |            |
|---------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| General Fund        | 428,580.27 | Enfct. and Education | 1,245.85   |
| Street Fund         | 423,690.16 | Fire Fund            | 70,672.93  |
| State Highway       | 32,007.18  | TIF Fund             | 97,855.06  |
| PD Body Armor       | 2,753.48   | TIF 2 Fund           | 30,699.54  |
| Cont. Pro. Training | 2,535.48   | Police District Fund | 128,627.04 |
| Evans Farm JEDD     | 22.06      | Veteran's Memorial   | 248.97     |
| Drug Law Enfct.     | 534.41     | Sewer Operating      | 53,287.67  |
| Indigent Drivers    | 385.84     | Sewer Replacement    | 13,036.08  |
| Law Enfct. Trust    | 5,538.59   | Storm Sewer Fund     | 19,403.22  |
| Am Rescue Plan      | 63,418.14  | Debt Service Fund    | 77,052.91  |

For a total of \$1,451,594.91.

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

## Miscellaneous

Council member LaRosa said he has thought about the communication and how disseminate information to the residents. Would it make sense to start with the village website? Maybe even getting a whole new website. Making it easy for someone, whoever, Shirley, our PIO, you or anyone who can get in there. The information all goes there. It starts there and then we link that down to our Facebook page and if it needs to go further into the different village pages if so wanted. At least this way, it starts at a location that is accessible to everyone on the internet. It is not going to make everybody happy, but it is one place where all the information will be. It needs to be easy to get information there. Right now, it sounds like our web page is not the easiest to work.

Shirley said the news and events are on the website. Not everything that Holly posts on Facebook is on the website.

Council member LaRosa said from my own personal times of looking at the website, it is not easy to navigate. I am in the IT business, maybe you guys look at it more than I do, but I find it to be somewhat taxing.

Council member Matney said just trying to find solutions of how to have information readily available to those that do not have electronic access. Justin said somewhat about the memo boards that are enclosed that you can stick paper up, announcements. How can we reach everyone?

Mayor Mathews said there is one at the park.

Council member LaRosa said we should have one of the boards here by the drop box.

Council member Matney said I don't know if it is really feasible to put flyers out every time we need to announce something. It is costly. What other ways could we reach individuals who don't do Facebook, don't do the internet at all.

Council member Gates said we have had this discussion so many times. People do have to look for the information.

Council member LaRosa said short of having a policy, we should have something that says this is where it is going to be. Our village website is hard to navigate. There are easier, better solutions out there than the current format of our website. Where the news is first. Announcements, right up front, as soon as you click on it.

Council member Gates asked what is the access to being able to update that.

Shirley said we used a company out of Michigan, Hadrout, to design our website and to make any changes to the programming of the website.

Council member Isern asked who has access to the website.

Shirley said I do. Holly does not at this time.

Mayor Mathews said you are talking about an entirely different concept, though. You want to start from scratch.

Russ said Justin's position is to take information from you guys, and the committees, and to push that out to the residents or get that to Shirley or whoever. Adding, maintaining a website, to Holly's job is not an option.

Council member LaRosa said I was thinking once she has the information putting it out. She does a good job putting it on Facebook. Put everything on the website and then it will go to the other social media outlets, like Facebook.

Russ said our website is ten years old. Maybe we need to look at other options.

Council member LaRosa said the way technology has grown and progressed and how even people see and perceive information now compared to ten years ago has changed. Website layouts have changed. How things are presented have changed.

Mayor Mathews asked that a list be put together with the priorities of what we want the new website to be able to accomplish.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, it was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to adjourn. Following vote on the motion is recorded; yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Fiscal Officer

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Mayor