

Village of Shawnee Hills Council Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2021

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

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

Absent: Renee Matney

Also Present: Fiscal Officer Shirley Roskoski, Administrator Russell Baron and Solicitor Brian Zets

Minutes

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by LaRosa to approve the minutes of July 12, 2021 with the following amendments: on page six, 4th paragraph, correct the spelling of asked, and in the 6th paragraph change make to take. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 4; Gates, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Abstain, one; Isern. Motion passed.

Agenda

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

Solicitor

Brian said I worked with Mark on a variance application that was submitted by Mary and Michael Flanagan with respect to lots being split and combined in some combination thereof. I think they own parcels on E. Muskingum and E Olentangy Dr. They will be in front of BZA next month on August 10.

Village Administrator

Russel said I worked with Mark and Richard to shore up some smaller cleanup projects. The lighting and landscaping was fixed on the entrance rock. The south end entrance lot does not have any lighting so we are going to try some solar options.

The deteriorating portion of the fence at the Buckeye Drive pond has been removed. The existing good fencing has been left as a decoration and kind of a deterrent to keep people out of there. If we do want to go back and replace the fence we will need to rent equipment. Lumber prices are high right now and the lumber we need is not available. The picnic table that was up by the pond was removed, cleaned, and relocated to the Frambes Park.

We did create a Village Facebook page. It is going to be a group effort. I think there's a learning curve with it to get some of the things up and running. One of the residents has stopped in and offered some assistance with this.

We are looking at scheduling a chipper day in September. I talked with Mark and we are weighing some options and I will have something for UST in two weeks.

The drainage fix at Dublin and Logan Rd. is in progress. We are just waiting on the developer to start. That includes fixing the sinkhole and removing those cones next to the sidewalk. I have a recommendation for UST to fix a crushed pipe under E. Old Powell. Mark and Richard will be inspecting storm water outlets along the river at Chris' request. This is to clear up any blockages and make sure we are complying with EPA mandates. There was a ditch that was cleared out at Shawnee Trail and Wilma that was causing some minor flooding in that area. Also working on a quote for flooding in the area of W. Reindeer and Hillcrest. I will have that for UST.

I am open to and welcome feedback from residents regarding storm water issues. I think a lot of these projects were neglected over the years. We have pipes that are crushed or broken and we can budget these things out. They are four to five thousand-dollar repairs. I think we can budget them out and fix some of the biggest offenders and over the next few years take care of them all.

I worked with Chris to create a rough sketch plan for the area of Glick Road. Dan and I will have a meeting with Equity, Nest and Jeff soon. One of the biggest things in all the conversations and meetings that we have had is what is your plan for the area. We do not have a plan. Chris is designing something, fairly inexpensive, a rough draft that we can share with these developers. That way the village can start taking advantage of the things that we want down there.

I have also spoken with Columbus with the request that they install some sort of fencing to hide the electrical equipment on Glick Road. When you come across the bridge and look to your left the first thing you see is barbed wire and electric boxes. Columbus said it shouldn't be a problem. Chris is going to talk to someone in their utilities to see if we can follow up to get that put in.

Mark and Richard have been ordered uniform shirts and traffic safety vests. They will be required to wear them when working in the community. The vests and shirts are clearly labeled with our logo and will be easily identified by any residents that don't know them, plus, if they are in the roadway, they are required to wear a traffic safety vest.

Lexipol was presented to Finance. I hope to move forward with this to get it implemented quickly. It will probably take a month to upload all of our village policies in there.

Shirley's work hours are 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday. Mark will be here 7:00 to 3:00. I know there was an issue before with him coming in very early and taking off very early in the afternoon.

I worked with Shirley this week and got caught up on the municipal budget. I thank her for her time and learning and reading all those other lines in the budget that I had no clue. I have a good handle on that and ready to move forward.

Council member LaRosa said to Russ. I really appreciate your grabbing that by the reins and knocking it out. I know there has been a lot of slack, not you personally, but just the position of trying to juggle both jobs and so far, I think you are knocking it out of the park. Thank you.

Police Chief Report

Chief Baron said I am still working on the implementing of the new CAD. It should go live at the end of August.

We talked about it in Safety and I believe also in Finance. We are changing the graphics on the exterior of the police cars. We have done a lot to the interior of the police department as in the officers and the staff and the policies. Nothing really on the exterior. We are a completely different police department than what we were ten years ago but we still have the same graphics on the car. When someone looks at our cruiser they see the same Shawnee Hills. The new graphics will start to be installed this week. It also saves money in the long run because our old graphics are custom order now. They do not stock them, so the price doubled at our old vendor.

Started the hiring process for two part time officers. We have seven candidates for the two positions. We have been running those two positions vacant for a while. Just receive word that one of our part time officers is in the hiring process for full time.

Several criminal cases were in court the last few weeks. Our officers have been busy going back and forth there. It seems like the court is finally catching back up from COVID.

We will be attending first Friday in Delaware and we are working on planning a fund raiser for K9 Havoc.

We are planning Trick or Treat tailgate for this year. We plan on making it bigger and better this year after missing out last year.

Car 53 is still not running properly. The check engine light is back on. After all the money we have invested in the car I am not inclined to purchase a fuse for it should it break. The new cruiser was ordered in May. Delivery was supposed to be in September. I just received word from Ford that they are 26 weeks delayed because of the microchip issue. They are sitting somewhere in Kentucky waiting on microchips.

I did speak with Finance. We have the opportunity to purchase a used car from one of our vendors who used it as a trade to drive back and forth for office visits. This is a 2014 Police Interceptor. It is fully outfitted. We are going to talk to them to see if we can pick this up in our price range. I will have something back to council hopefully the first of next month.

Communications

Mayor Mathews said I talked with Andy Johanni with Equity and that ongoing discussion with our participation with the cost of the traffic light.

Then just a lot of back and forth with Russ on projects that we are doing; things that we are targeting on doing. I think we are off to a good start there.

Pro Tem Report

Pro Tem Thatcher said I have been trying to fill the vacant position on Planning and Zoning. I have sent emails and left messages with no response. If anyone out there is interested in this position please contact the office or Shirley and the information will get to me.

I also restructured a couple of the committees to take effect with the new people that we have that have replaced people that have left.

Committee Reports

Councilmember Gates said Finance met this evening and Russ kind of covered everything. We talked about Lexipol, Car 53 and a potential deal for a used cruiser. We also talked about the twenty-six-week delay on the new cruiser. We did kind of touch on Equity and the traffic light. Finance went ahead and made a motion to bring the Lexipol contract to Council.

Legislative Actions

Third Reading – Ordinance 12-2021 – An Ordinance creating a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area in the Village of Shawnee Hills and establishing regulations as required by law. It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 12-2021. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Motion passed.

Bills

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Zimmerman to pay the bills in the amount of \$25,247.26.

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

Treasurer's Report

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

General	243,875.70	Weed	3,514.30
Street	323,138.11	TIF	41,367.62
State Highway	21,976.71	TIF 2	12,702.29
PD Body Armor	810.52	Police District Fund	73,433.83
Drug Law Enfct.	534.41	Veteran's Memorial	248.97
Indigent Driver	385.84	Sewer Operating	51,116.85
Law Enfct. Trust	5,713.53	Sewer Replacement	45,996.08
Enfct. and Education	1,220.85	Storm Sewer	11,157.99
Fire Levy	66,813.92	Debt Service	130,165.94
American Rescue Plan	42,947.94		

For a total of \$ 1,077,021.40

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

Miscellaneous

Council member Gates said this is to approve the annual contract with Lexipol in regards to local government polices and procedures and daily training bulletins. The amount is \$1,362.60.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by LaRosa to approve the contract with Lexipol.

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

Council member LaRosa said I think the Lexipol is something that, what was brought up previously because we didn't have policies in place, really get that done and I think that everyone needs to be made aware that is what this is. I do not think people are aware of what Lexipol is. Lexipol is putting those policies in place that people were worried about as far as even the hiring of Russ in the Administrator position. This solidifies things, I think.

Mayor Mathews said we started this with the police department three years ago.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to adjourn. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.