

Village of Shawnee Hills Council Meeting Minutes

July 22 2024

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 Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to approve the minutes of July 8, 2024 with the following amendments: On page 1, under Pro tem report, add that other council members attended the AIB potluck. On page 2, add in the comments about the condos that Council member Gates used to live in and that they were still in good condition. Change the word *form* Baltimore to *from* Baltimore. Change, I know you separated, but to: I know you separated yourself from the Chamber and the Gazette, but. On page 3 change: put up height capacity, to: put up maximum height capacity.

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

Agenda

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Zimmerman to amend the agenda by adding Resolution 17-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

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

Visitors

Tony Hall, Wilma Drive – I am opposed to multi-family. Nobody I know in the village is jumping up and down about this. I know you want to get new tax revenues. I understand that, but there are other ways to do that. Maybe there has just been a failure in attracting other commercial or retail business in the village and you are going this route. I don't think it is the right route. I think 69% of the people in Shawnee Hills agree with me. I would urge you to consider, if not eliminating, the high density proposed condo development. Paring it down significantly so this village can handle traffic. The population growth, if you look at the numbers, it seems to me as though this development will increase the population by up to a third overnight. We are talking about 72 units, that's a lot. If I am wrong about this let me know. I am just reading the information here. It sounds to me as though it is pretty dramatic for this village.

Council member Gates – Are you referencing the Village Gazette.

Tony - yes.

Council member Gates - That is not an official publication.

Tony - I understand. Is this information incorrect?

Council member Gates - Yes.

Tony - I know you are here to reinstitute the multi-family zoning district, is that the purpose of the meeting tonight.

The answer was yes.

Tony - The point of me being here, if I can't talk you into not doing the existing proposal, I would ask that you pare it down significantly.

Mayor Mathews - To what?

Tony - Something less than 14 buildings and 72 units.

Mayor Mathews - Everything you are reading there is incorrect, it's misleading. He said there are minimum construction standards that we are using. That was presented at one point by the owner of the property. However, it does not reflect the reality of the property. They don't even own some of that property the buildings are shown on.

Tony - I hear that. I just would urge you to consider something less drastic, perhaps more commercial and less residential. I have been here 11 years and I like the village as it is. I wouldn't want to see it change so drastically overnight.

Council member Isern - I would like to address your statement saying that the majority of the residents don't want multi-family and you are basing that on the statistics of the survey that are in the Gazette. If you take these numbers, 69% of 107 responses equals approximately 74. That is out of the total village. If you look at 840 residents, 74 people represent 8.8 percent of the population, so it is far from the majority.

Tony -Let me respond to that by saying this. Was it one survey per household?

Council member Isern - Per household.

Tony - That is misleading right there. My guess is that if you were to send out a new survey to all the residents today that you would get higher than 70% rejecting this.

Council member Isern - We don't see that. In this Gazette publication, it invited emails to council members and written comments and so on. We received a total of 5 emails. Now there is a big group here tonight. At the last council meeting, which was technically the public hearing portion of the three readings, there were three people here.

Tony - So you are accusing us of just being apathetic by not showing up at the last meeting.

Council member Isern - I am not accusing anybody of anything. I am just saying, there has not, except for right now, at this minute, there has not, or seem to have been, a huge outpouring of opinion one way or another.

Council member Thatcher - You are assuming that there is going to be a development coming that is going to be what was in the paper and there is not. This is nothing like that. This is not about a specific development. This is about three pieces of property in the village only. Those are the only places for multi-family. There are no proposals at this time of any development at those sites. Most of those sites are blighted, under-utilized, or have other issues and have been sitting vacant for years and years. There are no numbers thrown out there. It is kind of silly to have to go back and forth about someone that just came in with a hypothetical and now everyone takes it as truth and unfortunately, we have a publication that puts that out.

Tony - I am not reading under the assumption that if you reinstitute the multi-family zoning; there are some serious discussions going on about what to do with that in that regard. If that is totally incorrect, then I apologize.

Mayor Mathews- I will answer that. The owner of that property did approach us and asked if the village would be open to multi-family housing.

Tony – So, I am here, and there are a bunch of people here, to say we don't like the idea, at least in its current form, the one that's been brought up.

Mayor Mathews - I will ask this to everyone that comes up. Tell me specifically what you oppose? Is it the amount?

Tony – 14 buildings and 72 units.

Mayor Mathews – 14 buildings are irrelevant. That land doesn't exist for the 14 buildings there. Disregard the drawing that you see there. What is it that you oppose?

Tony- High density housing.

Mayor Mathews – What do you consider high density? Do you know what the maximum is? It is 6 units per acre.

Tony – That is a lot better than what I heard.

Mayor Mathews – If you have not, I would invite you all to read the legislation and the minimum and maximum construction standards as planning and zoning wrote them.

Russ - The legislation says a minimum of two acres to be considered for multi-family. Six units per acre. Each unit is a minimum of 1,250 square foot and does require two parking spaces. Off site parking is only 8 spaces clustered together. We did not want a giant parking lot.

Council member Gates said I would like to make a clarification. I know this has come up in a couple of emails about the survey. The survey was not scientific. The survey had many flaws within the gathering of the information. For instance, people came into the office and picked up extra surveys so they were not watermarked. It wasn't done in a manner to say that it was accurate. I just wanted to say this as background.

Charles Kielkopf – I am a military veteran and one of the reasons why I joined up in 1976 was to support what I believe our Country stood for. I don't know what the actual results were of your unscientific survey but I believe in democracy and I believe that if the people of Shawnee Hills want to have this then that's okay whether I personally want it or not. I think probably I would prefer the status quo but if more people want it then I think that is okay. What I have already heard here is that we have an unscientific survey. That you sent it out, whatever that 69% is, I don't know what it is. I think it is your responsibility as leaders of our community. As far as to do what the people of the community want. That is what I think. I don't know what that is but I propose is there should be a ballot initiative that is placed on the November ballot and then the people of Shawnee Hills can vote what they want.

Jennifer Klemm, 52 Buckeye Dr. – I have lived here for 20 years. When I first came here this village was about \$50,000.00 in the red. They are not anymore which is great. I see money being spent. It is not any of my business because I am not involved. I do believe that this development that you guys want is all about RITA tax. It is all about money and I am not saying it shouldn't be. I couldn't agree with these two gentlemen more. They said exactly what I wanted to say which is this village is small enough. I too have talked to many people and no one wants them. I think if you truly want to do what the residents want than you let them vote on it. I do believe it will be over 70% of the people saying no once they understand the facts. My experience of the past is that people change zoning and then a company comes along and says hey, do you mind if you tweak it a little more for us, and before you know it, it has been tweaked. Concord Township is infamous for it. So, my concern about doing something like this, it could get be so far out of spiral that you can't reel it back in. The village is so special because we have no multi-unit rentals here. I lived by some really nice apartments 20 years ago. Now they are horrible. Why, they switch hands, people buy them, even condo associations switch who is in charge of them. I am not saying that would happen here because the ones in Muirfield are beautiful. I do worry about the traffic also. The traffic backs up all the way across the bridge. The extra stoplight that was put in has made it even worse in the summertime to where you can't even get to the stoplight. If you add so many more cars this close they are not going to go to Home Road, they are going to come down here. It is already taking me more time to get to work every day.

Mayor Mathews – RITA taxes are how we function. What is your alternative?

Jennifer – I was here for over ten years when we functioned with less than \$200,000.00.

Mayor Mathews – Our expenses in 1999 were \$200,000.00. Our expenses in 2023 are over a million dollars.

Jennifer – I have seen where some of the money is going. I see a need and I see necessities and I see a lot of wants.

Mayor Mathews – The needs. You do understand that we have to spend money in a certain way.

Jennifer – Yes, I do.

Mayor Mathews – When you say needs, those have to come from those specific accounts. Again, I would ask, what is your alternative for raising RITA income tax.

Jennifer – You lower the expenses.

Mayor Mathews – Fair enough. What would you like to cut?

Jennifer – I try to cut ten dollars a year, fifteen dollars a year and twenty dollars a year.

Mayor Mathews – What would you like to cut. Where should we start?

Jennifer – Not that I don't like the beautification, because I do. I don't like the bill that went along with it. When I see what was spent. It is beautiful. There is no way that I would spend that elaborate amount of money of other people's money without being more fiscally responsible.

Mayor Mathews – That was a project. Tell me what the ongoing services that you would cut.

Jennifer- There are many things that all add up just like it does at your house.

Mayor Mathews – With the annual expenditures, what services would you cut.

Jennifer – Right now, do you see that there are some expenditures that could have not been expended. Twenty years ago, we did not have a lot of stuff. It was okay. Why, because it cost money and the village couldn't afford it. It was okay. Nobody complained. Pat got the sidewalks in due to grants.

Mayor Mathews – No he didn't. We got a loan for the sidewalks and it is still outstanding.

Shirley – We only got the grant for the handicap ramps, not for the entire sidewalk.

Jennifer – The sewer debt. I have been here 20 years and I have paid over \$5,000.00 dollars for the debt. Taking care of the residents to me is more important. Relieving them is more important than many of these other things. You take your residents into consideration first. They are the ones who live here and support this village and I do not feel like that is being done. We have a small enough village that to buy stuff could be voted on.

Mayor Mathews – Can I have an example?

Jennifer – When you are spending over X amount of dollars I think the people, we are small.

Mayor Mathews – Are we supposed to go door to door to get your opinion every single time.

Jennifer – No, not at all.

Mayor Mathews – So explain to me what we are supposed to vote on.

Jennifer – When \$100,000.00 is spent. I think that it would be nice if people were aware of it.

Shawn Swaagman – I wanted to see the map of the zones. How easy is it to increase those potential sites? One of my concerns is once you have this in place, you can add more places and make more changes quickly and a lot of people are going to notice. I kind of wanted to come up here to say I am not upset about it but I am concerned enough to say that I didn't make the last two meetings and I know that wasn't the greatest survey but I kind of want to make sure that I don't really agree with this. When I took the survey I even said it depends on how it works out. I need to know more about it. The way it has been handled. I am kind of opposed to it right now. Some of the things I will mention are: If you look at the list of 16 things, there is nothing really on there that says the developer will be in charge of providing additional nearby services that will be needed to accommodate things like traffic. I know it talks about the streets and things like that. Let's say, for some reason, you guys say at this specific lot you have to have a stop light and you don't want people getting on and off right on Dublin Road because it is busy. Because of that it would seem safer for people to come from the backside of the lot to a stoplight. More of a focus on the lot itself is where my concern is. I am not completely opposed to it. I am kind of on the fence.

Those are main concerns. There are so many people here that have said things that resonated with me about making sure that you guys know what the village actually wants. I can sympathize with you when you say well if the village doesn't want this what do you do. I don't know the answer so I have to at least acknowledge that.

Mike Mitchell – My family and I have lived on E. Cuyuga since 2006. I want to thank council for your service. It is a thankless job. I am here to talk about the multi-family housing. I know nothing I say here tonight is going to change the vote. It kind of seems like a done deal to me. I am really not 100% sure if I am against or opposed to it. It goes back to education. I don't think enough has come out yet with all the details. That FAQ that came out that was a great start but it should have been out months ago.

Council member Isern – Are you aware that we had three public meetings that dealt specifically with how things work.

Mike – I went back to last October and watched every single you tube video. There were very few details given in any of those meetings. I need a lot more education to decide if I am for it or not.

Mayor Mathews – How do you suggest we educate.

Mike – The FAQ was a great start. From an education standpoint you guys are putting the parameters in, what a developer can do or must do. What's your vision? Can't we offer the developer, sure it must be natural stone, hardi-board whatever else is in there. Why can't we have another development like Buckeye Dr. as opposed to multi-family. Buckeye is a beautiful street to drive down. What other things have you looked at besides multi-family to raise revenue. At your January 8, 2024, Monica Connors, Director of Delaware County Economic Development came and offered to partner with the village on economic development. There has been nothing said about that ever since. You guys have been laser focused on multi-family development. What other things have been discussed?

Mayor Mathews – We are in a joint economic district with Evans Farms and Berlin Township. We are limited on who we can partner with and that is through Delaware County Economic Development. Outside of soliciting Doctors, Lawyers, Dentists to come to the village there is not a lot of control that we have. We have to wait for a business to approach us about a commercial lot.

Mike – We are talking about adding this into the code. You know the old saying you build it they will come. What is wrong with some kind of office development.

Mayor Mathews – We don't own the land. We are not a developer.

Mike- I completely understand.

Council member Thatcher – That would be the option for the property anyway. It is the option right now. It is sitting vacant and a lot of these are blighted and other problems with them. That's an option right now. Someone could come in and build tomorrow with our existing code also.

Mayor Mathews – This is a subset of Planned Unit Development. If it didn't exist that builder or that owner can come in here and say we want to build an office building. They approached us and wanted to know if we would be open to multi-family. Outside of that, right now, what that can be zoned for, the latest integration was storage units. I assume that doesn't fit in anybody's definition of village charm.

Mike - But there were retail units in front of them.

Mayor Mathews – There were many things mentioned. You can put lipstick on a pig but it all was just going to be retail buildings in the front. There were going to be storage units there. Powell put storage units on their main road. I don't want that to be the legacy here. Baker's have a storage garage on our main street and I'm sure everybody would like to change that but you can't go back and change what you did X amount of years ago. The PUD is what most communities now use. The discussion that we are having is only an allowable use within the PUD.

Mike – My concern is the sewer system. We signed an agreement with Dublin back in 2000 stating that we can have 120,000 gallons per day. They charged us \$115,000.00 when we signed that agreement. If we exceed that, they can charge us more. Has anybody done any analysis to see how much multi-family is going to add to the system.

Mayor Mathews – We are about at 40% capacity.

Russ – According to our engineer we would have to add an awful lot for us to even reach a threshold where it would be dangerous for us. There are other things we can do such as onsite storage, wayback releases and those kinds of things.

Mike – Who pays for that.

Mayor Mathews said if we were to expand and annex then the residents will be paying for that.

Mike – Are you guys able to write into the code that the developer has to pay for a pump house?

Russ – We look at the traffic, we look at the utilities and the developer will be paying for all that.

Mike – I saw that there are three properties that can be developed multi-family. My concern is Straders. How soon before some developer comes in and offers Straders an amount they can't refuse.

Mayor Mathews – That one is my fear. With the strategic map that we put in place we did put commercial, multi-family and single-family homes towards the rear of the property as a buffer.

Casey Stephenson – I live at 55 E. Cuyuga. To council thank you. What you are going through is crazy. Your question that keeps coming back to everybody here is if not what. I just want to rest assured everybody's voice that I think everybody here has gone to the first and foremost that multi-family means we are bringing in the projects. I looked personally to invest in buying the Westview property. I went through the experiment with the realtor. I went and talked to a lot of people about developing. I can tell you where the price point is on these places that are up for sale we are not having poor stuff. If I was to buy that property, my break even would be over \$90,000.00 a lot. Let me put that in perspective. If you guys went over and bought a Romanelli and Hughes house, your break even on your lot would be about 30 to 40 thousand. So, the developers that are coming into our village and doing stuff are not doing it on the low end. Their goal is not to ruin our village. Our village is actually doing a phenomenal thing. I don't know if any of you have parents that live in a gated community. The services that this village offers on a million-dollar budget. Can we put that into perspective? We had cops driving around with blown engines? We had cops sharing a car. We had Mark and Richard driving the Kubota around because our pickup truck was broken. Have you ever looked at the salaries of our employees that wake up every day to serve us? Here we are standing around thinking first and foremost that these people up here all they want to do is bring in government housing. Like, shame on us. Let's get to the meeting and come see these people. What they have developed so far, with Shawnee Station over there, what you guys have all done; phenomenal job. You know why I don't have a

neighbor is because I bought the lot next to me. I have had multiple people knock on my door asking I want to sell it. If you guys don't want development, buy it. The Westview property has been for sale ten years.

A resident said they won't sell it by the lots. Casey said buy the whole thing. A resident said I don't have 6 million dollars. Casey said there you go. So now folks we are sitting here talking about if it was my money, it's this money. Our village has scaled in what we offer. Part of the reason I love being in this village is that my 8-year-old daughter can walk from my house all the way down to the river and all the way up to the Farmer's Market with money in her pocket and not have to be worried about it. You know why. Because we have cops. Do you know what we also have? We have each other and all we want to do is what's best for this community. I think in our mind that first and foremost have already thought that these people are against us when really these people were all voted in because I think that each of you like the village, don't you. When I look at how much these people can do for a million dollars: I own a business, I am an investor, I am a partner and I have no idea how you guys do it. What we spend just on salt to keep our roads clear. These guys who wake up in the morning and shovel. If I were to answer your question Dan about what you guys could do different I think we need to do a better job monetizing to the community about what they do get for the money that you spend. If we were to put this into a gated community they would be paying a lot more and an HOA would be a lot more. The people who are retired, this is a great place to be, the perks you get is very good. I just don't think that as a community, you guys pat yourself on the back for what you guys do. I know it's not what you guys wanted to hear. Rest assured that the price tags on these is bringing high end stuff just like the Station and our village will only get better.

Jean Nolan – Last Thursday I was driving along Shawnee Trail and got to Seneca and that vacant lot that has all the signs around it, don't park here. All those signs got my attention and I looked over to my right and I am about to turn at the curve in front of Scott Vasko's house and I saw a little bit of white and a little bit of blue and I realize that it is Kathy and her dog. I had to veer away from them and go really far out to not hit them. I noticed there weren't any speed limits signs on the road. Numerous residents said they have speed limit signs on their streets. Jean said there were a lot of branches in the way.

Claudia Husak – I apologize for not having been here at the other meetings. I have enough of my own public meetings to attend so sometimes it is hard to get away. With that being said I am leaving for Germany tomorrow and to the horror of the village I am moving my parents into an apartment. I think I have said this before. I am a proud person to live in the village and I really, really appreciate that you have this news to what the data is that MORPC has put out, the data that Delaware County has put out, and that there is a need for multi-family housing, a variety of housing in the region and that we are putting a step forward to figuring out a way to include that in the village. The PUD ordinance is the best way to do it because it gives the planning and zoning commission negotiation rights. It gives the Village Council negotiation rights. It gives the residents of the village an input. That is really important because it does take a village. It takes all of us to make the best of it. I think you are taking the right steps to do so. One question I did have, in terms of the language of the Ordinance was the pitched roofs. I thought that was kind of putting us into a little bit of a very limited type of architecture. Maybe eliminating some roof top gardens. It might be something to consider. I think the 30-foot limit really makes you have a two

story and nothing above that because nobody wants to have 8-foot ceilings. Typically, 35 is seen in other communities with single family homes. I didn't see anywhere where the measurement of how the roof height is measured in the code. The pitched roof might be something to reconsider but it also may happen during the negotiations for the PUD itself. With that being said I applaud you all for taking a step forward.

David Vics - I am new to the neighborhood. We live on Shawnee Trail at E. Cherokee. I got a chance to really admire how you guys handle some of the confrontation. It started out a little tough and I appreciate what you guys put up with and I do appreciate how you handled it. I heard something that was kind of a repeat through this that Mayor Mathews said over and over again, you said what is your solution. It sounds to me that begs the question. There's planning and zoning but planning and zoning puts limits on things to say just do it this way. We have a landowner who has an investment and wants to recoup on that investment and I don't blame him. The question is, the village is so big. It has so much space, it has so many resources, it's got issues and things that need to be managed. I've had a chance to observe a couple of things. We came from Sunbury and we lived in Galena. We had a chance to see Genoa Township fight high density every time something came up. Every vote there was a ballot initiative and they voted it down every time. I also watched Sunbury, who has very little control on things, annex property all the way over to get that mall put in. We thought it would be a luxury mall but it wasn't. It's just a rundown, same type of mall that you see on I71. There were a bunch of people that got upset about that. Someone made a comment during the hearing and said it is just a meaningless bean field. There are a lot of people that to them this is a very unique location. What we discovered is you have the advantage of this little village surrounded by everything. You are close to Dublin and Powell. You can do just about anything here. Has anybody taken the time to kind of spin a vision for what they want to do with all this. just having a bunch of storage units is not much more than a blighted area. I watched and had a chance to observe Dublin because I am associated with the Dublin Real Estate Group. The officials come in all the time and talk about how they are planning. We saw what they did with Bridge Park. They are doing a very similar thing off of Frantz Road and they are pulling in developers and residents and experts and government officials and they are trying to put a plan together that is a combination of office space and residences and walking paths and green space and then they are laying out a plan and inviting in the developers as opposed to putting up a bunch of rules and hoping you get a good developer. Has anybody considered setting up a sub committee like that to come up with a couple of ideas and float it past you and the population and see what people think. What do you want it to be? It is obviously a different place than it was 20 years ago with a \$100,000.00 budget. You have a million-dollar budget. You have a police station. You have this nice building. You have government officials and people who volunteer their time. Is there some kind of happy medium where we can kind of duplicate what Dublin has been able to do with their planning in bringing these things in so we can get the sewage and the pump station and the traffic lights and get these problems abated as we move together with some plans?

Council member Isern - Thanks for your comments. We are working with Delaware County Regional Planning Commission and we are also working on putting together a Main Street development plan with various features to improve the functioning of traffic and also appearances. We certainly don't have the money that Dublin does to work with a lot of

professional planners. We do the best that we can. We are trying to be proactive to the extent that volunteer effort and money allows and for staff. We have limited staff.

Mayor Mathews - Delaware County Regional Planning is giving us an updated plan but it won't tell us a whole lot of anything. It will tell us that we have small roads and drainage problems. The cheapest way, in my mind, is having the PUD legislation. I'm not saying multi-family. I am saying PUD legislation. A developer comes in with an idea. We can ax it immediately and say that is not what we had planned. That PUD gives us the ability to negotiate that. To push what our vision is on to that developer.

Council member LaRosa - We can't just go up to Straders and say we are going to put you in our development plan. There are four different people who own the land. The reason Dublin worked is because the developers owned the land. Here, these people are trying to sell the land and no developer wants to buy it because it is priced too high.

Brian Adams – I live at 35 E. Cuyuga. I think this has been very good. I think that everybody giving their thoughts and opinions, I don't think anybody is wrong. I've heard people ask the question why don't you want it. The answer I just don't like it is a legit answer. I support it personally. I live down below it. I am not concerned about any issues. I think change is hard. When we first moved here in 2015 we bought a piece of land that had never been lived on. We tore trees down, neighbors were a little excited about it. When Casey moved in beside me I wasn't real happy about that. He tore some stuff down and he has built it back up. The change was a little hard. In the end I think it was good. We are good neighbors. It's really good to see everybody come out and talk about it and give their thoughts. If it's a smaller Bridge Park I would be very happy. I like the high end. I would like a little retail in the front. Six to seven hundred thousand dollar condos are going to increase our values.

Rebecca Perkins – I am not opposed 100% against multi-family development. I don't like it. I don't want it honestly. I actually like his idea better about having a developer come in and sit down to figure out exactly what it is going to be before moving forward. My question is what have you guys done to cut the budget. You say how do we increase revenue. What have you done to cut the budget. I know that we spent a lot of money on W. Hiawatha and the problem is still not resolved. There is a big sink hole in my neighbor's yard. We redirected the water on the wrong side of the street. Nothing goes on that side of the street. It is still coming down my front yard. It is sinking both of our yards. We spent a lot of money to do that. You wasted all that money and didn't solve the problem. You all should see this sinkhole. My neighbor keeps putting asphalt and rocks in the hole. I have tons of photos of these issues.

Russ – Planning that took a year. The final phase of that is repaving that street and part of the plan is to tilt it back towards the other side of the street. That has captured a significant amount of water on that side. This is the first time we have had any kind of feedback on the south side of the street.

Council member Thatcher – One of the things you are talking about has plagued this village for a long time is the fact that we don't have drains and we don't have drainage and people don't maintain their ditches. Russ and the UST and everyone else is working hard to fix those

individually. That is all going to have to be decided and figured out and planned and paid for. W. Hiawatha may not be completely fixed yet but they are working with the engineer to do it. We have three full-time employees. There's not a lot that can be done. We have to do things in phases.

Russ – That area collects from about four different pipes or ditches and takes it out so we did eliminate a significant amount of water coming over the street. We built in a pipe that actually connected that to the neighbors so things are coming over the road and the paving should eliminate most of it.

Council member La Rosa - I would like to say something. While I am on Council, I live here. I may not talk up there because I am sitting here. I have an opinion too. I see all the back end things that go on. We have UST meetings. We have Finance meetings. We have Safety meetings. A lot of those aren't broadcast. Carol sits in on a lot of them. I don't see a lot of information come out about them but she hears most of what goes on. To open up something for a conversation to have something eventually be bought in to bring in tax revenue for us, we are small. All these problems you are bringing us, sinkholes, paving, etc. We have the lowest paid police officers in Central Ohio. If we lose one officer it takes us six months to a year to replace them. We have shifts that go uncovered because we have nobody to cover it. If we don't do something to up our revenue we are not going to be a village for much longer. We are sitting good right now because we got Covid money that was left over from everyone that was working from home. We get all that tax revenue. As soon as they go back to the office we lose it. It's no more. The beautification, how we are spending money on it, the beautification brings in people. It brings in businesses. Businesses like to see that. It brings traffic. People like to come to places that are nice. People from Tartan Fields and Dublin, they are not going to want to go to the backwoods to go places and hang out. They come here because they like what they see. What we've done. What the village has done. We do nothing, at least for me personally, I'm sure I speak for everybody, we are all residents here. I want nothing but the best for this village. Nothing but the best and part of that is sometimes taking my personal opinion out of it and looking at it as what is the best as a whole for the village. In my opinion, this is a good thing for the village. We are controlling it. We are not just putting it in willy nilly and anybody can do whatever they want to do. We are telling them you have to have a standard and we are going to hold you to it. We made a lot of good decisions and I hope the people see that.

Council member Isern and Zimmerman said they support what Council member LaRosa said.

Communications

Mayor Mathews said I want to give a shout out to Shawnee Hills Blooms. We received the following email from a woman who passes through the village. The improvements made in Shawnee Hills are beautiful and worth noting. New street signage, hanging baskets of flowers that are watered and kept looking fresh. Every day as I drive by through the village I see the improvements. Thank you for making our little town look awesome and inviting.

For my personal communications, I sat in on the newly formed Art Committee. They are just kicking off. Maggie Boggess was elected the Chair and Michell Harris was elected Co-Chair. They are still getting together as far as what dates they will meet. It will probably be monthly.

What projects and what their purpose is for the committee. They will be sending out a survey also.

Pro Tem Report

Pro tem Thatcher said I received a few emails and I tried to answer them all. I think I got one today that I did not have time to get to before coming here.

On August 12 at 6 p.m. we hope to have the first Veteran's Group Meeting. People have said they would like to have a citizen's veteran's group to help organize activities. I have been doing it for the last couple of years so I welcome this. There are a lot of projects that we can do so that would be great. I am sure that we can get the American Legion Post to support us in whatever we decide.

Committee Reports

Council member Gates said Finance met before Council tonight. It was kind of a mid-year review. From January to this month we are on par to overtake by a few thousand dollars from the RITA tax collections of 2023. There were some refunds due to the Covid era. We are doing fine with the totals. The totals so far for this year is \$509, 940.58. The expenditures apart from the Street Fund are on track. The Street Fund is low due to all the work that was done on W. Hiawatha. The only other notation is that Medical Mutual changed to charging each employee the same amount instead of charging each individual a certain rate based on age.

Legislative Actions

First Reading – Resolution 17-2024 – A Resolution authorizing and directing the Village Administrator to execute a cooperation agreement with Delaware County for the Urban County Entitlement Program and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 17-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Isern to adopt Resolution 17-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Third Reading – Ordinance 16-2024 – An Ordinance amending Section 1117.01 (Uses) of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Shawnee Hills.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 16-2024. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Ordinance 17-2024 – An Ordinance to reappropriate funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Shawnee Hills, State of Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 17-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Thatcher to adopt Ordinance 17-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Bills

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to pay the bills in the amount of \$59,633.65. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Treasurer’s Report

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to approve the following treasurer’s report.

General Fund	506,142.65	Enfct. and Education	1,795.98
Street Fund	49,537.06	Fire Fund	103,891.20
State Highway	43,630.86	TIF Fund	88,253.77
PD Body Armor	2,400.23	TIF 2 Fund	32,934.94
Cont. Pro. Training	8,528.76	Police District Fund	66,492.55
Evans Farm JEDD	10,428.61	Veteran’s Memorial	298.97
Drug Law Enfct.	534.41	Sewer Operating	71,476.76
Indigent Drivers	385.84	Sewer Replacement	7,506.08
Law Enfct. Trust	3,852.20	Storm Sewer Fund	32,895.96
Am Rescue Plan	55,468.14	Debt Service Fund	144,761.66
Weed Fund	648.38	Enterprise Improvement	23,419.00

For a total of \$1,255,284.01

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

Miscellaneous

Council member Zimmerman said he was out of town the past few days so was not able to respond to all of the emails that he received. I apologize if I have not returned your yet.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Gates, seconded by Thatcher to adjourn. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.