

Village of Shawnee Hills Special Council

January 25, 2024

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

Council in attendance: Mary Gates, Kathy Isern, Renee Matney, Robert Thatcher and Todd Zimmerman

Absent: Justin LaRosa and Solicitor Brian Zets

Also present: Fiscal Officer Shirley Roskoski and Administrator Russell Baron

Mayor Mathews said the reason I even thought to do this is, during the election, for whatever way that was going to go, everyone up here, at one point, was a first timer here and didn't necessarily know how everything works, the function of it, and the background of any of it. So, I thought even the basic information might go a long way with helping someone who might think why did the vote on that, how did they do that, why can't we use this for that, where do we get our money, or anything like that. I thought if we just cover some of the basics it would go a long way.

Mayor Mathews said the village was founded in 1941. It was platted sometime between 1927 – 1936. Benmar Realty Company went out of business in 1936 so when it was incorporated in 1941 Benmar wasn't even around. It was just a plat with unnamed streets that showed on the plat.

There are two styles of government, Statutory and Charter. Ours is Statutory. With statutory we are held to the Ohio Revised Code. When we pass laws, we pass ordinances and resolutions. Ordinances are more detailed, more permanent. Resolutions are more for supplies, salaries, things like that.

The Administrative Branch is made up of a Mayor, Administrator, Fiscal Officer, Police Department and Code Enforcement.

The Legislative Branch is the six council members. There are two ways Council passes legislation. One is to go through three readings and if adopted the legislation goes into effect in 30 days. The other way is to waive the second and third readings and pass the legislation as an emergency. If passed, this legislation will go into effect immediately.

Tom Miller asked what determines whether you are a village or a city.

Russ said once you reach 5,000 residents you become a city.

Mayor Mathews said we run a lot of our decisions through our committees. The committees are made up of three council members. We have Finance, Safety, and UST committees.

Our other Boards or Committees are made up of resident members. Some have a council representative. Architectural Board of Review is five members appointed by the Mayor. This Board is made up completely with residents. Planning and Zoning Commission, I am included on that along with a Council representative and then three residents. Board of Zoning Appeals has one Council representative and four residents.

The Architectural Board of Review will review only commercial property, either a new build or a renovation of an existing building.

Council member Thatcher said one of the big ones we did on that is when Iacono's redid their building and they wanted to change the paint colors and signage. This all went to the ABR for review.

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Planning and Zoning can be a hot topic committee.

Russ said those are all regulated by the Ohio Revised Code.

Russ said I want to talk a moment on how I utilize the Council committees. What seems like a whirlwind that comes out of nowhere, and they are all of a sudden on council's desk to vote on, actually were talked about for two or three months in different committees. For example, the camera we just purchased for the sewers. That went to Utilities, Streets and Technology and we pitched why we wanted to purchase this camera. First off, we had a long conversation with our engineer, we looked at various products, and determined which one we wanted and then took it to UST. It then went to the Finance committee. Not sure if the camera went to Finance, but I am using that as an example of the process. Those two committees see ninety percent of council.

Council member Thatcher said the committees only meet once a month. Safety meets quarterly.

Council member Zimmerman said the benefit of the camera was because of the wait time for the company that we have been using. It was four to six weeks. The cost for one job was \$900.00 for four hours. When you have the opportunity to purchase like this, it is ready to go when needed.

Mayor Mathews said council meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Roberts Rules are the standard adopted procedures that everyone follows. It is the most efficient way to run a meeting. This is the business meeting of the village.

Just an idea of where are finances come from. Every week we read the treasurer's report and that report has a lot of different categories that those funds go into. There is a 2 percent income tax is for people that live and/or work in the village. Those funds go into our general fund. The village gets a very small amount of property tax. If you go on the Delaware County Auditor's website you can see the breakdown of where your taxes are broken into. A majority of that goes to the school district. We have police, street and fire levies. We have two TIF's in the commercial areas of the village. TIF 1 is from Cherokee south on Dublin Road and TIF 2 is from Cherokee north on Dublin Road. The funds go back into those commercial, public areas as an overall benefit.

Community Planning

Russ said our Comprehensive Land Use Plan was done in 2011. Our Stormwater Management Plan was 2019. That gets updated every five or so years. The Comprehensive Land Use plan comes from Delaware County Regional Planning. The majority of the last plan was based off of input provide by Council and the Mayor at the time and Delaware County's plan and goal and vision for Shawnee Hills. We have the option to go to an outside source for a plan, but I have seen prices starting at \$40,000.00. Regional Planning is wrapping up some other entities then they will start working on ours. You will probably see some significant changes in it.

We are slowly starting to update the Stormwater Management Plan for 2025. We always ran a pipe when we needed to run a pipe. Dug a ditch when we needed to dig a ditch. We have some opportunities with development that have put in long runs to the river or put in a larger diameter pipe that we can tap into which gives us the ability to branch off and do different things.

I will be working with our engineer, Chris Tebbe, to rely more on piping and less on ditching to fix some of the issues we currently have that weren't done improperly

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when they were done but now the standards have changed. On some instances we fix an issue and then we create an issue.

How do we get ahead of an issue that we are going to create by fixing something here? Our engineer, I can't speak highly enough of him. He is an expert in the field. He is relied upon by several other communities. He reviews plans for Dublin, for Delaware, and for Delaware County. As far as his reputation in his industry, Chris is one of the best in Central Ohio. We are working with people in his office to update that.

Prior to installing the sewers, we were considered a rural community. Because of our proximity to Columbus and Dublin and the fact that we have sanitary sewers, we are no longer a rural community. We do not qualify for a lot of grants that other rural communities are getting.

Our new plan is the Main Street Plan. This hits drainage and we had a really exciting meeting this morning. I know Mayor Mathews has wanted to do street trees as much as we can. The Main Street Plan is looking at everything from street trees, to lighting, dark sky compliant, sidewalks, cross walks, curb and gutter on Dublin Road.

We met with ODNR today and in conjunction with Blooms, in April, ODNR will be back to do a two-day study with pulling soil samples, right tree, right location, what species goes where, where can we actually put trees. ODNR will compile all this information and it will become one piece of this Main Street Plan. This will cost the village nothing. It is a service of ODNR.

A Strategic Expansion Plan, which we do not have, as a small community we will have to annex at some point. We will annex to the north. We will have to plan to add to our sewer system, to our storm water system and we need to start planning for it now. As these developments come in what can we do to set us up for the next phase or the next 50 years.

The immediate here and now is the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the Main Street Plan. We have a Stormwater Management Plan.

Our Focus

Safety, Sustainability, Preservation of History, Preservation of Natural Resources, Recreational Opportunities, Educational Opportunities and Entertainment.

A few other things that we are involved in are; Tree City USA, America in Bloom, and Sustainable 2050 Community.

Our meeting to be held on February 6 will cover zoning and development and code enforcement.

Our February 22 meeting will cover staffing, growth, annexation, Main Street and public involvement.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Matney, seconded by Gates to adjourn. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor

