

Village of Shawnee Hills Council Meeting Minutes

April 11, 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, Administrator Russell Baron and Solicitor Brian Zets

Minutes

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Isern to approve the minutes of March 28, 2022 with the following amendments: on page 4, last paragraph add the word week after this. On page 5, first paragraph, add the word quarter after third and change thru to through. On the second paragraph of page five, change their to they.

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

Agenda

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Isern to approve the agenda with the following amendment: add Resolution 05-2022 to the agenda.

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

Solicitor

Brian said Mark and I worked on a zoning matter where we thought we were going to have to start the next part of the process and issue a citation but the actual notice of violation letters worked perfectly. We send a notice out to a property owner and things get cleaned up and we don't have anything else to do.

Village Administrator

Russ said it has been a really good two weeks here in the village. Not much going on. We are expecting Maronda to come back for May's Planning and Zoning meeting. They haven't submitted anything yet but they contacted Mark and told him they would be submitting something soon.

Chipper Day is coming back this year. We have it nailed down to May 9 or May 16. This would be a great time for residents to start trimming things back and getting the pile out by the roadway.

Richard did a phenomenal job on the landscaping out front and straightening the trees and putting stone around the trees and planting grass seed on the hill. He also put stone around the pump station.

The giant pile of stone on Osage will hopefully be gone tomorrow. We had an issue with the tractor breaking and the weather dipped down, that pile of stone was a solid piece of frozen stone and mud.

Volunteer Energy filed bankruptcy. They are ending all their contracts which does affect our community. Jay Sell from Aspen Energy has been in contact with Shirley and they are working on a new contract for us. There will be a lapse and we will resort back to Columbia Gas prices. Spent some time working with Craig Baldrige. I mentioned America in Bloom, Growing Vibrant Communities program. Craig is here tonight to discuss that. I ask you all to complete the survey you were given and get it back to us.

Arbor Day Celebration is this Saturday in the park. This will follow the Easter egg hunt put on by the Civic. We should have some little sapling trees to hand out to the kids. Mayor Mathews is going to plant a tree.

The legislation tonight for the part-time position, I did send an email to Rob asking if we could make that an emergency tonight. Looking at the path that is going to take it would be the end of June before we can get someone out here to help Richard. We plan on mulching before Memorial Day so in order to do that we have to move forward with this position.

On the police side I do have a memorandum of understanding for the e-citations. We discussed how the State is going away from handwritten tickets and pushing us toward the e-citation model. The only program we can use to submit these citations is called OLEIS, the Ohio Law Enforcement Information System through the State of Ohio. It is free but they do require me to sign an MOU. After speaking with Brian, I would require a vote from council to allow me to sign the MOU.

Council member Isern asked what happens to the data from the citations.

Russ said the State uses it for their mandatory reporting and their reports. They are not collecting any data that we are not already sharing or we are not already giving to the court who reports it back to the State of the Federal Government. We collect a lot of data in house and share it with our community.

Council member Zimmerman said for Chipper Day is there any way we can put some signs out in general areas to let everyone know.

Russ said yes.

Council member Matney asked Russ where we were at on paving for this year.

Russ said I was hoping to have that to UST tonight. Chris had a delay on that. Chris and I went around and identified everywhere that we would like to pave. There are some streets that need paved but where construction is either imminent or pending we are not going to touch. As soon as Chris gets this in I will take it to UST and we can get a bid out.

Mayor Mathews asked if there were any questions on the MOU.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Matney to allow Russ to sign the MOU for the e-citations.

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

Visitors

Craig Baldrige said he is here to talk about Growing Vibrant Communities and the America in Bloom organization as a whole. This all started a few weeks ago as I was getting educated on a few things with the Chief. We talked about some of the things that he was hoping to see get done and there were flowers and beautification and things of that nature. It dawned on me as we were talking, there's a program and an organization out there that does exactly what he was talking about. I was aware of it because a very good friend of mine had been involved in it down in Logan Ohio. They are doing some tremendous things down in Logan that have really helped turned things in a very positive direction for them. It is helping tourism, helping get business back in to the heart of their town. I mentioned this to Russ and sent him a couple of links showing the websites for America in Bloom and for their program called Growing Vibrant Communities.

Several years ago, there's a group of Horticultural Industry Professionals, that wanted to develop an organization to connect people to the benefits of plants, trees and flowers. It quickly became obvious to them that the real community development went beyond horticulture. It includes community vitality, heritage preservation, environmental efforts and overall impressions. All quality of life issues as well as economic drivers for the community. These are all the kind of items that we want to facilitate and bring into Shawnee Hills as well.

The packet of information you have there, rather than doing a power point presentation, I just put it together and you can look at it at your leisure afterwards.

Growing Vibrant Communities is a continuing community enhancement program from America in Bloom, that encourages volunteer community leadership in cooperation with municipal efforts in an ongoing commitment to the community vitality, beauty, environmental stewardship and the celebration of heritage.

Why get involved? I guess the question to ask there is do you believe that beautiful communities promote quality of life and economic vitality. Do you believe that volunteer leadership and involvement can affect change in our community? Are you proud of the unique heritage and character of Shawnee Hills? I think we all would agree with those. Getting started on that part is, in the Growing Vibrant Communities, which is a subprogram with the America in Bloom organization, it starts with an assessment. You all have a packet, which is thirteen pages long, and I want you to love me when you sit down to read it. They have identified a number of areas of impact of community vitality, flowers, landscape area, urban forestry, environment efforts, heritage celebration, and overall impression. These are the areas that the Growing Vibrant Communities surveys dive into. When you start going through this survey you will see that there are six different levels that you will grade how we are doing currently. If there isn't something that you can do or that you have an idea for there is an opportunity for you to say basically not applicable. There is space on the last page for you to make notes, have comments, anything that you have seen we tried before and it didn't work or we tried and you thought it should have worked or any of your own ideas of how we can we do things better. What if we did something, what would it be kind of thing. What I would like to encourage all of you to do is take an evening, it took me about thirty minutes to go through and do my survey, and most of mine was not applicable because I don't know as much about these topics as what you will as being people in the government itself. I have asked for your name at the topic of the survey just so I can know

who to reach back to so I can further understand your comments. I am asking that they be completed and returned at the next council and put them in a sealed envelope if you prefer. It doesn't matter to me. I will take all the surveys and compile them and upload to their system and that is when the ball starts rolling. They will have a person assigned to us that will take what we put together and help us identify, here's the things I think you should start with, here's the things that we need to work on secondary and down the road some and then here are the resources. They have been doing this since 2001 so they have a wealth of information and programs online. Other cities have done this already. I would like to draw your attention to the survey. On the first page there is a score section at the bottom of the page. They have it listed as launching, approaching, achieved and excelling. Read the description next to the words to help you understand how to do the survey. The next step will be to compile the surveys from council and the committees. Following that Russ would like to do a town hall meeting and that one will be community focused. The thinking is we will take the information that we get back from the village stakeholders, identify some of the things that will help us improve our conversation at the town hall. Ultimately, what we are trying to do is develop volunteer groups to help us in each one of these areas. We want to start embracing the community and get people to help do this. The next time he has to put mulch down maybe we can get a group of scouts, honor society students, somebody out there that is looking to do things in our community.

Councilmember Isern asked if there was a cost involved. Obviously if we are making improvements we have to purchase materials and stuff but are there other costs for this organization?

Craig said there is a \$250.00 membership fee to join Growing Vibrant Communities and that has been paid. My hope is that we will be able to get a garden society started that includes representation from the two garden centers in town and we can get some synergy going in that area.

Russ said if we do identify projects to be done, it would run through, whatever volunteers don't handle or get donated or something like that, it would be village backed. We are not bound to do these things, as finances allowed, but some of these would be village backed.

Council member Gates asked at what level in this process would we start to ask for volunteers within the community.

Craig said starting at the town hall meeting. I report directly to Russ. I envision a few committees reporting up through the process. Ideally, I see this as being committee chairs, myself, the advisor from AIB, talking things through and sharing them up and on to you. Hopefully some of you may be interested in getting involved in some of these as well.

Communications

Mayor Mathews said I, like Brian and Russ, have had a slow two weeks. I have nothing new to report. Just monitored emails from Equity to Chris.

Legislative Actions

Second Reading – Ordinance 10-2022 – An Ordinance creating and establishing the part-time position of seasonal maintenance worker.

It was moved by LaRosa, seconded by Thatcher to amend Ordinance 10-2022 so it is written as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by LaRosa to suspend with the third reading and declare Ordinance 10-2022 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 10-2022 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Resolution 04-2022 – A Resolution to hire Holly Wise as a part-time Public Information Officer for the Village of Shawnee hills, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by LaRosa to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 04-2022 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Isern to adopt Resolution 04-2022 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Ordinance 11-2022 – An Ordinance to amend the credit card policy of the Village of Shawnee Hills, Ohio.

First Reading – Resolution 05-2022 – A Resolution approving participation in the OneOhio Region 18 Governance Structure under the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by LaRosa, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 05-2022 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 Resolution 05-2022 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 Matney, seconded by Gates to approve the bills with the addition of an AT&T invoice for 56.43 which brings the total of the bills to \$41,881.62.

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	284,300.38	TIF Fund	82,483.07
Street Fund	420,638.12	TIF 2 Fund	27,612.44

State Hwy. Fund	25,434.27	Police District	114,145.01
Drug Law Enfct.	534.41	Veteran's Mem	248.97
Indigent Drivers	385.84	Sewer Oper.	54,630.53
Law Enfct. Trust	12,268.88	Sewer Replct.	13,211.08
American Rescue	20,298.75	Storm Sewer	14,149.75
Enfct. & Education	1,245.85	Debt Service	111,571.90
Fire Fund	155,880.76	Cont. Profess. Train.	2,535.48

For a total of \$1,341,575.49

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 Gates to adjourn. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor