

Village of Shawnee Hills Council Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2024

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

Council in Attendance: Mary Gates, Kathy Isern, Justin LaRosa, Renee Matney and Todd Zimmerman

Absent: Robert Thatcher

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 September 9, 2024. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Agenda

It was moved by Matney, seconded by LaRosa to approve the agenda with the following amendment: add Resolution 22-2024. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Solicitor

Brian said he worked on Resolution 21-2024 which is on the agenda tonight.

Village Administrator

Russ said paving started today. They should be done by Friday, weather permitting. I have been working with Rob on the Veteran's Memorial ceremony and Blooms for Oktoberfest.

I did start the application for our 2024 Tree City which, looking at it, face value, we again exceeded our requirements for that. With all of the work that Blooms put in and the village put in over the last 12 months we are probably going to wind up with another growth award.

This Thursday through Saturday I will be at the America in Bloom conference in Columbus. The Lucy Depp paving agreement is with Concord Township. They are applying for OPWC funds to pave the entire Lucy Depp area. They get points for joining with another municipality to pave our areas within Lucy Depp. Logan and Mohican are part of that. We are going to pay for our portion of those two streets.

Police Chief

Chief Baron said we hired a part-time officer last week. He is brand new and very young. He is going to need a lot of training. This gives us 3 part-time officers.

We are testing body cameras to see what direction we want to go in from 2025. Ours are at end of life. They are starting to wear out. Pieces and parts are starting to go on them. With every

electronic it is already outdated and the parts are more expensive than the actual unit to replace it. It looks like anything we do it will force us to online data storage. We were trying to stay away from that. The prices and plans are a lot more reasonable than when we started looking at body cameras.

After the America in Bloom conference I will be attending the Attorney General's conference Sunday through Tuesday. This covers a lot of topics. We have to do continuing professional training and part of that is I am going to talk about missing kids in a block of that time and then take classes to get the rest of my continuing professional training.

Visitors

Robin Fellure said I am here today to speak on behalf of the Shawnee Hills Civic Board. It has come to our attention that the tree lighting ceremony will be held at Glick Park this year. We have a few concerns about this location. Our concern is the safety of the kids. There is nothing there to entertain them. There are no covered areas for increment weather and there is no extra seating or a place for a bonfire. A fence was erected at Monahan Park this past year on a side street because a child ran into the street and was hit by a car. Don't we face that same possibility at Glick Park on a street much busier than our side streets. Monahan Park has always been the perfect place. The kids have a playground to entertain themselves on. There is a covered pavilion with ample lighting and seating for the parents to sit around and talk. Plus, we can have a bonfire weather permitting. We have a new taller Christmas tree I heard. Which I am very excited about. We were just wondering why that tree cannot be planted at Monahan Park and that smaller tree moved down to Glick Park. For the well being of our children in the community I thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns. I hope you give this matter some serious thought for the safety of our children.

Council member LaRosa said it is not a real tree. We have a 15-year guarantee on the tree. It looks as real as possible but the cost is prohibitive and from what we got last time, we do not want to do that again.

Robin said she did not know it was artificial.

Council member LaRosa said I don't have any answer to the other part. I will have to do some research.

Mayor Mathews said I don't have a good answer either. It's been at the location where it is at now maybe four or five years. Previously it was where the Brewery is being built. I think this is kind of an effort to centralize this. Here's the entrance to our village and this is where everybody can see. You did bring up a good point about safety and seating, things like that. We will have to look at how we proceed with it. Thanks for coming.

Council member Zimmerman said I am assuming that we have to anchor that tree down using the Glick Road Park. There's ample concrete to anchor it down which we don't have at the pavilion.

Russ said that park was designed around the idea that we were going to have a Christmas tree there. It does need anchored down. It does need flat level ground. Moving the tree is not an option. It will fall over if it is not on a flat level concrete pad. Everything else we can look at.

Safety has been taken into consideration. Monahan Park closes at dusk. It is a huge liability to have kids on the playground after dark.

Mayor Mathews said Dublin has theirs right on 161.

Russ said Delaware's is at Sandusky and William Street.

Jay Sell said he is here to talk about renewing the electric aggregation. We are recommending to do just a one-year term this time instead of the three that we normally do. We got a really good deal last time at 5.09 cents per kilowatt hour. A lot of folks have seen 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 cents over this time period from the utility and other suppliers. It has been a really significant savings. If you look at the one sheet that breaks down the months and the aggregation prices compared to the price to compare (ptc). We are looking at, over three years, saving the community \$368,446.80. This is a really significant amount of money. There are 314 accounts participating today. Folks can always opt out of the program at any time. That brings us to where we are today. Utility rates went way up in June of 2023 over 12 cents a kilowatt hour. They have come back down some. We think they are going to stay high based on the capacity auctions that came out from PJMR, part of the grid. It is really the second largest component outside of energy in electricity, it's called capacity. The price is about to go up in June of 2025 almost ten times what it is today. It is based upon us not really having enough generation access available right now. We don't have enough base load for our part of the grid so they are bumping up the cost of it. I think utility rates are going to be higher. I really don't think we should lock in longer than 12 months right now. If you go 24 or 36 you are going to be taking the highest potential risk of that capacity cost being really, really high from the suppliers rather than we take it 12 months now, we do it below where the utility is at. This offer will be at 7.98 cents. The utility is at 8.24. So, it is below some. Then we look at it over this next year and try to find a better sweet spot that we can extend it longer. I think a longer term aggregation price is definitely the way to go generally when you can get a better rate but there is just not great rates out there today. I think 12 months makes good sense. It's with Dynegy again. They do a great job. They have done well for the community and saved a lot of money. We have a good relationship with them. We are here to answer questions. Anytime folks have questions about the program, the market, bills, please send them my way. I will talk to them myself. They can email if its easier. With that, the offer is for 12 months at 7.98 cents per kilowatt hour. I did include a green opt-in. If folks want to go renewable they can pay a little bit more. It is 8.27 cents per kilowatt hour. So, it is slightly higher than the utility rate, which is a traditional offer, not green. If there are folks in the community that want to do that they can or just stay with the traditional offer to save more money.

Council member LaRosa asked is this going to go into effect in December or earlier.

Jay said the next term starts in December. We will go through the November billing at the old rate. Once December starts the new rate will kick in.

Council member LaRosa asked did you do an annualization to look at what three years would cost. What would we be looking at.

Jay said the utility is at 8.24 so for us to extend to 24 or 36 months we would be signing folks up at higher than the utility rate. That's a big no, no for me in aggregation. Even though folks can get out at any time you never want to have people paying more than what they can get from the utility.

Council member LaRosa said what happens if next year the rate goes up ten times what would we be looking at. My question is to say alright we are in for a year at 7.98. What happens next year in December and we are at 16.

Jay said the ten times piece is of that capacity part. Not energy, not the whole thing. Could electricity overall increase more, yes. Do I think this is the best plan and we watch the market and then make the right move next time, yes? I have been looking at this stuff for 16 years so I have a lot of experience in it and I think this is the right move to just place a band aid on it at this point and then revisit it as soon as we can. I watch the markets move every day. Once we see a good buying opportunity and future utility rates are known than I think we should move once we can. Right now, we only know utility rates generally what they are going to be up until June of next year. As these auctions happen for energy in Ohio and we are educated a little bit more on where the utility rates are going to be, I can definitely come back in ahead of time to talk about it more and make some recommendations to look at a longer-term hedge. I think 12 months is the way to go tonight.

Communications

Council member Isern said Planning and Zoning are meeting tomorrow to finish reviewing the Main Street plan.

Legislative Actions

Third Reading – Resolution 19-2024 – A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to adopt Resolution 19-2024. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Resolution 21-2024 – A Resolution authorizing and directing the Village Administrator to execute a Cooperation Agreement with Concord Township and Delaware County to submit an application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the Lucy Depp Subdivision Project and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by LaRosa, seconded by Gates to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 21-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Resolution 21-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Ordinance 20-2024 - An Ordinance confirming the Mayor's appointment of Kyle Carskadon as a part-time police officer for the Village of Shawnee Hills and declaring an emergency. It was moved by Matney, seconded by Gates to suspend with the second and third

readings and declare Ordinance 20-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none.
 It was moved by LaRosa, seconded by Matney to adopt Ordinance 20-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading- Resolution 22-2024 – A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Electric Village Aggregation Agreement as an emergency with Dynegy Energy Services (East), LLC D/B/A Dynegy Energy Services, LLC.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Isern to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 22-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none.
 It was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Resolution 22-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Bills

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Zimmerman to pay the bills in the amount of \$55,017.38. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Treasurer’s Report

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

General Fund	483,125.59	Enfct. and Education	1,795.98
Street Fund	89,811.11	Fire Fund	111,713.59
State Highway	44,918.74	TIF Fund	94,367.76
PD Body Armor	3,543.19	TIF 2 Fund	44,649.74
Cont. Pro. Training	8,528.76	Police District Fund	190,819.55
Evans Farm JEDD	8,039.20	Veteran’s Memorial	298.97
Drug Law Enfct.	534.41	Sewer Operating	102,803.51
Indigent Drivers	385.84	Sewer Replacement	7,506.08
Law Enfct. Trust	3,852.20	Storm Sewer Fund	35,876.41
Am Rescue Plan	55,468.14	Debt Service Fund	79,586.46
Weed Fund	648.38	Enterprise Improvement	23,419.00

For a total of \$1,391,692.61.

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

Miscellaneous

Mayor Mathews said that Terry Herzog and her husband Bill are moving out of the village and that leaves an opening on ABR. I have appointed Jason Wise to fill this open position.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Matney, seconded by Zimmerman to adjourn. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.