

## **Village of Shawnee Hills Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 9, 2020**

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

Council in Attendance: Mary Gates, Geoff Hanna, Dan Mathews, Renee Matney, Jeff Stacy and Robert Thatcher

Also Present: Fiscal Officer Shirley Roskoski, Administrator Craig Thompson and Solicitor Brian Zets

### **Minutes**

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Hanna to approve the minutes of February 24, 2020. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Hanna, Mathews, Matney, Stacy and Thatcher. Nay, none. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

### **Agenda**

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Hanna to approve the agenda. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Hanna, Mathews, Matney, Stacy and Thatcher. Nay, none. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

### **Solicitor**

Brian Zets said he had a couple of questions from Mark in regards to accessory structures and setback. We got those taken care of.

Craig forwarded the drainage easement from Columbus for the O'Shaughnessy Crossing project. That has been signed and sent back to Columbus for their signatures.

I am also working on the legislative changes recommended by ABR.

### **Village Administrator**

Craig Thompson gave the following report:

- Glick Road Storm Water Improvements: No additional information. At this point, the plan is to advertise in early March and open bids by the end of March. We will schedule this project to start after the Memorial Tournament.
- Computer Recycling Update: Information on the Orange Township recycling event on April 18 at the Home Depot parking lot, 8704 Owenfield Drive, has been placed on the Village website.
- Plat Map in County Auditor's Office: No additional Information.
- Attended Delaware County, State of the County event on February 25 at the Columbus Zoo.

- O'Shaughnessy Crossing: Drainage Easement has been reviewed, signed, and sent back to the City of Columbus.
- Village Pump Station: Discussed internally with Staff the need for the installation of a Standby Generator back up system.

## **Police Chief**

Chief Baron said we did receive a vest for Havoc. This cost about \$2,600.00 and was donated by LOF Defense. It was moved by Stacy, seconded by Hanna to accept the donation of the vest for Havoc. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Hanna, Mathews, Matney, Stacy and Thatcher. Nay, none. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

Chief Baron said I want to touch on a few things that have been recently brought up, either online or in the Village Gazette.

1. Public safety is normally at least 60% of any municipality's budget. Safety of the community should be the number one priority. We pay for a 24/7 fire department in case there is an emergency, how is a police department any less important? Statistically you are more likely to become a victim of a crime in your lifetime than you are to be a victim of a house fire.
2. "Five police Chiefs were interviewed"... I am not aware of a single Reputable Chief of Police that would comment on an agency they have no involvement with, OR state that auxiliary or part time police officers are better for a community than a full time officer.
3. Referring to police equipment as "toys" is appalling... Our Officers are not "playing with toys" when they confront an armed subject or unknown threat behind a shield. Our radios are not "walkie talkies" in a backyard game; they are our lifeline for help and information. "Toys" are what we pass out to children and for the past two years we have not had room in the budget for them.
4. The Village did not happily give back a "Free" car for the police department to utilize. A former Council Member pushed his lone agenda to take equipment away from the police department and brought issue with the way the vehicle was being used and the nature of the contract. The entity that gave us the vehicle was displeased that they were named publically which jeopardized the program across the country. With the entire community now knowing what our only unmarked vehicle was it was no longer viable to us to use in investigations. It was in the best interest of all parties involved to end the contract and return the vehicle willingly before the entity that gave us the vehicle asked for it back and permanently stained a partnership.

Council agreed with the reasons for our agency to have an unmarked vehicle at our disposal. Increasing supervisor call-ins, time savings, and equipment allocation in mind it was determined that it was not unreasonable for the Chief to have a take home vehicle, as is the practice in nearly every police/fire department across the country. Initially a used vehicle was proposed but Council opted to purchase a new vehicle as it will last longer with less maintenance. This car cost a quarter of what a marked patrol vehicle costs.

5. “Replacing equipment as it fails”, while this is a good idea in theory I would like to point out a few things. Our radios are failing; they are outdated on the current radio system. We cannot “let them fail” and go weeks without this equipment, this is completely irresponsible. Our vehicles have been taxed heavily trying to keep up with 24/7 coverage. If you recall we kept the Dodge Charger because the trade in was less than \$5k and it was still a viable option. Four cars to accommodate a full time around the clock schedule is not frivolous, it breaks down to one car per shift worked each day.

Police Vehicles are considered “specialty vehicles” and are not produced year round. Ford opens a window that is closing in April, for orders. Usually a police vehicle is ordered in the spring and delivered in the fall. It takes legislation to enter into a lease, which comes from a committee decision. Purchasing a specialty vehicle usually takes at least 9 months. Waiting on a car to become inoperable is completely irresponsible and would create a situation where our officer may not be able to patrol.

The timeline to order a vehicle is usually as follows.

- Two months discussion and approval
  - Six months production
  - One month up-fitting (at minimum)
6. Staffing- We have 1 full time officer to each shift; I work mainly administrative but fill in when I have to. This leaves 4 full time officers assigned to strictly patrol. Our auxiliary officers solely provide department training and cost the village less than \$75 total per year, this actually saves us thousands of dollars in training instructors. Part time officers split a pot of 56 hours to cover gaps in coverage, vacations, and holidays. Overlapping coverage during our busiest times/days provides supervision, backup, and a buffer for call offs.
    - a. We also have to account for turnover and always try to have a few officers that are willing to either be flexible or roll into full time.
    - b. We have hired at least 30 Officers in the last 5 years; this is very costly and puts us in a constant state of training.

- c. The officers have had at least 5 front line supervisors; this is very disruptive, especially when they themselves are still learning how things need to be done properly.
7. Since 2015 the world of policing has drastically changed. Nationwide events have resulted in higher standards, more training, and the potential for any incident to wind up on the national stage. It does not matter the size of the agency, community, or what the demographics look like. The country has raised the bar for policing and every department needs to meet it or put themselves in a bad position. It does not matter what the incident is, a shooting or a traffic ticket; these events have been broadcasted nationwide. We have risen to these standards and have done the best we can to insulate the Community from being the next “breaking news” story, I feel at the least we owe this to our residents, businesses, and community partners.
8. One of my main focal points as Chief of Police has been transparency with the community. I have held open houses, informational sessions, and asked for community input. The same 5 people attended the meetings and they also attended other meetings and the information was fairly redundant, so they were cancelled, nearly every publication that I have contributed to or have created has ended with something to the tune of “my door is open to any resident that would like more information”. Very few people have provided input or attended these events.
9. The last thing I want to touch on is the comment that the Village receives 9% of property tax. We actually receive 2.7% of property tax, which brings in \$95k. If we received 9% of property tax we would bring in \$316k, our situation would be much different.

## **Communications**

Mayor Monahan gave the following report:

On this Wed, I will attend an event at Source Point. This is the 12th time I will be participating in the Annual Meals on Wheels.

Good morning,

Thank you all for planning to join us next Wednesday, March 11 for our March for Meals Community Champions Day.

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. at SourcePoint, 800 Cheshire Road, Delaware, in Cafe 55, with coffee and pastries. Our nutrition administrator, Karen Pillion, and executive director, Fara Waugh, will welcome you, before a group photo is taken. Then, you'll go with our volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels across the county.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you again for your support-I look forward to seeing you all next week!

Regards,

I saw something in regards to the Watershed and that they have completed their final words on that.

I sent a letter to Mike Shaddock today. Mike Shaddock is the community relationship guy that works for Mayor Ginther.

Hi Mike,

It was brought to my attention that the final Watershed results were posted. They were sent to me by residents. It was highly disturbing to see that our many inputs were ignored. After over thirty meetings and correspondence we have made, none of the input was included.

I wrote Mayor Ginther a letter on February 19 with an executive summary and requested a meeting with him. I admire the proactive approach that Mayor Ginther and Governor DeWine took to avoid exposure to the coronavirus in conjunction with the Arnold. This is the same proactive approach that I as Mayor of Shawnee Hills, requires to avoid health risks that our residents are being exposed to by Columbus overgrowth.

Mike, this is a risk identified by the Delaware County Health Commissioner in her communication to the Franklin County Health Commissioner. This clearly places Columbus in a legally liable position. Over the past, we wanted to work together for a win, win to avoid the health risks to our residents. The residents are prepared to go to the Columbus Dispatch and the Delaware Gazette and the news. This is something I wanted to avoid.

Mike, please arrange a meeting where I can sit down with Mayor Ginther no later than next week so we can address our health concerns. It has been very discouraging and poor community relationships being ignored.

Thanks Mike,

Pat  
Mayor of Shawnee Hills

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Monahan gave the following report:

Tuesday March 3, 2020

The [Delaware General Health District](#) and the [Ohio Department of Health](#) (ODH) continue to closely monitor the novel coronavirus ([COVID-19](#)), which was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have confirmed 17 travel-related cases, 26 person-to-person cases and 6 deaths related to novel coronavirus within the United States, there are no confirmed cases in Ohio.

As you know from the news, this is expanding and needs to be continually monitored and exposure avoided.

P&Z will have a hearing on the Zoning change requested for the lots on Logan and Dublin Rds.

I will be attending the Dublin State of the City on Thursday, March 12.

When organizations are part of the Community they generally work in a Symbiotic Relationship. I want to thank The Shawnee Hills Civic for continually working for the good of our Community!

I want to remind everyone that Tuesday March 17 is Election Day. Many fought and died for our right to vote! Please vote!

### **Committee Reports**

Council member Thatcher said UST met prior to this meeting. We talked about the ongoing construction projects for the stormwater on Glick Road. We decided we were going to do that after the memorial Tournament. We also talked about the generator for the pump station. It sounds like a good idea. We also talked about the energy aggregation. He is going to come back to us in April with a little bit better plan and information so we can have a better discussion on it. We also wanted to try to work through evening up our contract time so it does not come up so fast. We want to get that on a better schedule so we can do it all at the same time and on a regular basis.

Council member Gates said Planning and Zoning did not meet last month so I have nothing to report.

### **Legislative Actions**

Third Reading- Ordinance 04-2020 – An Ordinance to amend the zoning district map of the Village of Shawnee Hills, Delaware County, Ohio by rezoning parcel number 60043208015000 (lots 1324 and 1422) from the Single Family District (R-2) to the General Commercial District (GC) and rezoning parcel number 60043208016000 (lots 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1423, 1424, 1425 and 1426) from the Neighborhood Commercial District (NC) to the General commercial District (GC)

It was moved by Mathews, seconded by Thatcher to adopt Ordinance 04-2020. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Hanna, Mathews, Matney, Stacy and Thatcher. Nay, none. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

### **Bills**

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Gates to approve the bills in the amount of \$44,923.36. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Hanna, Mathews, Matney, Stacy and Thatcher. Nay, none. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

**Treasurer’s Report**

It was moved by Hanna, seconded by Gates to approve the following treasurer’s report:

General	150,513.46	Mayor’s Court Computer	2,760.14
Street	147,963.03	Fire	41,896.63
State Highway	21,223.47	Weed	4,019.36
Parks & Recreation	0.00	TIF	17,651.03
PD Body Armor	200.38	TIF 2	47,795.57
Cont. Prof. Training	1,613.53	Veteran’s Memorial	248.97
Drug Law Enfct.	534.41	Sewer Operating	56,470.56
Indigent Driver	385.84	Sewer Replacement	92,795.09
Law Enfct. Trust	8,124.59	Storm Sewer	7,710.25
Enfct. and Education	1,220.85	Debt Service	79,393.95

For a total of \$682,521.11.

Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Hanna, Mathews, Matney, Stacy and Thatcher. Nay, none. Motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

**Miscellaneous**

Council member Stacy said around this village there are a couple of Facebook pages, Friends in Shawnee Hills, Shawnee Hills Villagers and we also have this village newspaper. None of these are official village sites. They are all opinions and we all know what opinions are. Everybody has one. If you want to know what is happening in the village please encourage your neighbors and residents to ask the Mayor, ask Shirley, ask someone on council to find out the facts and not just believe all the bull that is floating around out there.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, it was moved by Matney, seconded by Gates to adjourn until March 23, 2020. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Hanna, Mathews, Matney, Stacy and Thatcher. Nay, none. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.