

Village of Shawnee Hills Council

January 22, 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

Minutes

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Thatcher to approve the minutes of January 8, 2024. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Agenda

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Matney to add Ordinance 06-2024 to the agenda.

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

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Isern to approve the agenda as amended.

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

Village Administrator

Russ said Chris and I met with the County Engineer. I think we have all heard the question about our right-of-ways and we have heard developers bring up questions about our right-of-ways. We took a bunch of old documents that the village had explaining how we were formed and maps that showed how residents owned to the center of the roadway and then the village carved out right-of-way for pleasure and public use. The County Engineer looked at what we presented and they agreed with us that there is no question as to our right-of-ways in the village, improved or unimproved.

Worked a lot with Shirley and Brian on the budget and the plethora of legislation that you guys have tonight. It went through Finance but if anyone has any questions we can talk about it when we get to it.

I did meet with a lighting designer. I had a conversation with Dan Boggess who is on ABR and we all know he is in the lighting world. There have been a lot of questions, comments about the lighting in the village and we wanted to take a look at it before we add lighting, before we change lighting. Our light poles are about 15 years old and there is a life span associated with that. As we are planning for the future, we are planning for growth, or any changes along our main streets, what type of product are we looking at putting in or what are our options. We hear that everyone wants down lighting. Economically, right now, with the vendor that we have, down lighting isn't feasible. It is something we are exploring for the future. I met with a lighting engineer. There are four light poles on Glick Road and in the park and our village rock, how to light that properly. We have an extension cord running to a light fixture at the rock. We would like to light that properly. I met with her on how we make it all flow. Small scale, we have these couple of small projects that we would like to take into account. Large scale, how do we look at the entire village and make sure that we are not blinding people as the drive up the street. How do we become a dark sky community? That conversation is going to continue on.

Met with Ulta Fiber. Council member LaRosa and Mayor Mathews attended also.

We had a very positive meeting. I don't know as to what level, but the village will be partnering with Ulta Fiber who is a Cincinnati based company. I think it was Cincinnati Bell. They are currently working on the Dublin project for their fiber and

Village of Shawnee Hills Council

January 22, 2024

hopefully by the end of 2025 the village will be 100% covered with fiber internet service. More to come on that.

We are starting to do some upgrades at the municipal building. You can see that we have already changed the lighting. There were some spots in the floor that were mushy when you walked on them and we had them repaired. New carpeting will be coming. Everyone on Council and the Chairs of the Committees will have door access codes. We will be replacing the doors also.

Kudos to Mark, Andy and Richard. They have been doing a phenomenal job on the plowing. I had a Deputy make a comment to me that our sidewalks looked better the other day than half the county roads. The Kubota, that the village purchased last year, has been doing a great job getting ahead of the sidewalks and the parking lots. The relationship with Concord Township has been fantastic. We have been taking care of Logan and Mohican. It hasn't strained our resources. We haven't had any issues getting salt from them as well.

Police Chief

Chief Baron said with the slew of legislation there, looking at our staffing and kind of our long term with staffing, on where we are at, and where we want to be. Part of that is 2023 and 2022, the number of applicants we are getting, especially for part-time, is dwindling. The number of qualified applicants we are getting is even less than in years past. Police work just isn't a profession that people want to get into. Small town with small pay, we are really pressed to attract some good candidates. Mr. Hawkins is a phenomenal candidate that we have. We met with the Mayor today and are working through the process. When we do get them, we want to keep them. That was the addition to the agenda today and all the work up to that to convert part-time police hours into a full-time position. There is a little bit more of a cost associated with it. It's sustainable growth. We haven't added a full-time position in several years now. This gives us fewer part-time employees and adds the full-time position. As far as part-time, it drastically reduces the reliance and use of part-time employees. There is a cost savings trade off to it which gives us a better employee that is more flexible and allows more flexibility in our schedules. Allows for us to cover those times when people take vacation without creating overtime or creating hardship for the other employees. It's a win, win for the police department, the officers, and the community. It gives us an officer that is here 40 hours per week that knows what is going on, that is current with things, other than someone who comes in only 16 hours a month.

We had a department in-service and met with all the officers. Talked about goals, training and requirements for 2024. The State has reinstated the Continuing Professional Training requirements. This is for 24 hours. Most of the topics are general or apply to law enforcement. They do leave us 16 hours of training that we can use for the officers at our discretion. One of the things that we have done is we made all our full-time officers to take a drunk driving ride with the State's passage of medical marijuana, we think we will see an increase in drunk driving cases and crashes.

The Ohio Community Police Collaborative, which we have been following since the beginning and we have always met or exceeded their standards. Late in 2023 they released standards on positive youth interactions and crisis intervention. Being one of the first agencies in Delaware County to be able to say that every single one of our officers are crisis intervention trained. You can understand that we exceeded that standard before the State even released it. The positive youth interactions standards, we met that and exceeded that one as well. We were just certified in both of those. This morning I received final word on that.

Council member Matney asked Russ if he could speak to our police departments involvement in the incident last week.

Village of Shawnee Hills Council

January 22, 2024

Russ said I personally responded to that. We responded and I located the individual in the water and notified the fire department. By the time he went in the water it was a recovery at that point. The fire department was able to get him out of the water.

Council member Matney said that is an example of partnership because that is not in our jurisdiction.

Russ said correct.

Communications

Mayor Mathews said I echo Russ. Mark, Richard and Andy did a fantastic job. It's not often that I get a call to comment on how good the streets and the sidewalks were. That was nice to hear.

Busy week this week. We have Council tonight. Planning and Zoning is tomorrow night to kind of kick off the year. Some old business and some new conversation also. Thursday is Government 101. This is the basics of the village. How we became a village, how the village operates. This will be the first series of it.

Council member Isern asked if we were live streaming the meeting.

Shirley said it is a special council meeting so it should be live streamed.

Pro Tem Report

Pro Tem Thatcher said he talked to Destination Delaware, the Delaware Visitors Bureau, telling them about some of our new businesses, making sure that they are on board with supporting us when we get ready to have some grand openings or A DORA event. I have told them of our high desire to be included in the Delaware County movie that they do when we go the Commissioner's meeting. We want to make sure that we are included in that and we should have some really nice things to show for it.

I used our approved calendar of dates and verified with the American Legion Post for our events.

Legislative Actions

Third Reading – Resolution 17-2023 – A Resolution declaring Council for the Village of Shawnee Hill's intent to collaborate and partner with Shawnee Hills Blooms, whenever possible, to support the beautification and revitalization of the village.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to adopt Resolution 17-2023. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Ordinance 01-2024 – An Ordinance to appropriate funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Shawnee Hills, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024 and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 01-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Thatcher to adopt Ordinance 01-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Village of Shawnee Hills Council

January 22, 2024

First Reading – Resolution 01-2024 – A Resolution to increase the rate of pay for Village of Shawnee Hills Police Chief and Administrator Russell Baron and declare an emergency.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Gates to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 01-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 4; Gates, Isern, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, one; Matney

Council member Matney said that is what we discussed in the Finance meeting and Mary changed it the next day.

Council member Gates said that was discussed at 3 minutes to seven.

Council member Matney said right, we ran out of time.

Council member Gates said the problem was, when asked about how difficult the situation would be if we did not do it by emergency. In my mind, that seemed to be a little more egregious than necessary in this situation. Therefore, that is the reason I sent out the email. I don't want to find out that someone, one person, decided that it wouldn't be appropriate for me to get my raise.

Council member Matney said it is just the emergency piece of it. We already agreed on the pay structure and all of that.

Council member Gates said I understand. That is the reason it is here in Council. My issue is that declaring an emergency sounds like this is something that is an emergency but it is not. It is a technical term that doesn't really address what this really means. I don't understand what the problem is because in the last couple of years no one has even mentioned about things done on emergency. This is like a housekeeping thing.

Council member Isern asked Shirley what kind of difficulty, if any difficulty, does this create if it is extended to at least one more reading.

Council member Matney said that is what we discussed but we were cut off on time. I believe you said you can make it retro, it was just was ease of payroll. It is retro, and it will happen, it just, for transparency we thought we could get to a second reading.

Council member Gates said there is nothing that is non-transparent about what we are doing here. Anyone that is watching knows exactly what we are doing.

Council member Isern said it was discussed in Finance Committee and there was someone there from the Village Gazette, right? There is no one here today in the audience so no one seems concerned about it.

First Reading – Resolution 02-2024 – A Resolution to increase the rate of pay for Village of Shawnees Hills Police Lieutenant Erin Cullen and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 01-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 4; Gates, Isern, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, one; Matney

First Reading – Resolution 03-2024 – A Resolution to increase the rate of pay for Village of Shawnee Hills Police Officer Zach Gerdeman and declaring an emergency.

Village of Shawnee Hills Council

January 22, 2024

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Gates to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 01-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 4; Gates, Isern, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, one; Matney

First Reading – Resolution 04-2024 – A Resolution to increase the rate of pay for Village of Shawnee Hills Police Officer Lansine Coulibaly and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 01-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 4; Gates, Isern, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, one; Matney

First Reading – Resolution 05-2024 – A Resolution to increase the rate of pay for Village of Shawnee Hills Fiscal Officer Shirley Roskoski and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 01-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 4; Gates, Isern, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, one; Matney

First Reading – Resolution 06-2024 – A Resolution to increase the rate of pay for Village of Shawnee Hills Code Enforcement Officer Mark Katzenbach and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Isern to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 01-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 4; Gates, Isern, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, one; Matney

First Reading – Resolution 07-2024 – A Resolution to increase the rate of pay for Village of Shawnee Hills Streets and Utilities Supervisor Richard Ey and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Gates to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 01-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 4; Gates, Isern, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, one; Matney

First Reading – Resolution 08-2024 – A Resolution to increase the rate of pay for Village of Shawnee Hills Maintenance Laborer Andy Bruning and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Resolution 01-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to adopt Resolution 08-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay none.

First Reading – Ordinance 02-2024 – An Ordinance amending Section 921.03(A) (Potable Water user Charge) of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Shawnee Hills and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Thatcher to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 02-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 02-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Village of Shawnee Hills Council

January 22, 2024

First Reading – Ordinance 03-2024 – An Ordinance creating a new full-time police officer position within the Village of Shawnee Hills Police Department and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Thatcher seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 03-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 03-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Ordinance 04-2024 - An Ordinance creating a new Village of Shawnee Hills Police Department Staffing Matrix and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 04-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 04-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Ordinance 05-2024 – An Ordinance creating, establishing, and adopting longevity pay for full-time non-police employees of the Village of Shawnee Hills and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 05-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 4; Gates, Isern, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, one; Matney

First Reading – Ordinance 06-2024 – An Ordinance confirming the Mayor’s appointment of Bruce Hawkins as a full-time Police Officer for the Village of Shawnee Hills and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 06-2024 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 06-2024 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Bills

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Zimmerman to pay the bills in the amount of \$78,777.23.

Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, 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	428,074.92	Enfct. and Education	1,795.98
Street Fund	124,364.88	Fire Fund	95,133.95
State Highway	39,551.37	TIF Fund	57,404.59
PD Body Armor	4,305.17	TIF 2 Fund	43,601.09
Cont. Pro. Training	2,535.48	Police District Fund	144,687.06
Evans Farm JEDD	3,383.06	Veteran’s Memorial	298.97
Drug Law Enfct.	534.41	Sewer Operating	106,805.67
Indigent Drivers	385.84	Sewer Replacement	7,506.08
Law Enfct. Trust	4,259.20	Storm Sewer Fund	34,118.06
Am Rescue Plan	63,418.14	Debt Service Fund	103,984.65

Village of Shawnee Hills Council

January 22, 2024

Weed Fund 300.00

For a total of \$1,266,448.65.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to adjourn. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 5; Gates, Isern, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor