

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS,
OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON DECEMBER 5, 2011 AT 7:30 P.M.

The December 5, 2011 meeting of the Ottawa Hills Village Council was called to order by Mayor Kevin Gilmore at 7:35 p.m. Roll was taken with Council members Jeffrey Gibbs, Jack Straub, Norma King, Robert Reichert, Rex Decker and Jim Walter present. Also present were Mayor Gilmore, Clerk Treasurer Katherine O'Connell, Village Solicitor Sarah McHugh and Village Manager Marc Thompson representing the Village of Ottawa Hills.

Members of the audience included Lori & Mark Dixon, Corey Hupp, John Lewis and Nasrin Afjeh.

Mayor Gilmore then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the pledge, Mr. Reichert made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2011 meeting. Mr. Gibbs seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mayor Gilmore then called on Lori Dixon, Chair of the Ottawa Hills Joint Recreation Board, to provide a report to the Council.

Mrs. Dixon reviewed a number of activities and accomplishments of the Board. She touched on the establishment of events which will create a tradition in the community, such as the third annual Village Life Parade. She also mentioned that the Joint Recreation Board had adopted by-laws, greatly improved scheduling, expanded recreation opportunities and begun conducting background checks for volunteers. The eventual goal of having the operation be self-sufficient has not yet been achieved but good progress is being made in that regard. Mrs. Dixon also provided a written report to the Council identifying additional areas of progress made by the Board.

Mrs. Dixon continued her report stating that the expansion of the Joint Recreation Board from its current five members to seven members may be helpful. She commented that the school has been a great partner in the effort, particularly in making facilities available. Chairman Dixon also complimented Norma King related to her contributions as a member of the Joint Recreation Board.

At the conclusion of Mrs. Dixon's presentation Mr. Decker commented that the Joint Recreation Board had come a long way over the past few years. Jim Walter echoed Mr. Decker's comments stating that the progress had been very worthwhile and has been a long time coming. Mrs. King encouraged the Joint Recreation Board to keep up the good work and Mayor Gilmore said that the efforts of the JRB were very much appreciated.

At the conclusions of her comments Mr. & Mrs. Dixon left the meeting.

Mr. Decker provided the finance report stating that Ordinance 2011-13 is on the agenda which establishes appropriations for the coming calendar year. He also mentioned Ordinance 2011-15 which is the final year end "cleanup" of budgetary issues. Mr. Decker mentioned that the Finance & Human Resources Committee had met recently and reviewed health insurance and wages. He said that Mrs. King, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee would have a more thorough report.

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Mr. Decker continued by complimenting the staff, specifically Mrs. Urbanik, for putting together a financial presentation which is very thorough and very understandable. He reminded everyone that in 2012 the Village's debt will be paid off and stated that we expect to end 2011 with a \$42,000 operating surplus. He wanted everyone to be sure that it was clear that in 2011 and in 2012 our reserves were being used to fund capital improvements.

Touching on a couple of the highlights of the proposed 2012 budget Mr. Decker informed the Council that the income tax estimate involves a 3% increase over the 2011 projection and the estate tax estimate reflects lower revenues. Mr. Decker concluded by stating had we not made arrangements with the City of Toledo regarding the Fire Department, the Village would be in serious financial trouble and he thought that the Village Council deserved credit for being proactive in addressing these issues.

Mr. Gibbs asked Mr. Decker if there was any explanation for the apparent "disconnect" between what the Village was told by State Representative Sears and State Senator Wagoner and the recent information received from the Municipal League regarding state collection of municipal income tax.

Mrs. O'Connell commented that it was her understanding that State Tax Director Testa was merely floating the idea to see what kind of reaction there would be from municipalities.

Mayor Gilmore commented that some municipalities are attempting to discuss the possibility of more uniformity in the municipal tax law, but that collection by the state of municipal income taxes would be a big mistake and very harmful for municipalities.

Mr. Lewis commented that the Chamber of Commerce was making efforts at trying to gain uniformity. Mr. Reichert commented that Mary Taylor seems to be a key person in this process. Mayor Gilmore mentioned that he is going to be at the next Chamber of Commerce meeting and that perhaps comments from Mayor Gilmore, Mr. Lewis and Rex Decker, all members of the Society of CPA's, would be beneficial.

Mrs. King then provided a report of the Human Resources Committee reviewing the meeting which occurred on November 29th. Legislation has been prepared consistent with the recommendations of the Human Resources Committee regarding health insurance. The Village will continue to offer two alternatives to Village employees. The employee premium share on the HMO will increase from 12% to 15% with a corresponding adjustment in the HSA plan.

Legislation has also been prepared consistent with the Human Resources Committee recommendation of a 2% wage increase. This was done in recognition of the Village's outstanding workforce. She concluded by stating that Resolution 2011-13 is on the agenda establishing healthcare and Ordinance 2011-14 deals with wages.

Mr. Reichert reported on the grant which was recently approved for improvements to the Talmadge Rd. bridge. The project will occur in 2013 and in addition to Village funds and State Issue 2 funds, there will be cooperation by the County Engineer's Office. The grant will be in the amount of approximately \$75,000.

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Mr. Straub provided a brief report on the solar panel legislation which is on the agenda for third reading.

Ms. McHugh suggested that there should be an executive session at the January meeting dealing with pending litigation.

Mr. Thompson mentioned that a reference check had been completed with regard to PHC, the low bidder on the sewer project. He also mentioned that in the next day or so a second, experimental LED street light will be put in place. Brief discussion followed regarding tree planting which occurs this time of year. It was the general consensus that when a replacement tree can be appropriately planted, that effort will be undertaken even if the adjoining property owner expresses a desire not to have a replacement tree.

Mayor Gilmore offered his congratulations to John Lewis. After almost 17 years on the Board of Education he will become the Village Clerk Treasurer. He also expressed congratulations to Corey Hupp who will be starting his first term on the Village Council next month. Mayor Gilmore mentioned the strong victory in the recent Council race achieved by Mrs. O'Connell and said that he looked forward to working with her in her new capacity as a member of the Council.

Mayor Gilmore then turned to Mr. Walter recalling all that Mr. Walter has done for the community and the school, and the tough issues that Mr. Walter spearheaded while on the Council. He specifically mentioned the efforts that Mr. Walter undertook related to the deer population questions.

Finally, Mayor Gilmore addressed Mrs. King recalling her tenure as Clerk Treasurer and then as a member of Council and thanked her for her efforts in those regards as well as her outstanding efforts to get the Recreation Board up and running.

Mayor Gilmore stated that at the next meeting he will establish committees.

Mr. Reichert made a motion to authorize receipt of bids for maintenance work at Geresy Field. Mrs. King seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Straub commented under the heading of new business that it might be appropriate to remind Village pedestrians of a need to wear some type of reflective clothing as we get into the longer winter nights. Perhaps something could be mentioned to the Village Voice and placed on the Village's Facebook page.

Mr. Gibbs commented that local merchants have been providing incentives for citizens who are obeying laws such as the requirement for reflective gear and bicycles helmets, etc.

Attention then turned to legislation.

Ordinance 2011-10 (Third reading)	Amending Ordinance 2002-8 adopted by the Ottawa Hills Village Council on September 9, 2002, through the adoption of new standards regarding solar panels.
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Mr. Straub made a motion for approval on third reading. Mr. Gibbs seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2011-13	Appropriation ordinance and declaring an emergency.
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Mr. Decker moved to dispense with the rule requiring an ordinance be fully and distinctly read on three different days. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Decker moved for consideration of the ordinance as an emergency. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Decker moved for final passage of the ordinance as an emergency measure and Mr. Reichert seconded, the roll being called the vote thereon was as follows: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Ordinance 2011-14	Fixing the salaries for Village employees and repealing Ordinance 2010-12, and declaring an emergency.
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Ms. King moved to dispense with the rule requiring an ordinance be fully and distinctly read on three different days. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. King moved for consideration of the ordinance as an emergency. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. King moved for final passage of the ordinance as an emergency measure and Mr. Reichert seconded, the roll being called the vote thereon was as follows: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Ordinance 2011-15	Making appropriations and deductions from previous appropriations and amending ordinance 2010-11, 2011-3, 2011-12, and declaring an emergency.
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Mr. Decker moved to dispense with the rule requiring an ordinance be fully and distinctly read on three different days. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Decker moved for consideration of the ordinance as an emergency. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Decker moved for final passage of the ordinance as an emergency measure and Mr. Reichert seconded, the roll being called the vote thereon was as follows: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Resolution 2011-13	Authorizing an agreement on behalf of the Village for health care benefits for Village employees, establishing a maximum contribution by the village for health care benefits, and declaring an emergency.
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Ms. King moved to dispense with the rule requiring a resolution be fully and distinctly read on three different days. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. King moved for consideration of the resolution as an emergency. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. King moved for final passage of the resolution as an emergency measure and Mr. Reichert seconded, the roll being called the vote thereon was as follows: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Resolution 2011-14	Authorizing a contract with PHC, Inc. for the storm sewer rehabilitation project, and declaring an emergency.
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Mr. Straub moved to dispense with the rule requiring a resolution be fully and distinctly read on three different days. Mr. Walter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.


Mr. Straub moved for consideration of the resolution as an emergency. Mr. Walter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Straub moved for final passage of the resolution as an emergency measure and Mr. Gibbs seconded, the roll being called the vote thereon was as follows: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays.

There was no need for an executive session.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Village Council occur on Monday, January 9th with the start at 7:00 p.m. instead of the normal 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Kevin Gilmore, Vice Mayor