

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON DECEMBER 14, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Kevin Gilmore called the December 14 meeting of the Ottawa Hills Village Council to order at 7:34 p.m. Roll was taken with Council members Jack Straub, Rex Decker, Jeffrey Gibbs, Norma King, and Robert Reichert present. Also present were Mayor Kevin Gilmore, Clerk Treasurer Katherine O'Connell, Village Solicitor Sarah McHugh and Village Manager Marc Thompson. Council member James Walter was absent from the meeting but was expected momentarily.

Members of the audience included Mr. & Mrs. John Longthorne, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Eisenstodt, Mrs. Bevington and her son Ethan, Gary Russell, Rob Slater, Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Messer-Kruse, Gary Allen Hopkins, Trudy Bond, Tom Henry and Lori King from the Blade and Nasrin Afjeh.

Mayor Gilmore then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tony Bassett entered the meeting at this time.

Mayor Gilmore began the meeting making a statement regarding the recent meeting of the Village Council and the discussions regarding deer issues in Ottawa Hills.

Mr. Walter entered the meeting at this time.

Mayor Gilmore's comments included reference to the deer discussion beginning with input from citizens in our community well over three years ago. The Services & Environment Committee began looking into the problem and encouraged and received a great deal of citizen input. More recently the Village Council has had three public meetings and at those meetings 87 speakers provided additional input. Mayor Gilmore continued by stating that if the petitions are certified, an upcoming election will be consistent with receiving public input and be a logical conclusion of that process.

Mayor Gilmore also said that if the petition is certified by the Board of Elections the Village will not proceed with any deer culling prior to the election. However, the Village does intend to proceed with other parts of the Deer Management Program such as reviewing legislation regarding fencing, developing adult education classes to help citizens learn how to deer proof their landscaping, developing plans to deal with damage in the meadow areas, providing other educational and information opportunities for our citizens and continuing the deer count in early 2010.

Mayor Gilmore said that the 2010 budget includes \$25,000 for deer management activities.

He concluded by stating that there was clearly a difference of opinion in the community regarding the topic of deer culling and apparently a difference of opinion about whether or not a deer problem existed. He reminded everyone that regardless of what side of this issue they may be on they continue to be our fellow citizens, neighbors and friends. He said that we should all remember that what we have in common is far more important and more plentiful than those areas where we may have disagreement.

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John Longthorne complimented the Mayor on his statement and said that while waiting for the petition issue to be resolved perhaps members of the community could find some common ground. He hoped that people on both sides of the issue would understand the position of the people on the other side and he commented that he believes most of the opposition was related to high powered rifles and was confident that there are ways to accommodate the desires of both parties.

Gary Allen Hopkins addressed the Council briefly regarding deer contraceptives. He confirmed that contraception is not permitted in the State of Ohio but commented that Georgia has had success with deer contraception. He expressed thanks to those who voted against the deer culling.

Michael Eisenstodt said that he appreciated the mayor's statement. Mr. Eisenstodt then asked for information regarding the deer count which occurred in January of 2009. He asked for reports, contracts, etc. related to the deer counting.

Mr. Thompson responded by stating that the deer count was done by representatives of the Toledo Police Department and the Toledo Police helicopter and that there were no contracts, reports, etc. other than a report on a number of deer seen in the Village of Ottawa Hills east of Talmadge Rd. and west of Talmadge Rd.

Timothy Messer-Kruse commended the mayor for his statement and asked that the Village take the next year to try to make this a regional issue. Whatever is decided in the Village of Ottawa Hills should be done on a regional basis, Mr. Kruse said.

Nancy Eisenstodt asked if everyone had seen the recent Steve Pollock article in the Toledo Blade in which Mr. Pollock said that the number of deer taken in recent hunting was lower than in past years.

Mrs. Bevington of 3400 Brookside Rd. said that there is a family of four deer living in the meadow near Secor across the street from her house. She said they have eaten all the tress that were recently planted in the meadow and that something needs to be done quickly. She asked that the Council move soon to address this issue.

Ethan Bevington, a Boy Scout attending the meeting for merit badge purposes said that there are concerns about safety particularly in the meadow areas near his home.

Mayor Gilmore confirmed that safety issues regarding deer are among the motivating factors for addressing the deer problems generally.

Trudy Bond of 2212 Innisbrook Rd., reading the deer damage permit said that it was a requirement that anyone involved in deer culling as a result of a deer damage permit must be from Lucas County or one of the surrounding counties. She asked how that was going to be accomplished with a company, such as White Buffalo.

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She also said that the City of Solon was not proceeding with their deer culling program this year.

Discussion followed regarding deer feeding and the need for additional education in that regard.

Mr. Decker commented that the Council has had no substantive discussion regarding hiring a company to do deer culling.

Michael Eisenstodt said everyone was welcome to sign the petition.

Mr. Decker asked if there was some way to remove the signs from the yards until we get closer to an election, presuming that the petitions will be certified. Rob Slater said that the signs were property of individual property owners.

Attention then turned to other items on the agenda. Mr. Straub made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 23 meeting. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Decker provided a report of the Finance Committee stating that revenues were ahead of estimates for 2009 related to income tax and estate tax. However, he said that projections for 2010 were not as optimistic and that the 2010 budget reflected a reduction from 2009 actual expected revenues.

He reviewed the final supplemental appropriation ordinance, Ordinance 2009-13 stating that there was no net change in the authorized expenditures. He briefly reviewed Ordinance 2009-14 which is an appropriation ordinance for calendar year 2010. Regarding the 2010 budget Mr. Decker stated that it was very tight and that the Finance Committee and staff had squeezed a lot of flexibility out of the 2010 budget. It is basically a break even budget from an operating standpoint although there is a substantial amount of capital improvements in the 2010 budget. Most of those are in the budget because there are noteworthy grants offsetting some of the cost.

He said that the recent joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Human Resources Committee reviewed the budget and focused on healthcare and employment compensation for Village employees.

Mayor Gilmore complimented the Finance Committee and the Human Resources Committee for the hard work that they have put into establishing the budget. He also complimented Finance Director Urbanik for her fine efforts.

Mrs. King provided a report of the Human Resources Committee stating that there was no wage increase in the 2010 compensation legislation. There is a one time \$500 payment to every fulltime employee intended to offset the increased cost in health insurance. There are no changes in the health insurance program. However, the employee contribution to the premium will increase as a result of Resolution 2009-21.

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Mr. Gibbs said that the Safety Committee would meet on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Walter reminded everyone that there would be a Services & Environment Committee meeting in January of 2010.

Mr. Reichert said that there will be two major Capital Improvement projects both on Bancroft St. next year, one at the eastern corporate limits and one at the western corporate limits.

The Equipment, Utilities, Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet during the first week of January.

Solicitor McHugh said that she had an item of pending litigation for executive session.

Mr. Decker made a motion to authorize payment of the bill submitted by Solicitor McHugh. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion.

Attention then turned to legislation.

Ordinance 2009-13	Making appropriations and deductions from previous appropriations and amending Ordinance 2008-13, 2009-1, 2009-3, 2009-9 and 2009-12, 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.

Ordinance 2009-14	Annual 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.

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Ordinance 2009-15	Fixing the salaries for Village employees and repealing Ordinance 2008-11, 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. Decker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

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

Resolution 2009-21	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. Decker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

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

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Village Council would be on January 25, 2010.

Mr. Reichert then made a motion to move into executive session for the purposes of discussing pending litigation and for a personnel matter. Mr. Walter seconded the motion and upon call of the roll the motion was passed unanimously. Council moved into executive session at 8:43 p.m.

Council returned to regular session at approximately 9:40 p.m. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Kevin Gilmore, Mayor