

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 13, 2019
MINUTES

The Regular Council Meeting of the Village of Moreland Hills was called to order by Mayor Renda at 7:00 pm in the Village Council Chambers.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

Also Present: William Hanna, Legal Counsel; Prashant Shah, Treasurer; Jeff Filarski, Village Engineer; Paul Kowalczyk, Building Commissioner; Ted DeWater, Service Director; Lieutenant Todd Dietzel; Theresa Dean, Assistant Clerk of Council

Mr. Buczek made a motion seconded by Mr. Fritz to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held October 10, 2019.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESIDENT COMMENTS

No residents were present who wished to speak.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND OTHER MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

Mayor

Mayor Renda offered her congratulations to Ethan Spencer and Laura Kozminski-VanderHart for their successful Council run.

Mayor Renda reported that the Village was awarded the NatureWorks grant in the amount of \$150,000. She specifically cited and thanked the work of Stan Kosilesky from Mr. Filarski's office and Sherri Arrietta in putting together the application materials, including making last-minute changes to include endorsements from Senator Dolan and State Representative Phil Robinson.

Mayor Renda also gave her thanks and appreciation for the recent surprise dedication of Susan's Point at Forest Ridge. The dedication was organized by Mr. Fritz and Mr. DeWater and attended by many members of Council and staff. She thanked Mr. Filarski for his work on the project and everyone who has been involved in the Forest Ridge project over the years.

Mayor Renda also reported that the Village held its Veterans' Day celebration at Veterans' Park on November 11th. Patrolman Paul Hobart, who is a Marine Corps veteran, spoke at the event.

The Mayor offered her to congratulations to Mr. Filarski on the wedding of the second of his three daughters.

Mr. Fritz welcomed Nick DiCicco from Chagrin Valley Dispatch. Mr. DiCicco reached out to Mr. Fritz, saying he wanted to do something for Mayor Renda to thank her for her regional efforts in forging what Mr. Fritz feels is the best dispatching he has ever seen in his career.

Mr. DiCicco spoke to say that, without Mayor Renda's leadership, Chagrin Valley Dispatch would not be in existence. He said negotiations started for a regional dispatch system in 2013 and became very contentious, with several communities wanting to host the dispatch center. University Hospitals came to the table and offered their site, and the dispatch system began in 2014 with eight municipalities, eight full-time dispatchers and a budget of \$745,000. In under five years, the service has grown to include 31 municipalities, three facilities, and a budget of over \$12 million. Mr. DiCicco said this has been a huge undertaking and that Mayor Renda has always shared and supported his vision.

Mr. DiCicco will be presenting a plaque and proclamation to Mayor Renda, which he was unable to have by this meeting, but in the meantime presented her with flowers and a gift basket as a token of his appreciation and thanks. Mayor Renda thanked him and said the success of Chagrin Valley Dispatch is due to Mr. DiCicco's brilliance and ability to manage people, situations, and budgets.

Chief Zupan added that Mayor Renda has led the Mayor's Council from the start, which is a huge undertaking.

Mr. Emerman made a motion to allow the Village Engineer to develop specifications for a portable back-up pump system and related piping at the pump stations within the Village of Moreland Hills and advertise for bids.

Mr. Emerman said he assumed everyone was familiar with the issues the Village had at one of the pump stations this year. He said the situation was addressed in a very timely manner, and the Service Department and Village Engineer did an excellent job. It is his understanding that a back-up system will provide further security in case there are other issues that arise with the pump stations.

Mr. DeWater added that Mr. Filarski recommended a back-up system the day of the pump failure at the Jackson Valley station. Additionally, dry-pump back-up systems have been discussed at training sessions attended by his employees. These systems do not need to be manned once the initial set up is complete.

Finally, Mr. Emerman said he feels it is always prudent to have redundancies on critical systems.

Mr. Stanard seconded the motion.

Mayor Renda asked if there are any additional questions or comments, and Mr. Fritz asked if this motion included the encasement of telemetry. Mr. DeWater answered that waterproof telemetry was already installed at the Jackson Valley pump station, and his department is looking into whether waterproof boxes can be purchased for the existing monitors for between \$150 and \$200, which is more cost-effective than buying entirely new units. He said that telemetry was added to the Village's stations about five years ago, and Moreland Hills is one of the only communities using telemetry on pump stations; it is usually designed for wastewater plants only. As long as they do not short out, the telemetry monitors report how many gallons are processed per pump as well as if there is a power outage and when the power comes back on. The monitors can be logged into 24/7 for updates.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Stanard reported that an e-mail was received today from Mr. Filarski relative to the bids that were recently opened for the sewer lateral connections. Only one bid was received, and it was more than ten percent over the original estimate. Therefore, Mr. Stanard made a motion to allow the Village Engineer to adjust the scope of work, re-advertise, and put the work back out to bid and reject the first round of bids.

Mr. Richman seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if there were any questions, and Mr. Emerman asked if there was any idea why more responses were not received. Mr. Filarski said he hoped that by repackaging the scope of work and reducing the number of bores, the Village would receive a better response. He said the work will require some road closures, but the cost of the original number of bores was prohibitive.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

BZA

Mr. Stanard said the Board of Zoning Appeals met on October 7, 2019. He gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. There was no meeting in November.

Planning Commission

Mr. Stanard reported that the Planning Commission met on October 7 and November 4, 2019. He summarized the items heard at those meetings, the minutes of which are attached.

The next meetings of the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission will be held December 2, 2019.

Roads and Safety

Mr. Richmond said the Roads and Safety Committee did not meet this month. The next meeting will be on December 3, 2019 at 8:00 am.

At this point, Mayor Renda noted that there may have been additional reports from Municipal Officials that were not heard per the agenda order and asked if there were additional reports or communications.

Service

Mr. DeWater updated the Council on the status of the Jackson Valley pump station. The Village submitted an insurance claim to our carrier in the amount of \$44,402.25. They agreed to recover to the Village \$42,558.57; the difference is based on our \$1000 deductible and equipment depreciation of \$843. Regarding the equipment failure, Smith and Loveless has replied that they have had other pump dome failures but were unable to say why. They recommend changing the glass bulb every two years whether we feel it is needed or not.

Finance

Mr. Shah said that the insurance claim may have negative repercussions in March 2020 when the insurance policy renews. However, we have taken corrective measures and will try to argue for the best rates if that is the case.

Police

Lieutenant Dietzel reported that the new cruiser is up and running; the old cruiser has been torn down and will go up for sale soon.

Building

Mr. Kowalczyk reported that there has been a lot of activity in the Village during the last two years. Construction at Chagrin Bluffs is coming to fruition, with six houses under construction, a seventh house that will be starting construction soon, and architectural work progressing on projects for the remaining two lots. He reminded Council that the street was originally approved with eight lots, one of which was later split to create a ninth lot. He anticipates that the street will be built out by 2021 and feature a very eclectic mix of homes. He also summarized the projects that have been undertaken in 2018 and 2019 to update Brady Middle School. Mr. Kowalczyk noted that, although there are a lot of projects that come before the Planning Commission, there are many others involving internal renovations that never get reviewed by Planning, so there is a lot of reinvestment happening in the community.

Engineering

Mr. Filarski did not have a report.

Law

Mr. Hanna did not have a report.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Fritz made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman to change the agenda to hear Ordinance 2019-58 first so as to not keep Fire Chief Zupan longer than necessary.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Ord 2019-58 Introduced by Mr. Richman

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CHAGRIN FALLS SUBURBAN VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richman said the Chagrin Falls fire service goes back to 1834 and now provides services to multiple communities in the Chagrin Valley. The Village's contract with the Chagrin Falls Suburban Volunteer Fireman's Association runs on a three-year cycle. In the three-year cycle coming up, there will be an increase to the Village of 6.09 percent from last year, followed by a three percent increase in 2020 and again in 2021. In addition to regular operating cost increases such as wages and worker's compensation, the additional \$119,000 will also be used to fully fund the capital budget for equipment replacement.

Mr. Richman reviewed the historical budget fluctuations since 2011. These fluctuations result from the evaluation of population, volume of EMS and fire calls, and the residences in each community. He said it is worth noting that regionalizing and working with Chagrin Falls Fire is less expensive than maintaining an individual fire department. Mr. Richman said he spoke with Chief Zupan about those costs: currently, the cost to the Village for this service is approximately \$127 per capita. Communities that maintain their own departments have costs ranging from \$220 to \$417 per capita. He added that, apart from the numbers, the Chagrin Falls Volunteer Fireman's Association is an amazing organization filled with extremely hard-working, capable, and compassionate people.

Chief Zupan said the Association is a non-profit corporation serving six communities in the Chagrin Valley. What makes it work is the banding together of those communities for cost efficiency. He said Moreland Hills supports the Association like no other community.

Mayor Renda took a moment to add that the Association needs renovations to their building, which is their non-profit headquarters and is not owned by Chagrin Falls. They have been trying to do the renovations with donations and fundraisers such as a celebrity bartending event that the Mayor was involved with several years ago. They are now selling a firefighter's calendar for \$25, which is available at Fireside Books, and she encouraged everyone to support the Association with a purchase of the calendar or with another donation to the Association.

Chief Zupan said they have been conducting private fundraising for 18 months. They are aiming for \$1 million for the renovations and have raised \$350,000 so far. They do not spend any of the contract funds for brick and mortar projects; capital funds are spent on equipment purchases and maintenance. Additional fundraising events will be advertised in the Chagrin Valley Times, and more information is available at cfffundraiser.org. The planned renovations include an addition to the station to add facilities for female firefighters - there are currently three female firefighters but no facilities specifically for women - an upgrade to the kitchen facilities, and the creation of access from the second floor to the bay, which will decrease (improve) response time.

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Ms. Sturgis to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2019-58.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Ms. Sturgis for passage of Ordinance 2019-58

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance 2019-48 (Third Reading) Introduced by Mr. Richman

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CHAPTER 905, "USE OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY BY SERVICE PROVIDERS," OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richman said Ordinance 2019-48 has been thoroughly reviewed and discussed at previous Council meetings and is now on third reading. He has confirmed with Mr. Hanna that there have been no developments since the last reading that would require any changes or modifications to the legislation.

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Ms. Sturgis to place Ordinance 2019-48 on Third Reading and for passage.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance 2019-57 Introduced by Mr. Stanard

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 901.01 “PERMIT REQUIRED; FEE,” OF CHAPTER 901, “EXCAVATIONS,” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORELAND HILLS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Stanard said that Ordinance 2019-57 is being proposed to clarify to both residents and utility providers which projects are subject to Chapter 901 and which are subject to new Chapter 905. At the same time, the fee for an excavation permit, as specified in Section 901.01, is being increased from ten (10) to twenty-five (25) dollars to keep current with the cost of doing business

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Buczek to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2019-57.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Buczek for passage of Ordinance 2019-57.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance 2019- 59 Introduced by Mr. Buczek

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DONATION TO THE VILLAGE OF A PARCEL OF LAND KNOWN AS PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER 913-06-008 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Buczek said this is a 6.6 acre parcel being donated to the Village by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The land starts at River Mountain Road and runs along Chagrin River Road.

Mr. Buczek made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2019-59.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Renda asked if there were any questions. Mr. Stanard said it should be noted that this is not a buildable piece of land. Mayor Renda added that this is not land that will require mowing or other such resources on the part of Village; this land is located next to the parcel where there has been a major landslide on to Chagrin River Road. The hope is that this will help the Village stabilize the land or at least help with clearing the mud that inevitably ends up on the road in that area.

Mr. Buczek made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard for passage of Ordinance 2019-59.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance 2019-60 Introduced by Mr. Fritz

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 157.03, "MEMBERS; TERMS", OF CHAPTER 157, "PARKS COMMISSION", OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORELAND HILLS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Fritz said it gives him great pleasure to introduce this ordinance. Its purpose is to increase the number of Village electors on the Parks Commission from seven to eight, and it will be one of his first pleasures to appoint Mayor Renda to the Parks Commission so she can continue with her work at Forest Ridge and the effort to build the new structure there. He thanked the Mayor and Parks Commission for their work in securing the \$150,000 grant to enable that work moving forward.

Mr. Fritz made a motion seconded by Mr. Buczek to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2019-60.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Fritz made a motion seconded by Ms. Sturgis for passage of Ordinance 2019-60.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Renda thanked Mr. Fritz and said she looks forward to continuing to serve the Village.

Ordinance 2019-61 Introduced by Mr. Emerman

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERRING ITEMS ALREADY APPROPRIATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Emerman said the first appropriation is \$90,000 for salt for the upcoming winter, which is a typical appropriation at this time of year. The Village uses the standard ODOT contract. This year, we are looking at 2,400 tons of salt, which is now going for just over \$73 per ton. This is up from \$64 per ton last year and \$36 per ton the previous year.

There is a proposed capital appropriation for \$2,000 for a laptop to be used by the Police Department. This is for the community diversion program and will be reimbursed by the County. There is a \$15,000 proposed appropriation for work on four pumps at Winterberry, Jackson Valley, Cableknoll, and Quail Hollow. The last appropriation is \$10,000 for engineering work on two systems: 1) the Greentree equalization tank to expand the peak flow capacity at the Greentree wastewater plant; and 2) the lateral lining project at Winterberry.

Mr. Emerman said there are two transfers, one being the normal transfer made to the police pension fund and the second being the Muni Motor Vehicle Fund for the culvert and drainage program.

Mr. Emerman made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2019-61.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Emerman made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard for passage of Ordinance 2019-61.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Miscellaneous

Mayor Renda acknowledged Aimee Lane, who was in attendance. Mrs. Lane has until recently been the Village's Law Director and has taken a position with the Turnpike Commission. Mayor Renda asked Mrs. Lane to attend tonight to formally thank her for her valuable counsel and all of the time, including many evenings, spent supporting the Village.

Mrs. Lane said it has been her honor to work with everyone in the Village as both Assistant Law Director and Law Director and that it is an experience she will always cherish.

Mr. Richman said that it may be premature, as there is one more Council meeting in December, but he wanted to offer his accolades to Mr. Buczek for over twenty years of incredible service to the Village. Mr. Buczek said he has greatly enjoyed his work here and extended his congratulations to the new Council members.

Mr. Fritz echoed Mr. Richman's comments and said he has always valued Mr. Buczek's work. He also wanted to offer his thanks to Mrs. Lane for her contributions to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission and for her guidance to Council. He said the Turnpike Commission is very lucky to have her.

Mr. Stanard also wished Mrs. Lane luck and said it was very good to know she always had the back of the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission to ensure no missteps or errors were made. Ms. Sturgis added her congratulations and also thanked Mrs. Lane for the times she said "no" and clearly explained why. Finally, Mr. Emerman said that, although he has only been here two years, he was always impressed with Mrs. Lane's legal analysis and thoroughness.

Mr. Buczek made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 8:01 pm.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Buczek, Mr. Emerman, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Attest:

Theresa Dean, Assistant Clerk of Council

Dan Fritz, Council President