

ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
January 4, 2017
MINUTES

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

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

Also Present: Sherri Arrietta, Clerk of Council

Mr. Buczek made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 14, 2016.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Mr. Sherck

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Renda took a moment, as a resident, to make a few comments. She stated that she is incredibly proud of Moreland Hills government. They have worked together and tackled some incredibly difficult issues together, while staying off the front page of the newspaper. Mayor Renda stated that she wanted to remind Council that they all volunteered for these positions, and some of them worked really hard to get these positions. Along with accepting this position, comes responsibility and that responsibility for the most part is to show up, to be prepared, and to understand that you have to make decisions, sometimes on the fly, and that those decisions are often difficult. She stated that they make those decisions as a group and then move together as a group. It is important for them to remember that they have to be cohesive and energetic. Mayor Renda stated that they should not want to sit back and wait for things to happen, and then be reactive to that. Instead, they should want to look down the road at what is coming up next, be prepared for it, and be willing to make the difficult decisions and stand by them.

Mayor Renda reminded Council that their responsibilities are as legislators. As Mayor, she is like the CEO of the organization. It is not their responsibility to get into any department head's business or to seek out residents that have an issue; any resident issues should come to the group or administration. Dealing with a resident on an individual basis like that, can come into conflict with the group. They are a team and have to be cohesive in the team. As Mayor, she tries to bring issues to the forefront so that she and Council can all work on them together. When they all come up with a solution together, it is always better than the solution she thought of herself. It is important that they are open with each other, that they talk to each other, and that they all work together to come up with a solution; this is how they are effective and how they will get things done.

Mayor Renda stated that she has been watching our Service Director, Ted DeWater, work with his new Foreman and seeing them create this great relationship where they want to take their department to the next level. That is the type of relationship she would like to have with the next Council President. She stated that she is proud of what they have accomplished but they can accomplish so much more and there is a lot out there to be done. She always welcomes and needs help from Council members.

Mr. Fritz agreed with the Mayor's comment regarding dealing with residents as a group instead of as individuals. He stated that he believes Council functions better if they direct people to the proper committee. Mr. Fritz admitted that it was a learning curve for him, but since he has experience in handling these situations in both ways, he feels that they will function better if they do put things through the proper channels and keep everyone in the know.

Mr. Stanard echoed the same sentiment. He stated that he has seen situations where residents were directed to committee, the committee listened to them and they ultimately saw legislation or at least a discussion come out of this body. Mr. Stanard stated that they are a Council, so they act better when they are that group of individuals that look at it from different perspectives and sides, talk it through, and come up with a better outcome.

Mr. Richman stated that sometimes they lose sight of the fact that the designated chairs for the committees can put these items on the agenda if they are contacted so that it can go through the proper channels. What he likes most about this council is the expertise that they all have in their own right and that they have all lead in various capacities and issues.

Mr. Fritz stated that this works if they listen and make sure it goes through the proper venue, which requires communication on their part. He stated that while he believes they do a good job communicating, there are times they can be better. If there was one thing he feels this Council could improve on, it would be responsiveness of emails.

Mr. Buczek stated that in past administrations and Councils, he felt that things could be said but that it ultimately would not matter. He stated that this has never been the case with this Mayor and Council. Mr. Buczek stated he feels that this Council is very comfortable in that everyone listens to one another and respects each other's positions. Mr. Fritz stated that having experienced these two types of scenarios as a Council member, as Mr. Buczek has, the way they are doing things now is definitely easier and less stressful.

Appointments and Confirmations

Mayor Renda asked for a nomination for Council President for 2017.

Mr. Buczek nominated Ms. Sturgis to serve as Council President for 2017.

Mr. Stanard nominated Mr. Fritz to serve as Council President for 2017. He stated that Mr. Fritz did a tremendous amount of work last year between the Planning Commission and the Master Plan Committee Chair, as well as being a strong advocate for the passage of Issue 70. He stated that if Mr. Fritz has the interest in the presidency, then he should be given that opportunity to demonstrate that interest.

Mr. Fritz stated that he appreciates it but he would like to focus his efforts on the Planning Commission again. He stated that he feels that it is an important year with the passing of the zoning issue to have continuity. Mayor Renda stated that she had mentioned to Mr. Fritz that it is important that we have continuity on Planning this year and in doing so, she feels that she may have put Mr. Fritz's back to the wall. She informed Mr. Fritz that she does not want him to stay on Planning due to a professional obligation and that he should strive for a position that he thinks best suits him and his service to the Village.

Mr. Fritz accepted the nomination for Council President.

Ms. Sturgis stated she appreciates the nomination for Council President and the vote of confidence in her. She stated that she concurs with the comments about Mr. Fritz and stated that she supports the nomination of Mr. Fritz as Council President. Ms. Sturgis withdrew herself from consideration as Council President. Mayor Renda informed Ms. Sturgis that she appreciates how generous and gracious she is.

There being no other nominations, Mayor Renda declared nominations closed.

Ms. Sturgis made a motion seconded by Mr. Buczek to close the nominations for Council President for 2017.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Renda stated that the nomination on the floor is for Dan Fritz to serve as Council President for 2017.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Fritz thanked everyone. He stated that it is an honor to work with everyone and that he wants to put forth a solid effort. He looks forward to working with Mayor Renda and Council Members and would like to keep the channels of communication open and serve to the best of his abilities.

Mayor Renda stated that one of the things she wants to change this year is to have the Council President assign the Ordinances and Resolutions for the meetings. She stated that it is good for the president to do so because he understands Council and all their strengths. Mayor Renda stated that she will be handing over more responsibilities to the Council President as they continue to work through the year, so that they have an integrated working relationship again.

Mayor Renda asked for a nomination to elect one Council Member from the 2015 election cycle (Mr. Buczek, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Richman) to serve on the Planning Commission for a two year term.

Mr. Buczek stated that Mr. Richman had expressed interest previously. Mr. Richman stated that, unfortunately, serving on the Planning Commission would not accommodate his schedule.

Mr. Stanard nominated Mr. Buczek to serve on the Planning Commission and stated that he feels that Mr. Buczek has the knowledge, experience and skills to serve on the Planning Commission. Considering the new zoning district (Issue 70), he stated that he feels that Mr. Buczek's skills as a longtime resident, long time member of Council, and as a skilled professional in the engineering trade, will really be needed because he understands things relative to developments, property size, driveways, etc. Mr. Stanard stated that they really have a competent staff to guide them through this process (Theresa, Paul, Jeff, and Aimee). They really became an effective and well-functioning group and he feels Mr. Buczek would play well to that. Mr. Sherck concurred with everything Mr. Stanard said about Mr. Buczek and added that Mr. Buczek is committed and has a passion for the Village.

Mr. Buczek stated that he accepted the nomination, but wanted to make it known that he does have a few trips planned this year. Mayor Renda stated that they all have trips planned and sometimes they all have to miss a meeting here and there. She stated that they will be talking about the meeting schedule next to see if they can give everyone an opportunity for a two-week vacation; it is difficult for Council and the Mayor to do so because unlike Staff, they do not have back up to attend meetings for them.

There being no other nominations, Mayor Renda declared nominations closed.

Mr. Sherck made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to close the nominations for Planning Commission member.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Renda stated that the nomination on the floor is for Ted Buczek to serve as a Planning Commission member for a two-year term.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Buczek stated that he appreciates it and that it is a pleasure to be involved because everyone works so well together.

Mayor Renda asked for a nomination for the Planning Commission Chair for 2017.

Mr. Richman nominated Mr. Stanard to continue to serve as the Planning Commission Chair for 2017. He stated that Mr. Stanard has done an amazing job and that he has always been extremely impressed by him when he has attended Planning meetings. Mr. Stanard has led in such a way that is as good, if not, better than past chairs.

Mr. Stanard stated that it was a lot of work and he did not expect it, but it felt good to contribute. He stated that the balance of staff and of the other Commission members made it a good experience. Mr. Stanard stated that it is an honor to serve and he is happy to do it again.

There being no other nominations, Mayor Renda declared nominations closed.

Mr. Buczek made a motion seconded by Ms. Sturgis to close the nominations for Planning Commission Chair for 2017.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Renda stated that the nomination on the floor is for Paul Stanard to serve as a Planning Commission Chair for 2017.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Council Meetings will continue to be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.

Mayor Renda stated that she would like to discuss the schedule for the Planning Commission meetings for 2017. She stated that it was proposed to move the meetings to the first Monday of every month as opposed to the fourth Monday. She pointed out on the calendars that she provided everyone with that it works for every month except September. She stated she still needs to check with staff to make sure that it will work with them. Mr. Buczek stated he likes the idea of all meetings being held in that two-week period.

Mayor Renda stated that the only difficulty that this would present would be for Theresa to type up the minutes in time for the Council Meeting. She stated that she feels that they can all agree that if they have an outline or just a synopsis of what happened, then they will not need the full minutes and certainly do not need them in perfect form for the Council Meeting.

Mr. Stanard agreed and stated that those minutes are not being approved and that the Chair will also give a synopsis of the meeting at the Council meeting. Mr. Fritz stated that another issue could be when there is a Conditional Use from BZA that is recommended to Council, they would need a thorough report on it. Mayor Renda stated that if that is the case, they can take Theresa off her other duties so that she can get the minutes done. Mr. Fritz suggested that Theresa can also just get that portion pertaining to the Conditional Use out.

Mr. Stanard suggested giving an update on the Planning Commission meeting at Committee of the Whole, which will fall within the same week, if there is something that is required to come before Council. He suggested that Theresa could prepare a briefing of just that section and get it out in time for Council. This may give Council more information than in the past. Mr. Stanard pointed out that since notices are not required when something is recommended to Council from Planning, the time frame between Planning Commission and Council will be less (from 16 days to 9 days) therefore, some residents will benefit because their issue will be heard sooner.

A discussion ensued.

Mayor Renda stated that she will take it back to staff and see if they can do it and if so, they would start in March with the new meeting schedule.

Mayor Renda stated that the next item to discuss is where to fit in the Roads and Safety and Facilities Committee Meetings. They are currently on the Wednesday after the Planning Commission, so she stated that she would want to keep them in line with the Planning Commission meetings. If they stayed on Wednesday, it could be a long day since Committee of the Whole is that night. She suggested moving them back to Tuesday mornings, when they used to be held. Mayor Renda stated that she had asked that they be moved to Wednesday because if Planning Commission had ran late the night before, it was difficult to have to be up early the next morning. She stated that she would rather have that situation, however, than to have the long day on Wednesday. It was pointed out that March, August and November are a little different because it would not be the first Tuesday, of the month, but they can make it work.

A discussion ensued.

Ms. Sturgis asked what the reasoning was behind not having the Committee meeting in the evening, prior to Committee of the Whole, for example. Mayor Renda stated that it is extra work for Staff to come here (since they are not required to be here for Committee of the Whole meetings), whereas in the morning they are starting their normal work day. Mr. Richman mentioned that it would also make it difficult for some to get here early anyway. Mr. Stanard asked why it could not be done before Council since Staff is required to be here for that meeting. Mayor Renda stated that a lot of times, recommendations to Council come out of those committees, but for it to be heard that same night and legislation was required, it would have already had to have been created which feels like putting the cart before the horse and she is not comfortable with that.

Mayor Renda asked if everyone is comfortable with moving the committee meetings to the Tuesday after the Planning Commission meetings, in the morning. Ms. Sturgis stated that she will have to get back to her because she has an international call in the mornings on Tuesday, but she is not sure yet when exactly they will be.

A discussion ensued.

Mayor Renda stated that she will discuss this with staff to see if they can make these schedule changes work.

Mr. Fritz will assign the committee members and let everyone know.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Mr. Buczek will on vacation in Cuba January 22-29.

Mr. Buczek made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman to adjourn the Organizational Council Meeting at 8:08pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Attest:

Sherri Arrietta, Clerk of Council

Dan Fritz, Council President