

Village of Gates Mills  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL  
August 13, 2013

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Councilmembers present: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.

Mayor Riley presided.

It was moved by Councilmember Schneider, seconded by Councilmember Reynolds, that Bill Mangelluzzi and Audrey Dvorak be appointed to the Mayfield School Liaison Committee.

Roll call:       Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.  
                  Nays: None.  
                  Motion carried.

The minutes of the July 16, 2013 Council meeting were presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Sogg, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that the minutes be approved.

Roll call:       Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.  
                  Nays: None.  
                  Abstain: Welsh  
                  Motion carried.

Pay Ordinance #1156 in the amount of \$669,687.45 was presented by the Clerk.

It was moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Reynolds, that Pay Ordinance #1156 be approved.

Roll call:       Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.  
                  Nays: None.  
                  Motion carried.

The financial statement for the period ending July 31, 2013 was presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Barnes noted that the departments continue to do a good job managing their expenses. He pointed out the approximate amount of \$28,000 Dispatch Operating Fee under the Other Police Department Costs is the first installment. Councilmember Barnes reminded Council that the fee for dispatch was not previously budgeted as the decision regarding the transfer of dispatch services was not made at the time the budget was prepared. Councilmember Barnes reviewed certain YTD results, +\*highlighting as follows:

- \$5.3 Million in Cash and Investments.
- Unfunded Debt is just under \$700,000.

- The Operating Surplus for July is \$147,000.
- Inheritance taxes are \$208,000 compared to \$143,000 last year.

Councilmember Sogg added that in the future there should be a reduction of salary and wages in connection with alarm / dispatch. Mayor Riley inquired as to the cost of the Dispatch fee. Confirmation was provided that the amount of \$28,000 represented payment for 2½ months. Finance Administrator Lechman indicated that the one month figure is \$11,000. Mayor Riley asked where the capital costs appeared in the report. Finance Administrator Lechman instructed where that information could be found and added that \$76,000 has been paid thus far for dispatch services.

Mayor Riley presented his report wherein he expressed his gratitude for all involved in the successful and smooth transition of dispatch services. Mayor Riley added that the possibility of expanding the cemetery was still ongoing.

The Clerk had nothing to report.

Councilmember Welsh on behalf of the Cemetery Committee indicated that Morris Everett, Jr. had concerns regarding damage at the South cemetery. Service Director Biggett clarified that the damage was from recent storm(s) and not from vandalism. Councilmember Welsh stated that Mr. Everett had donated \$100 for an endowment fund. Mr. Everett suggested that, similar to the process being performed at Lakeview Cemetery, the stones be re-engraved for beautification purposes. Mayor Riley suggested the Cemetery Committee meet to discuss interest in creating an endowment fund. Finance Administrator Lechman added that should an endowment fund not be established that Mr. Everett's donation would be returned to him. Councilmember Welsh suggested getting a cost estimate for bringing the cemetery up to good condition.

Councilmember Schneider announced that the website was progressing and a request would be made in the *Pink Sheet* asking residents to submit their pictures of the Village to possibly be included on the new website. Councilmember Schneider added that a working template of the website should be ready by the end of September. Finance Administrator Lechman noted that the requested deadline for the completion of the website was October 31<sup>st</sup> and indicated that no updates were being made to the current website in anticipation of the new website.

Councilmember Turner stated that the Mayfield School Liaison Committee met with the Superintendent and Treasurer of the Mayfield Schools on July 25<sup>th</sup>. She announced two new members joined the Committee. Councilmember Turner reported that the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting included discussions such as mentoring by former grads, implementation of similar programs offered at certain private schools located nearby, connecting with universities, and other ideas. The ideas were well received. There will be continued promotions of the schools.

On behalf of the Safety Committee, Councilmember Reynolds announced that Ron Hess was going to be her co-chair.

Councilmember Reynolds commented on behalf of the Beautification Committee that she recently visited the new location of the PAR Garden and expressed her opinion of the success and improvement it. She noted the size of the new location, labor assistance available, as well as improved features such as a modern deer fence, irrigation system, etc.

Police Chief Whitmer provided a written report on behalf of the Police Department and highlighted spikes in two categories: public assistance and noise disturbances. He explained the rise in public assistance calls was mostly storm-related and the increase regarding noise disturbances was attributed to the summer season (open windows, more outside gatherings, music, construction, etc.).

In response to a question by Councilmember Frankel, Chief Whitmer explained that “UTT” stands for “Uniform Traffic Tickets.”

Councilmember Welsh stated he had received a complaint from a resident regarding the alarm monitoring transition wherein the resident was informed his system was obsolete and the cost to convert it would be approximately \$1,500. Chief Whitmer said he would follow up on that situation.

Councilmember Frankel mentioned the placement of the unmanned police car was a great idea to aid in slowing down traffic. Chief Whitmer said it has had a positive impact.

Chief Whitmer stated the dispatch transition on August 5<sup>th</sup> went extremely well adding that the same was completed by 10:30 a.m. that day. He stated that the technology was working as planned, the officers are adapting well and the personnel has been receiving good feedback. Chief Whitmer was happy to report that all of the full-time dispatchers have been placed.

A written report was provided by Service Director Biggert. He confirmed that the Mayfield Road project would not be completed until early September due to some issues that arose with the castings plus extra work that he requested. Councilmember Turner inquired about the drop off by Old Mill and Carpenter Roads as to when that would be fixed and if it was dangerous. Village Engineer Courtney said that the repair project for that area is scheduled for next year’s budget and that, in the interim, appropriate preparations have been made to ensure safety and would be reexamined in advance of the upcoming winter season. The repair would require the road to be closed for less than 1 month. Service Director Biggert said it would be closed 4 months.

Fire Chief Robinson delivered his written report. Mayor Riley inquired about the recent false alarms from Sara’s restaurant. Chief Robinson explained that the alarm system was damaged by storm(s) and that parts have been ordered to fix the same. Wires in one of the boards in the alarm panel were fried. He added that the Fire Department assisted in many non-emergency/non-traditional calls in response to recent storms including the clearing trees, etc.

Chief Robinson provided an update with regard to the recent fire on Chartley Road. He reported that the insurance inspector agreed with Gates Mills Fire Department’s investigation that the fire was accidental. The insurance inspector is following up on who last performed maintenance of the hot water tank at that property. Councilmember Frankel asked if other communities’ fire departments arrive before Gates Mills’ department. Chief Robinson said they

arrive to assist. He provided a summary of the prearranged response protocol adding that the first engine to arrive on scene was Gates Mills (19 minutes), followed by Pepper Pike. and commented on the great job of that engine's initial response when arriving to the scene. He stated that in his next *Pink Sheet* article, he would stress the importance of smoke detectors and include the fact that the Fire Department is willing to assist with smoke alarm installations. As an example, Chief Robinson stated that the smoke detector at the Chartley Road fire was key in allowing the resident to escape unharmed.

Finance Administrator Lechman announced to Council that the State has made a change in property tax for any new levies. Previously residents were responsible for 87.5% and the State's responsibility was 12.5%. Finance Administrator Lechman explained for any new levies beginning with this November's election, residents will be responsible for the 12.5% formally assumed by the State. She added that this change would not impact renewals of existing levies.

It was moved by Councilmember Reynolds, seconded by Councilmember Schneider, to advertise for the selling of two police vehicles.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Resolution #2013-17 entitled "A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of a Truck Equipment Package for a 2014 International Truck," was introduced by Councilmember Barnes. Councilmember Barnes explained this was to authorize the equipment for the service truck purchased earlier in the year.

It was moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution #2013-17 be placed upon its final passage. The reason for the motion to suspend was due to the need to put the truck into service this year before the start of inclement weather.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

It was then moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that Resolution #2013-17 be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Ordinance #2013-18 entitled "An Ordinance to Amend the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-02 to Increase Certain Appropriations and Other Expenditures of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2013," was introduced by Councilmember Barnes. Finance Administrator Lechman explained the Park & Recreation and

the Cemetery funds have negative balances and, pursuant to the Auditor requirements, funds cannot be in the negative. This ordinance is to transfer \$2,000 into each of those funds.

It was moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance #2013-18 be placed upon its final passage. The reason for the motion to suspend was due to the auditor's requirements not to have a negative fund balance.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Reynolds, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, to pass Ordinance #2013-18.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that an advertisement be placed for bids for salt.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Business from the audience: none.

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Reynolds, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, and unanimously carried, that the council meeting be adjourned.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:

Shawn M. Riley, Mayor