

Village of Gates Mills  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL  
April 12, 2016

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held on Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Gates Mills Elementary School Library.

Councilmembers present: Frankel, Sogg, Turner, Welsh, Whitney.

Councilmembers absent: AuWerter, Reynolds.

It was moved by Councilmember Whitney, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that Councilmembers AuWerter and Reynolds be excused from the meeting.

Roll call: Ayes: Frankel, Sogg, Turner, Welsh, Whitney.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Mayor Schneider thanked members and introduced Elementary School Principal Tammy Bender. Principal Bender welcomed members and shared that fifth grade officers would be available after the meeting to provide tours of the school.

The minutes of the March 8, 2016 Council meeting were presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Sogg, seconded by Councilmember Frankel, that the minutes be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Frankel, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.  
Abstain: Whitney.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Nicole Sweet, Relationship Manager from NOPEC, announced that she is available for questions and then explained a \$5,000 grant available to Gates Mills through NOPEC. Such money is allocated for Gates Mills to use for energy conservation programs. She noted she would provide Finance Administer Mulh with details and the requirements regarding the same. Ms. Sweet then shared that she is available to conduct public meetings wherein she would be happy to sit down with residents to explain pricing and perform comparisons to other offers. Mayor Schneider asked if individual residents are welcome to call. Ms. Sweet confirmed but highlighted that the call center is knowledgeable to aid in questions as well. She stated that she has spoken with some Gates Mills residents and has done analyses for two business owners. Councilmember Sogg said there have been questions regarding NOPEC and suggested it would be helpful to have a public meeting to resolve any confusion and allow residents the opportunity to bring in their bills for review. Councilmember Turner agreed. Councilmember Sogg suggested a meeting be scheduled adjacent to the start of a Council meeting. Councilmember Frankel inquired about the PUCO issue. Ms. Sweet responded that issue is ongoing and that NOPEC is against it. Mayor Schneider suggested a public event be held in the month of June

which would be the one-year anniversary. Ms. Sweet emphasized that NOPEC does not advocate they have the lowest rates but that its rates are typically in the bottom tier of pricing. She further commented that other rates may be lower due to being introductory rates. Council will revisit and discuss the idea of a public meeting at its May meeting.

Pay Ordinance #1188 in the amount of \$372,843.74 was presented by the Clerk. In response to Councilmember Frankel's question, Finance Administrator Mulh said that Prime Pay is the company the Village uses for its payroll. Councilmember Frankel then inquired about the Willowleaf Studios expense. Service Director Biggert responded that such expense was for the Village's entry signs.

It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that Pay Ordinance #1188 be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Frankel, Sogg, Turner, Welsh, Whitney.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Finance Administrator Mulh read the Treasurer's report submitted by Treasurer Reynolds for the period ending March 31, 2016 (attached).

Mayor Schneider reported that the Long Range Planning Committee met recently and opined of a great start with some really good ideas being generated. Councilmember Frankel commented that the meeting was also great because all of the ideas were accepted as possibilities to consider. Next, she reported that information on the Heritage Program will be highlighted in the *May Pink Sheet*. Finance Administrator Mulh provided a brief update including dates for the upcoming Art Show. Mayor Schneider concluded her report indicating that she will be sharing with Councilmembers information from the Mayors and Managers monthly meetings.

Clerk's report. none.

Committee reports.

Councilmember Turner noted a public meeting was held on March 31 regarding the connector study for the North and South Chagrin Reservations. She said it was a lively discussion with many opinions and concerns of residents being shared. Councilmember Turner advised that a survey is available online for residents to complete. She also noted that information will be available at the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and that more public meetings will be scheduled. Mayor Schneider shared her opinion that residents need to be made aware of the survey. Councilmember Sogg, in response to Mayor Schneider's concern and suggestion, noted the survey would be over before the next edition of the *Pink Sheet*. Councilmember Welsh opined this is a road to nowhere. Councilmember Sogg said the North and South Chagrin Reservations are the only two parks not connected. Councilmember Whitney asked about scheduled meetings. Finance Administrator Mulh answered that another meeting will be scheduled. Mayor Schneider recommended that the survey time be extended through the second public meeting. Councilmember Turner confirmed she would raise such suggestion.

Councilmember Welsh recommended contacting Dan Moore with regard to extending the time for the survey. Councilmember Turner reiterated that she would look into it.

Councilmember Welsh asked if there is any further information regarding the cemetery. Mayor Schneider said the property did not sell again.

Councilmember Turner stated that the Positively Gates Mills Committee is planning to meet soon to take a look at certain real estate issues. She reported that 16 properties were sold in the Village over the winter and as of March, there were 26 on the market. Mayor Schneider said she has a full list available from Howard Hanna. Councilmember Turner advised that sales were between \$250,000 and \$1.5M.

Police Chief Minichello provided a written report. Chief Minichello advised that the Safety Committee met on April 7. He opined the meeting was well attended and informative. He noted that discussions from the meeting included the possibility of LED flashing signs in the business district, guardrail reflective markings and general traffic safety initiatives. He shared that retired Police Chief Ron Whitmer's wife had passed away. Chief Minichello also informed Councilmembers that Dorothy Slunski is back to work but will have a secondary procedure on May 2 which will result in her being out for one or two weeks. He then reported that Patrolman John Richards suffered a broken arm while checking an alarm call and he will be assisting at the desk and doing some projects while he is not able to work the road. It was shared that last Friday, Mayor Schneider, Fire Chief Robinson and Chief Minichello attended a Chagrin Valley Dispatch open house. He advised that the C-Comm unit that receives 911 calls from cell phones will be in the same building as the dispatch center. Mayor Schneider expressed her opinion that the technology is impressive. Police Chief Minichello said he would be happy to coordinate tours for interested Councilmembers and encouraged the same. Councilmember Welsh asked if the Storer Foundation had any additional gift money for the Village. Mayor Schneider responded she would inquire. Councilmember Frankel asked Chief Minichello about the significant decrease in fines compared to last year. Chief Minichello explained that as officers are following up on their own cases, it results in less time on the road. He pointed to timing differences with outstanding cases as well. Councilmember Sogg stated that she has noticed speeding cars in the school zone near St. Francis. Councilmember Frankel mentioned watching the intersection of Brigham and Battles. Councilmember Sogg opined that she likes the idea of signs that have solar panels that display speed information and believes they are effective. Councilmember Welsh complimented the police presence.

Service Director Biggert provided a written report. Service Director Biggert advised that the Village has 500 tons of salt being delivered and an additional 200 tons left to store. He stated that on April 2, he and Mayor Schneider attended a Cuyahoga Valley Intergovernmental Council meeting. He explained that it is made up of a few communities and topics discussed included sharing equipment, joint purchasing, salt and budget cuts in many of the communities in the Valley. Councilmember Frankel thanked Service Director Biggert for all of the information contained in his report. Mayor Schneider commented on Aria's Home on S.O.M. Center Rd. She explained that is it not a doctor/nursing home setting but that it is meant for people suffering with hearing or eyesight issues in an independent yet controlled living environment. Councilmember Sogg highlighted the disruption of roads, berms and grass damage due to new construction. Service Director Biggert responded that the Village obtains a bond from the

construction companies but that the construction companies are still responsible for repairing the damage.

Fire Chief Robinson provided a written report. Chief Robinson shared that the department was involved in public service and safety projects in March, highlighting home safety inspections and smoke alarm installations.

Third reading was held for Ordinance #2016-08 “An Ordinance Authorizing The Vacation Of Riverview Lane In Gates Mills, Ohio.”

It was moved by Councilmember Sogg, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that Ordinance #2016-08 be approved.

Roll call:       Ayes: Frankel, Sogg, Turner, Welsh, Whitney.  
                      Nays: None.  
                      Motion carried.

Ordinance #2016-09 “An Ordinance Confirming The Mayor’s Appointment Of The Law Director, Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into An Agreement With Walter I Haverfield LLP, And Declaring An Emergency” was introduced by Councilmember Sogg. Councilmember Sogg highlighted the recommendation from the Legal Committee. Councilmember Frankel inquired about the contract including terms and services. Law Director Hunt said the annual retainer increased by \$8,000. He explained that an analysis was performed which reviewed the average over the last four years. He added that the type of services provided would remain the same. Councilmember Welsh expressed his opinion of prohibited costs and shared his desire to use Leonard Carr, a Gates Mills resident. He further remarked on his opinion of Mr. Carr having experience and interest in the job. Mayor Schneider commented that we could evaluate toward the end of the year and would like to finish out this year. Councilmember Sogg said she supports the Legal Committee’s recommendation and noted that Mr. Carr as well as others were interviewed and Walter Haverfield was appointed as it was the most qualified as well as being pleased with its services.

It was moved by Councilmember Sogg, seconded by Councilmember Frankel, that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance #2016-09 be placed upon its final passage.

Roll call:       Ayes: Frankel, Sogg, Turner, Whitney.  
                      Nays: Welsh.

With only five members present, the vote could not go forward for approval. Ordinance #2016-09 was put on first reading and will be on Council’s agenda for its May meeting.

Service Director Biggert suggested looking into the historic program to pair funds with the available energy grant and asked what Council’s impression would be for using such funds for the purchase of new windows for Town Hall. Finance Administrator Mulh said new windows is included in the Long Range Planning as part of next year. Mayor Schneider suggested getting prices. Councilmember Frankel asked if an energy analysis has been done.

Service Director Biggert confirmed and said the results of the analysis highlighted that the Village operates sufficiently wherein it would not be beneficial to transition to LCD lighting due to limited gains. Councilmember Sogg raised the possibility of funds available through the Certified Local Government program.

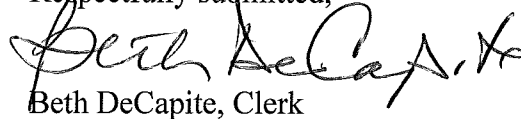
Business from the audience:

Tammy Bender thanked Mayor Schneider and Councilmembers for holding the Council meeting at the school. Publication materials were distributed. She then briefly explained the blended learning program that the school is involved with that blends technology and face-to-face learning. She highlighted that 30 tablets were purchased for students, Google Chromebooks for teachers as well as laptops and computers for classrooms. She said she is honored that the school is part of the pilot program. She then presented a video.

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

Roll call:       Ayes: Frankel, Sogg, Turner, Welsh, Whitney.  
                  Nays: None.  
                  Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved: 

Karen Schneider, Mayor