

VILLAGE OF GATES MILLS

Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 23, 2016

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING (WORK SESSION)

I. Call to order

Mayor Schneider called to order the special meeting of the Village Council at 5:47 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at Village Hall.

II. Roll call

Clerk Beth DeCapite conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Councilmembers Reynolds, Sogg, Whitney, Turner, Frankel and AuWerter, Treasurer Tim Reynolds, Finance Administrator Janet Mulh and Ryan Denstscheff (Chagrin Valley Times). Councilmember Reynolds moved to excuse Councilmember Welsh. Councilmember Whitney seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. Discussion of Long Range Planning Report

Treasurer Reynolds commented that in reviewing ideas generated from the Long Range Planning Committee and Subcommittees, Council should determine if the idea should:

- a) Be pursued now and begin the necessary work to make the idea a reality,
- b) Be considered at a later date possibly, or
- c) Be rejected.

Councilmembers suggested establishing goals and the timing for execution of such goals, deferring items that would reduce or eliminate existing services (i.e. house alarm monitoring), looking at how all ideas fit into the big picture. One goal is to create a legislative agenda for items that may be implemented. Council discussed the importance of maintaining a six-month reserve, operating on a non-deficit basis, and building up the Capital Improvement Fund.

IV. Other Revenue Opportunities

Mr. AuWerter presented a handout detailing other revenue opportunities identified by the subcommittee responsible for the topic.

- a) **Investments** – invest funds more aggressively with safety a priority. Potential income of \$60,000. Policy will need to be established along with an investment committee. Idea will be pursued. Mrs. Mulh to obtain a few

investment policies from other Villages. Try to find out number of Villages that invest this way. *Leads: Councilmember Whitney, Treasurer Tim Reynolds, and Janet Mulh*

- b) **Cell Tower** – If all major carriers are represented, approximately \$10,000 - \$15,000 per month (120,000 – 180,000/year). Tower would have to be on Village-owned property. There is much interest in having another tower in the Valley. Cost of building a tower could be \$200,000. Shorter towers for data transmission are appearing in communities. An Ordinance will be coming pertaining to small towers in the right of way and the need to control the usage. Idea will be pursued. *Leads: Councilmembers AuWerter and Turner*
- c) **Mayor's Court** – There is a standard Mayor's Court with a Magistrate that hears all cases. The Village would explore a Mayor's Court called a Violations Bureau. This Violations Bureau allows the Village to collect payments for waiverable tickets on-line or in person instead of Lyndhurst Court. The Village currently receives the fine amount while Lyndhurst receives the related fees. Estimated revenue is \$60-65,000 if the Court's fee/fine schedule is used. Mayor Schneider would like it to be an on-line only function. Idea will be pursued. *Leads: Councilmember Sogg, Chief Minichello and Janet Mulh.*
- d) **Alarm Monitoring** – Village currently pays for the basic alarm monitoring for approximately 300 residences. The program was established when the dispatch center was eliminated. There are approximately another 300 residences using other monitoring systems and companies. If the Village were to discontinue its program, the Village would save an estimated \$30,000. Idea to be considered at a future date possibly.
- e) **Rental Property Registration Fee** – Enforcement has been difficult. Increase efforts to identify rental properties and owners. Will be pursued. *Leads: Dave Biggert and Janet Mulh*
- f) **Cemetery Fees** – Options discussed: Increase interment fees for opening and closing graves. Research ability for plot owners to donate back unused plots for a tax deduction. Revise fee for lot purchase establishing a new market price. Review plot owners identifying those willing to sell back their unneeded plots to Gates Mills. Research idea of reclaiming plots. Idea will be pursued. *Leads: Councilmembers Reynolds and Frankel and Janet Mulh*

- g) **Burton Court Fees** – Establish new rental rates for Burton Court. Currently \$100 per rental. Discussed \$100 for Gates Mills non-profit groups and \$250 for all others. Idea will be pursued. **Leads: Council Action?**
- h) **Deer Hunting Permits** – Increase fee and reduce acreage requirement. Raising fee may be considered. Acreage should stay the same for safety reasons. **Lead: ???**
- i) **Land Development** – Village Center does not have enough space for more development. Third phase for Mills Building is a possibility. Village-owned land could be sold. Ohio Bell Building/Archives Building and land is wanted by the neighboring property owner to purchase. **ACTION?**
- j) **Water Tap In Amnesty** – Suggestion to provide a lower tap-in fee for those who have not opted to tie in as of yet. Decision made: reassess after loans are paid off.

V. Shared Services

Ideas are long-term in nature and would require conversations with others. Safety Committee should be tasked with exploring opportunities for Fire and Police.

- a) Share nighttime officer with Hunting Valley should be explored. **Lead: Safety Committee**
- b) Forming a Police District idea had little interest from Council.
- c) Leasing vehicles or equipment should be explored. **Lead: Safety Committee**
- d) Fire Department may have a slower response time due to volunteer staffing. Very small budget for the department but capital expenses for equipment are large. Leasing of engines should be explored. Budget Committee should review new equipment.
- e) Service Department ideas are to consider leasing, renting, and owning options for equipment and vehicles. **Lead: Councilman AuWerter**
- f) **Grants** – It was suggested that the Village proactively search for grants. Check with Ohio Municipal League. Janet Mulh to check.

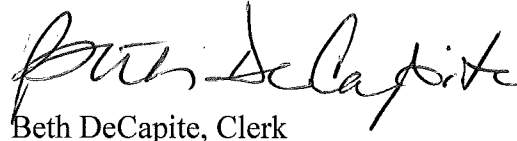
VI. Taxation

Council may consider new property tax levies, increasing renewal levies, reducing income tax credit percentage or increasing the income tax rate.

VII. Status reports will be given at Council meetings.

VIII. Adjournment – Councilmember Turner moved to adjourn. Councilmember Frankel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth DeCapite".

Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Schneider".

Karen E. Schneider, Mayor