

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
June 9, 2020

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Schneider presiding in a remote, virtual meeting that was livestreamed to the internet.

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

Also present were Chief Minichello, Chief Robinson, Service Director Biggert, Finance Administrator Mulh, Clerk DeCapite, Treasurer Reynolds, Village Engineer Courtney, Law Director Hunt, and Tax Administrator Reitman.

The minutes of the May 12, 2020 Council meeting were presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Sogg that the May 12, 2020 minutes be approved. Councilmember AuWerter seconded the motion.

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

Pay Ordinance #1238 in the amount of \$272,991.28 was presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that Pay Ordinance #1238 be approved.

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

Treasurer Reynolds gave his report. He noted that General Fund revenues are on track and that impacts of delayed filings and payments due to the Corona Virus are likely to be seen emerging in the third quarter of the year. Operating expenses are within budget as well. Most of the identified deferrable expenses would be incurred in the fall and winter, so we remain flexible, should the need arise. All departments are focused on essential expenses only at this time. Total balances stand at \$5,453,890 with the Ancora account at \$4,869,298 including accrued interest.

Treasurer Reynolds added that the Long Range Financial Planning effort is well underway. The Committee had met in early May and each subcommittee has had introductory meetings and begun work projects. Each of the subcommittees will reconvene over the next couple of weeks. He is hopeful that there will be a partial report to Council in July.

Mayor Schneider gave her report. She stated The Nature Camp started Monday and is going well. It is National Garden Week and the Garden Club is doing things every day this week as noted in The Pink Sheet. Sara's will be opening for dinners only beginning June 10. She stated she is hopeful that Council can meet in person in July. Councilmember Frankel asked

Mayor Schneider if there is a coffee shop opening in the Mills Building as he saw work being done in front of the building. Mayor Schneider responded the last meeting was March 13 about it and things shut down after that. She noted Howard Hanna, Cindy Halle and Sara's still have current leases. Landscaping work, tree removal and drainage work was being done in front of the building. Councilmember Reynolds asked about the trench that was dug. Service Director Biggert replied a big hole remained after trees were removed, so a yard drain needed to be installed. Councilmember Frankel asked if a coffee shop is going to be opened. Mayor Schneider stated Warren Morris, a member of the Real Estate Committee, is still talking with everyone about it.

Clerk DeCapite gave her report. She commented on the signs with the graduating high school senior names for all of the schools. She also stated that if anyone has issues with Rumpke, please contact Service Director Biggert. Mayor Schneider noted the signs for the graduating seniors were provided by the Improvement Society.

Tax Administrator Reitman provided an update on the change from Central Collection Agency (CCA) to the Regional Income Tax Authority (RITA) for income tax administration. The conversion is going well. We are on track to accomplish the July 1 conversion. The COVID-19 issue has provided some issues for CCA and they are considerably behind. They may be processing their work well beyond the June 30 date. We are anticipating the transition to occur on July 1, but CCA may take until August or September to have all Gates Mills items reported and processed. We have given all citizens notice in The Pink Sheet by the Mayor and Tax Administrator along with the welcome letter from RITA in the postal mail. There will be delays in RITA having the most up-to-date information, but we will be going easy on late fees during this time period. We are pleased with the level of attention that RITA is already providing to us. Councilmember AuWerter asked if there is any risk in the flow of funds coming to the Village. Mr. Reitman responded CCA's pace in posting to accounts is the only hold up. CCA is currently doing advances to its clients. Councilmember Turner asked if Council's input is needed for the next meeting with RITA. Mr. Reitman noted he wanted to advise Council about the problems CCA is having. RITA assured us that we have not real complications with the delay in processing by CCA, it is just slower than we would prefer. Councilmember Frankel pointed out the August 15 date in the CCA memorandum. This is the date CCA hopes to be completely done processing Gates Mills items. Treasurer Reynolds noted an error in his report and stated that income tax revenues are lagging. Total revenues are behind \$112,000 compared to this time last year. RITA had estimated the Village may have a \$200,000 reduction in income tax in 2020 due to delayed filings.

Councilmember AuWerter began the Committee Reports and reported on the Recreation Committee. Bocce and pickleball equipment are in the bocce court shed; however, at this time, due to the pandemic, we are not allowing the use of the Village equipment and suggest bringing your own equipment to use. All of the scheduled activities for tennis, pickleball and bocce are on hold. Michelle Mastrangelo, owner of Sanctuary Yoga in the Village, is holding yoga in the park on Saturdays during June at 10:00 a.m. by donation. There were 10-11 people in attendance last Saturday.

Councilmember Sogg reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission held its first zoom meeting since the pandemic and it went well.

Councilmember AuWerter reported on the Gates Mills Improvement Society activities. Becky Burrington set up a website and residents can now pay dues online. He also noted Councilmember Turner, Chiefs Minichello and Robinson, Service Director Biggert and the Mayor have all been involved in assisting with having the Gates Mills Improvement Society 4th of July Parade. They have created a route through the Village that is approximately 20 miles long and will take about 1 ½ hours at 10-15 miles per hour.

Chief Minichello provided the Police Department report. He noted a few criminal cases the department has been working on. He mentioned smaller communities have had rallies locally and Pepper Pike is having one on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. starting at Orange School. We help out our neighbors where we can by sending a few officers when requested, as in Chagrin Falls. Councilmember Frankel noticed in the report that body cameras are being evaluated. He stated the cameras have been discussed at the Safety Committee meetings for a few years and he is glad they are being considered. Chief Minichello added that the Police Department Policies and Procedures are strong. He has asked Law Director Hunt to review the use of force and pursuit policies. Councilmember Turner stated she is glad to hear that and added it would be good for Council to be updated on those policies as well. She asked about the body cameras and what had changed to make the use of them a priority. Chief Minichello said that the cameras are becoming standard duty equipment since the department last considered them. He noted he is looking to get some funding.

Service Director Biggert provided his report. Councilmember AuWerter inquired about a property that had charges brought against it. Service Director Biggert stated a company purchased a property and they have had issues for about two years now. This year it is a grass cutting issue. Councilmember AuWerter noted that the Wall Street Journal had an article that mentioned that northeast Ohio is experiencing a lot of house flipping activity.

Fire Chief Robinson gave his report. He congratulated Trevor Murfello for his 30 years of service with the Village. The old fire engine sold at auction for \$5,000. It is scheduled to be picked up and taken to Arkansas tomorrow. The department has resumed in-house training in lieu of zoom meetings. He concluded his report by noting a grant award to cover some personal protective equipment (PPE) costs with other communities. The grant will cover 50% of PPE costs so far this year.

Ordinance No. 2020-09 “An Ordinance Adopting New Chapter 1176 “Riparian Setback”, of the Codified Ordinances of the Village” remained on third reading.

Councilmember Whitney moved, with Councilmember AuWerter seconding, to hold a public hearing for the 2021 Tax Budget on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 5:55 p.m.

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

Resolution No. 2020-19 “A Resolution Approving and Adopting the Tax Budget for the Village of Gates Mills for Fiscal Year 2021; and Declaring an Emergency” was introduced and put on first reading by Councilmember Whitney.

Mr. Reitman exited the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Resolution No. 2020-20 “A Resolution Declaring it Necessary to Renew an Existing 3.5 Mill Tax Levy for the Purpose of Current Expenses Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.19 (A) and 5705.191, and Requesting the County Fiscal Officer to Certify the Total Current Tax Valuation of the Village and the Dollar Amount of Revenue that would be Generated by that Renewal Levy, and Declaring an Emergency” was introduced by Councilmember Whitney.

Councilmember Whitney moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2020-20 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Reynolds seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

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

It was moved by Councilmember Whitney, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that Resolution No. 2020-20 be approved.

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

Resolution No. 2020-21 “Reconstruction of Failing Slope at Chagrin River Road and Rogers Road in the Village of Gates Mills to Extend the Embankment at a 2:1 Slope – ODOT Project” was read by Councilmember AuWerter. He noted the project is funded by ODOT at no cost to the Village. Village Engineer Courtney stated this has been an ongoing issue for a number of years. The southeast corner of the intersections has been a creeping failure. The Village did the plans and ODOT is paying for the work. The resolution authorizes the Mayor to sign the agreement. The project cost is \$250,000. It will be advertised in July and the work will be completed in the fall.

Councilmember AuWerter moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2020-21 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Reynolds seconded the motion.

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

It was moved by Councilmember AuWerter, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that

Resolution No. 2020-21 be approved.

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

Councilmember AuWerter discussed the 2020 Road Program and reimbursement availability from Cuyahoga County. Councilmember AuWerter moved to advertise for bids for the 2020 Road Program with Councilmember Reynolds seconding the motion.

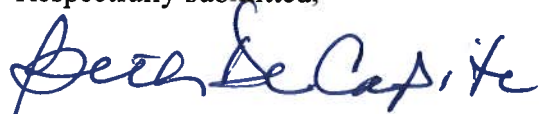
Roll call: Ayes: AuWerter, Frankel, Reynolds, Sogg, Turner, Welsh, Whitney.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

There was no business from the audience on YouTube. Councilmember Reynolds asked the trustees of the Gates Mills Community Improvement Corporation to make sure to sign the Resolution passed at its meeting. Law Director Hunt explained that the Gates Mills Community Improvement Corporation is a nonprofit organization that is separate from Council.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:



Karen E. Schneider, Mayor