

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
May 11, 2021

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Community House on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Schneider presiding. The meeting 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, and Law Director Hunt. Attending via zoom were Jean Misch (Town Hall Coordinator) and resident Craig Steinbrink.

Mayor Schneider welcomed everyone back to in-person meetings. She thanked Chris Burke and Burke Brothers for the assistance with the technology project.

The minutes of the April 13, 2021 Council meeting were presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Sogg moved to approve the April 13, 2021 minutes. Councilmember AuWerter seconded the motion.

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

Pay Ordinance #1249 in the amount of \$398,170.16 was presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Welsh to approve Pay Ordinance #1249. Councilmember Whitney seconded the motion to approve Pay Ordinance #1249.

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

Treasurer Reynolds read his report for the month of April, which is attached.

Mayor Schneider gave her report. She noted the Village is looking very nice and thanked the Service Department for all of its work. The Nature Camp will be held again this summer and they are working hard to meet all recommended public health requirements. The guidelines for using the funds from the American Rescue Plan were released. It is a 151-page document and the National League of Cities is hosting a meeting at 4:00 p.m. tomorrow to review the document. The Community House refresh project is coming along and the Mayor said she hopes everyone likes the updates.

Clerk DeCapite noted how good it is to see everyone in person.

Councilmember Frankel reported that the Safety Committee met last night, May 10. The Committee reviewed and discussed many items. For the Police Department, the Committee reviewed the Flock Safety cameras, transitioning from using black tasers to yellow tasers and crime prevention measures. The department's current tasers are eight years old with a ten-year life expectancy. New yellow tasers will be a part of the 2022 budget. The Fire Department reported on its new radios, regional policies, in-person versus online training and recent fires. The Service Department reported that ODOT is working on the Mayfield Road at Chagrin River Road traffic safety upgrade project.

Councilmember Turner reported that the Gates Mills Land Conservancy wants to make a presentation to Council. Mayor Schneider stated she would like to hold a special council meeting in May with the Conservancy President Rob Galloway and Board member Nat Smith. The meeting may take an hour of time. Treasurer Reynolds will send out a survey to set a meeting date.

Councilmember Frankel asked when the Village will start the Master Plan process. Councilmember AuWerter noted CT Consultants indicated the importance of being able to meet in-person for the project. Mayor Schneider suggested calling the company and polling the steering committee members to see if the process can begin.

Councilmember Welsh suggested holding a vaccine clinic in the Village, as was previously done for flu shots. He contacted Rite Aid and they will come out to do a clinic. Mayor Schneider stated we can look into it.

Chief Minichello provided his report. He noted there is a Resolution on tonight's agenda regarding the donation of an electric vehicle. He stated that on April 24, the department took in 69 pounds of drugs for Drug Take Back Day. There was discussion regarding the electric car. Chief Minichello responded the car costs 4 cents per mile to operate. The car is a personal donation and the donor is also paying for the vehicle to be up-fit and for a charging station. The vehicle will need snow tires for the winter and will hopefully be housed in the sally port garage for protection. Chief Minichello would like to have a soft launch of the car during the July 4th parade. He stated the car should get 350 miles per charge and expects about 15,000 miles per year to be put on the car. Councilmember Turner displayed safety vests that are being sold by the Community Club. Orange vests are \$18 and pink ones are \$22. They sold over 60 vests on April 24. They would like to order some for children as well. Mayor Schneider noted the vests are great for dog walkers who like to walk at night.

Service Director Biggert provided his written report. Mayor Schneider thanked the members of the department for planting 38 bare-root trees on Village-owned properties for Arbor Day.

Chief Robinson provided his report and noted April was a fairly busy month for the Fire Department.

Ordinance No. 2021-15 "An Ordinance Authorizing All Actions Necessary to Accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2021 Energized Community Grant(s) Funds"

was read by Mayor Schneider.

Councilmember Welsh moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2021-15 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Reynolds seconded the motion to suspend the rules. Councilmember Frankel asked for the amount of the grant and the uses for the funds. Finance Administrator Mulh responded the grant is for \$7,168 and we have designated lighting upgrades, insulated blinds, and new duct work as projects to fund.

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

It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that Ordinance No. 2021-15 be approved.

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

Resolution No. 2021-16 “A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with W. F. Hann & Sons (HAVSCO) for Replacement of HVAC Ducts at the Village Community House; Authorizing Expenditure of Village Cares Act Funds; and Declaring an Emergency” was read by Mayor Schneider. She noted the duct work was crumbling and was replaced with metal ducts.

Councilmember Welsh moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2021-16 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Frankel seconded the motion to suspend the rules. Councilmember AuWerter noted the Corona Relief Fund only covers part of the cost. Finance Administrator Mulh noted we are using up the remainder of Corona Relief funds now that the AV/Technology Project is complete. We are also using some of the NOPEC grant funds to help pay for the work. There will be approximately \$2,000 not covered by the Corona Relief Fund and NOPEC grant. Councilmember Frankel suggested looking into installing HEPA filters as well to keep viruses at bay.

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

It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that Resolution No. 2021-16 be approved.

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

Resolution No. 2021-17 “A Resolution Accepting the Donation of a Tesla Electric Vehicle for Use by the Police Department of the Village of Gates Mills” was read by Councilmember Frankel.

Councilmember Frankel moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2021-17 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Welsh 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 Frankel, seconded by Councilmember AuWerter, that Resolution No. 2021-17 be approved.

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


Mayor Schneider stated she received a letter with questions from a resident. The resident’s email is attached. Treasurer Reynolds noted during the Long Range Financial Planning process we considered expenses and identified many ideas that are being worked on, studied or implemented, i.e. cell towers. Ideas come up all the time from interested and engaged citizens. He agrees now is a good time to consider good investments to make that will reduce expenses or increase revenues. Councilmember AuWerter noted the Village received two significant increases in its income tax revenue and has updated its Long Range Plan accordingly. We have cash reserves right now but do not want to look for ways to spend it. At the end of the 5-year period we end up where we were two years ago. We are being prudent in using the windfall to assist with the next four years. Treasurer Reynolds added we need to make investments to reduce expenses or increase revenues in order to address the structural deficit. Mayor Schneider stated the changes in the wastewater plant maintenance, cell tower, and broadband will all make differences in the long run, along with land conservancy options.

Chief Robinson stated there were 12 people viewing the meeting and there were no questions posted on the livestream.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth DeCapite". The signature is fluid and connected, with a prominent initial "B".

Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Schneider". The signature is fluid and connected, with a prominent initial "K".
Karen E. Schneider, Mayor

Village of Gates Mills

Treasurer's Report

Month Ended April 30, 2021

Revenues for the month totaled \$305,367. Expenses for the month totaled \$377,205. No transfers were made to other funds this month. All operating departments are at or below budget for the year.

Our All Funds Balance stands at \$8,821,624. As of April 30, our Ancora investment account totals \$6,771,848 not including accrued interest. The April Fidelity statement for the Ancora account was not available as of May 12.

Mayor Karen Schneider

From: djatton@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Mayor Karen Schneider
Subject: Re: 11 May Village Council Meeting

Karen,

Thank you.

David

-----Original Message-----

From: Mayor Karen Schneider <mayor@gatesmillsvillage.com>
To: djatton@aol.com <djatton@aol.com>
Cc: Fire Chief Tom Robinson <firechief@gatesmillsvillage.com>
Sent: Mon, May 10, 2021 1:46 pm
Subject: Re: 11 May Village Council Meeting

Hi David,

I will present at Council.

Thank you,
Karen

From: djatton@aol.com <djatton@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 11:09:07 AM
To: Mayor Karen Schneider <mayor@gatesmillsvillage.com>
Cc: Fire Chief Tom Robinson <firechief@gatesmillsvillage.com>
Subject: 11 May Village Council Meeting

Mayor,

I am following-up on my e-mail of 27 April to you and to each Council member which one recipient didacknowledge.

Could you please include the following topic in "Business from the Audience" at tomorrow's Council meeting, in the event it will not have been not addressed during "Committee Reports" (Finance/Budget Committee) or the Treasurer's Report.

From the Fall of 2019 through the Spring of 2020 four actions were taken by Council which reflected their serious concerns about the then-apparent financial condition of the Village.

- In the Fall of 2019 Council debated a motion seeking to reduce the Village's income tax credit. The motion was defeated largely over questions of process, not substance.

-In the Summer of 2020, a Long Range Financial Planning Committee was asked to find ways in which, over the short term (next five years), the Village could materially raise revenues or reduce expenditures.

- Late in 2020, significant expenditures originally planned for 2021 were deferred into 2022.

-Council assumed the 1 mil. Levy for GMLC funding would not be renewed in November 2021.(This factor has far more financial effect on Villagers than on the Village).

Over the past several months, significant events have dramatically improved the financial condition of the Village.

Covid-driven Federal Grants and unexpected Village income tax revenues, make 2021 the year during which the Village will probably attain its strongest financial condition in recent history.

Additional Federal grants are possible but would probably not be sustainable, and it is currently unclear whether the unexpected Village income tax revenues will be sustained or not.

Under these new circumstances Council clearly has an opportunity to consider once-off short term expenditures that could lead to lower expenditures, or increased revenues, over the long term (during and beyond the next five years).

Will such options be thoroughly reviewed by Council during this Summer? If so what process will be employed?

Also, the non-renewal of the 1 mil Village levy for the GMLC in November 2021 , explicitly assumed in the LRF projections, is now no longer an offset to a potential real estate tax increase, and could be addressed by Council, in strategic terms, albeit in advance of the completion of the deferred Master Planning Process.

When will this issue be addressed by Council?

Thank you

Regards

David Atton