

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
February 8, 2022

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Community House on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Schneider presiding. The meeting was livestreamed to the internet.

Councilmembers present: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.

Other Village officials present were Clerk DeCapite, Treasurer Siemborski, Chief Minichello, Chief Robinson, Service Director Biggert, Village Engineer Courtney and Acting Law Director Chojnacki.

Councilmember AuWerter moved to excuse Councilmember Steinbrink. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

The minutes of the January 11, 2022 Council meeting were presented by the Clerk. Mrs. Mulh noted an edit on page 6, paragraph 5. The first sentence now reads, "Councilmember Atton stated providing a fixed price option to the lessee to extend the lease beyond the initial five years is a risk to the Village." Councilmember AuWerter moved to approve the January 11, 2022 minutes as amended. Councilmember Press seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

Pay Ordinance #1258 in the amount of \$559,604.74 was presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Welsh to approve Pay Ordinance #1258. Councilmember AuWerter seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

Treasurer Siemborski read his report pertaining to the January 2022 financial statement. The Village continues to be in a very solid financial position. As of January 31, 2022 the General Fund balance was \$6,902,000 and other fund balances were

\$1,324,000 for a total of \$8,226,000. Councilmember Atton mentioned the long range plan that is on the website. He questioned whether it should be removed from the website or include a statement noting it will be updated. Treasurer Siemborski will develop language and run it by Councilmember Atton.

Mayor Schneider gave her report. She noted the Art Show will be held April 23 through May 8.

Mayor Schneider asked for a motion to accept the resignation of Sally Burke from the Village Planning and Zoning Commission and to confirm the appointment of Nancy Sogg to fill the unexpired term of Sally Burke. Councilmember Turner made the motion. Councilmember Press asked if the Mayor had considered others for the appointment. Mayor Schneider noted the new Chair of Planning and Zoning, Craig Steinbrink, wanted to retain Mrs. Sogg on the Commission. Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Councilmember AuWerter moved to appoint Craig Steinbrink as a Council appointee to the position of member of the Village Planning and Zoning Commission for 2022. Councilmember Atton seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Councilmember Turner moved to appoint Jay "Chip" AuWerter as a Council appointee to the position of member of the Village Planning and Zoning Commission for 2022. Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Abstain: AuWerter.
Motion carried.

Councilmember AuWerter moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Craig Steinbrink as Chairperson of the Village Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilmember Atton seconded the motion.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Clerk DeCapite thanked the Service Department for keeping the roads safe and clean during the recent snow storms.

Councilmember Turner reported the Gates Mills Land Conservancy Board had met. They are considering updating their website and publishing a newsletter. Cindy Altus resigned her board seat with the conservancy.

Councilmember AuWerter had attended the third meeting of the special task force reviewing how costs are allocated to communities from Chagrin Valley Dispatch. They will meet on February 25 at the Gates Mills Village Hall and have recommendations after that meeting.

Councilmember AuWerter handed out a list of the Comprehensive Plan committees and teams. There are 76 volunteers. The Advisory Committee will begin meeting in late April or early May. Charles Spear and Lindsay Steinbrink are heading up the Outside Perspectives Team. Councilmember Turner added the Mayor's State of the Village letter will have information on the committees and teams and will encourage people to volunteer for Neighborhood Teams. Residents are also encouraged to sign up for Gates Mills Connect. CT Consultants will be conducting the Key Interviews within the next three weeks.

Police Chief Minichello presented his report. He received an award notification for the body camera reimbursement grant in the amount of \$19,000. We will purchase 5 body cameras, a charging bank, software and support. The net cost to the Village will be \$1,100. As an update to the traffic camera project, there will be a site visit on February 17 with the engineer on the project. There is a 3-6 month time frame for the installation and start-up. He hopes to begin in June with the 30-day warning period.

Service Director Biggert noted his report was in Council's information packet. He noted we had about 200 tons of salt at the end of January. We are taking delivery of more now. In response to a question from Councilmember Deacon, Mr. Biggert noted the last two years had a higher number of new homes, but it tends to average out over time. New homes are noted in his report when there are any approved. He noted the presentation of the Road Assessment and Data Capture by Pavement Management Group will take place at the March Council meeting instead of this evening.

Fire Chief Robinson reported a standard amount of calls for this time of year. There were two accidents at the Mayfield and Chagrin River Road intersection due to lack of attention, failure to yield and a lane closure.

Resolution No. 2022-1 "A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Enter into a Lease Agreement with Cynthia W. Halle, Inc., for Space at 1501 Chagrin River Road" was read by Councilmember AuWerter for the second time. Mayor Schneider introduced Shawn Riley via Zoom to answer any questions about the lease. Councilmember Atton stated that committing to real estate deals for 10 years should be

avoided if possible as we may want to implement change with the Comprehensive Plan initiative. He also noted a fixed-price option is dangerous. Councilmember Press agreed with Councilmember Atton. Mr. Riley responded that the discussions with Mrs. Halle were a negotiation. We wanted to have a retail store and she is using her money to build out the space, which they thought was a good trade-off. He noted it is not unusual for tenants and landlords to split costs.

Councilmember AuWerter moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2022-1 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember AuWerter to approve Resolution No. 2022-1 and declare an emergency. Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-1.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the suspension of the three reading rule. Councilmember Atton hopes as we move forward we try not to suspend the rules. Councilmember Deacon stated some councils meet weekly and we only meet monthly, so if we agree on an item and can pass the legislation, it helps move things along. There needs to be balance. Councilmember Press stated councilmembers may know all the information, but those in the audience should have time to comment. Councilmember Atton added that the Charter states there are three readings and back-planning is not an excuse to suspend the rules. Councilmember Press noted it is a bad process and agrees with Councilmember Atton. Councilmember AuWerter stated there are things that we may know to be coming up and we could state that in the previous month.

Ordinance No. 2022-5 “An Ordinance Designating JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Public Depository for the Funds of the Village of Gates Mills” was read by Councilmember Turner. This is the renewal of an existing relationship with the bank.

Councilmember Turner moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2022-5 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember AuWerter seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Councilmember Turner moved to approve Ordinance No. 2022-5.
Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2022-5.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2022-6 “A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Purchase Agreement with Nick Mayer Ford for a 2022 Ford 250 4X4 Pickup Truck for Use by the Service Department” was read by Councilmember AuWerter.

Councilmember AuWerter stated this truck will replace a 14-year old truck with over 180,000 miles. The vehicle is in the budget and 3 quotes were received. It will be 34 weeks before the vehicle is delivered.

Councilmember AuWerter moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2022-6 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember AuWerter to approve Resolution No. 2022-6.
Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-6.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2022-7 “A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Purchase Agreement with Montrose Ford for a 2022 Ford Explorer for Use by the Police Department” was read by Councilmember Turner. She noted there is a nine month wait on the vehicle and we will be trading in a vehicle.

Councilmember Turner moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2022-7 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Turner to approve Resolution No. 2022-7. Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-7.

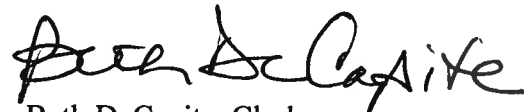
Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Councilmember Atton inquired about posting committees on the website again, as they were removed several months ago. The Mayor and Councilmember Turner are finalizing the committee lists and they will be posted soon. Councilmember Atton asked if he could recommend people for committees and the Mayor responded that he can let her know.


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

Roll call: Ayes: Atton, AuWerter, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:


Karen E. Schneider, Mayor

Treasurer's Report for January 2022

Financial statements were distributed to the Mayor, Clerk and Council in advance of the Council meeting.

The Village continues to be in a very solid financial position. In January, the Village received \$482,000. Revenue from municipal income taxes and real estate taxes were \$240,000 and \$180,000, respectively, and were favorable to prior year's amounts. Other revenue of \$56,000 was less than prior year due to decreases in interest income, rental income and Misc. income.

Expenditures for the month were \$946,000 consisting of \$451,000 of transfers from the General Fund to Other special purpose funds and \$405,000 of departmental expenditures. Transfers are consistent with the Appropriation approved by Council in January to establish funding for eventual 2022 costs that are borne by other village funds such as Capital improvements. The Departmental expenditures are the operating costs to run the Village. Such costs last January were \$400,000, compared to \$405,000 this year. While the totals are very close between the years, there were some larger differences in the Fire Department costs -primarily in the EMS/Ambulance line. And despite tough weather in January, overtime in the Service Department and Police Department was less in January 2022 than 2021, reflecting good management of the crews and patrols.

As the books of the Village are maintained essentially on a cash basis, there can be large variances based on when cash is received, and expenses are paid. Month-over-month, and year-over-year, it is not uncommon to have a surplus one period and a shortfall the next period.

At January 31, 2022, General Fund cash was \$6,902,000 and Cash in other funds was \$1,324,000 for a total cash position of \$8,226,000. We ended 2021 and started 2022 with combined cash of \$8,266,000.

This report will be posted on the Village's website.

Steven L. Siemborski

Treasurer, Village of Gates Mills

Chair, Budget/Finance Committee

January 11, 2022