

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
January 14, 2020

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Village Hall with Mayor Schneider presiding.

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

Law Director Todd Hunt administered the oath of office to Mayor Karen Schneider.

Mayor Schneider administered the oath of office to Councilmembers Jay “Chip” AuWerter, Sandra Turner and Ed Welsh. Mayor Schneider then administered the oath of office to Clerk Beth DeCapite.

Mayor Schneider took nominations for Council President Pro Tem for a one-year term. Councilmember Welsh nominated Councilmember Reynolds, with Councilmember AuWerter seconding the nomination.

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

Mayor Schneider administered the oath of office to Council President Pro Tem Mary Reynolds.

Mayor Schneider presented the following administrative office appointments:

Robert S. Reitman, Income Tax Administrator
Todd Hunt, Law Director
Mike Cicero, Prosecutor
Janet Mulh, Finance Administrator and Asst. Tax Administrator
Gregg Minichello, Police Chief
Tom Robinson, Fire Chief
David Biggert, Service Director, Building Official and Building Inspector
Trevor Murfello, Service Manager

Councilmember Welsh moved to approve the appointments with Councilmember Frankel seconding.

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

Mayor Schneider presented the following appointments:

Planning & Zoning Commission for term ending 12/31/2023: Nancy Sogg, Emily Hamilton, Craig Steinbrink and Sandra Turner.

Architectural Board of Review for term ending 12/31/2022: John Spirk and Judi Embrescia.

Historical Review Committee for term ending 12/31/2020: Sara Welsh, Ray Burke, Laurie Deacon, Mary Holmes, Anne Steele, architects Dave Ellison and Joseph Giglio, and alternate architect William Childs.

Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board: Larry Frankel and Ed Welsh.

Local Board of Tax Review for term ending 12/31/2021: David Bercheck, David Burke and Tom Wagner.

Gates Mills Land Conservancy for term ending 12/31/2023: Ira Greenberg.

Councilmember Welsh moved, with Councilmember Sogg seconding, to approve the Mayor's appointments.

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

The minutes of the December 10, 2019 Council meeting were presented by the Clerk. Finance Administrator Mulh advised that the first paragraph of the minutes were changed to note that Council President Pro Tem Reynolds presided over the meeting. It was moved by Councilmember Whitney that the December 10, 2019 minutes be approved with the correction. Councilmember Sogg seconded the motion.

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

Pay Ordinance #1233 in the amount of \$867,621.78 was presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that Pay Ordinance #1233 be approved.

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

Treasurer Tim Reynolds read his report. In 2019, a reimbursement from the County for road materials, investment income and the school resource officer payments from Mayfield Schools helped exceed the revenue budget by 8%. Operating expenses for the year were under budget, prior to transfers to other funds, by 4%. With transfers expenses were over budget by 2%. All taken into account, our reserves were reduced by \$115,000, which was better than anticipated. The Budget Committee reviewed the 2020 final budget just prior to the Council

meeting and recommends it to Council. It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Whitney, that the 2020 Budget be approved.

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

Mayor Schneider gave her report. She thanked everyone for their service in 2019 and Council President Pro Tem Reynolds for conducting the December Council meeting in her absence. She read a letter from Dr. Debbie Grant, the Interim Principal at Gates Mills Elementary School while Principal Lauren Ravida was on leave. Dr. Grant applauded SRO Kimbrew "Officer Arch" and noted he is the cream of the crop and that he is by far the best fit for a school that she had come across in her 35 years in the education field. Mayor Schneider also noted that The Plain Dealer had printed a carol in its editorial section that was really about Hunting Valley but the carol referenced Gates Mills. Many people sent complaints to the editor, with Charley Marston receiving a reply. A correction was printed the next day, but it was not very visible. Next, the Mayor stated Engineer Courtney had applied for \$47,500 of funds from the State Capital budget to add emergency preemption technology to West Hill and Cedar Road lights to match what will be installed at the Mayfield Road at Chagrin River Road intersection. If awarded the funds, the Village would be responsible for \$12,500. Councilmember AuWerter stated the Cedar Road intersection should be paid for by the other communities at that intersection. In closing, Mayor Schneider commented on an email she received from Councilmember Frankel. Councilmember Frankel had attended a program presented by the County regarding recycling materials and what is or is not recyclable. The program lasted about 60 minutes and would be a good program to offer at the Community House. Councilmember Frankel will coordinate a date with the Community House and the County for the presentation to be given to residents.

The Clerk noted Officer Arch is always on the playground with the children and can see what a good fit he is for the schools. She also inquired as to how many would be available for the March council meeting as many seem to be on "Senior Spring Break" at that time. There will not be a quorum available to attend; therefore, the March meeting will be cancelled.

Councilmember AuWerter reported on the Gates Mills Improvement Society holiday fund activities. He noted there were many new donors but also many that gave in 2018 that did not contribute in 2019.

Councilmember Turner, on behalf of the Gates Mills Land Conservancy, reported they had a meeting this morning. They had less donors in 2019 but an increase in total donations. They were not successful in getting the Clean Ohio grant they had applied for and were ranked sixth out of eight proposals. They did receive enough points to be able to apply again next year. Euclid was the top vote-getter for expanding an existing asset that has public access. Public access is an important part of the grant. Councilmember Turner also mentioned the Mayfield Schools slide deck that she had shared with Council. She asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the presentation.

Councilmember Welsh, for the Cemetery Committee, stated he is happy to hear the Nook's may possibly be donating land to the South Cemetery.

Police Chief Minichello had provided a written report in the Council packet. Councilmember AuWerter referred to the Violations Bureau comparisons provided by the Chief and asked for his thoughts. Chief Minichello noted the numbers are steady. Two-thirds of those who can pay prior to a court date are doing so. Fifty-nine per cent paid with us last year. Councilmember AuWerter noted the number of citations went from 386 to 452 year over year, but there was not much of a difference in revenue. Councilmember AuWerter said he thought the numbers disappointing and had counted on more revenue when the program started. Councilmember Sogg noted the numbers are not that disappointing and we are a small community with few tickets.

Service Director Biggert asked for any questions relating to his written report. Councilmember Sogg commented on the great new truck in the fleet. Service Director Biggert stated this was the first time they have been able to have the chassis and equipment completed within the same year. Councilmember AuWerter inquired about the next steps for the demolished home at 1337 Chagrin River Road. Mayor Schneider noted the property is for sale and is listed for \$295,000 with 5.5 acres on two parcels.

Fire Chief Robinson had provided a written report in the Council packet. He noted the year-end totals versus 2018 and there was a nice decrease in EMS calls. The new engine is going to be delivered and we will be selling a 29-year old engine. We will still have three engines.

Ordinance No. 2019-37 "An Ordinance Amending Section 1157.02, "U1 Single-Family House District", To Prohibit Short-Term Residential Rentals of Less than Thirty (30) Days" was placed on third reading by Councilmember Sogg. Councilmember Sogg stated the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the ordinance at its meeting. A public hearing is scheduled for the February 10, 2020 Council meeting.

Resolution No. 2020-01 "A Resolution Authorizing the Village of Gates Mills to Continue to Participate in the Hillcrest-Heights Regional Fire Investigation Unit and Declaring an Emergency" was introduced by Councilmember Frankel. New member communities have been added. Councilmember Welsh asked the cost to the Village and Chief Robinson responded \$500.

Councilmember Frankel moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2020-01 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 Welsh, that Resolution No. 2020-01 be approved.

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

Ordinance No. 2020-02 “An Ordinance Providing Appropriations for Expenditures for the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio, for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2020, Repealing Certain Ordinances 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 Ordinance No. 2020-02 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 Reynolds, that Ordinance No. 2020-02 be approved.

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

Resolution No. 2020-03 “A Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Transfer of Certain Sums from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund, Wastewater Fund and Police Pension Fund” 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. 2020-03 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Frankel 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 Turner, that Resolution No. 2020-03 be approved.

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

Resolution No. 2020-04 “A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with CT Consultants, Inc. for Professional Planning Services for Development of a Village Comprehensive Plan” was introduced by Councilmember Turner. The project leader, Chris Hopkins was injured while jogging, which has delayed the project’s start.

Councilmember Turner moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2020-04 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Frankel 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 Turner, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that Resolution No. 2020-04 be approved.

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

Ordinance No. 2020-05 “An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal by Sale of Equipment that is Unfit, Obsolete and Unneeded for Village Purposes; and Declaring an Emergency” was introduced by Mayor Schneider.

Councilmember Welsh moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Ordinance No. 2020-05 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Sogg 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 Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that Ordinance No. 2020-05 be approved.

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

Resolution No. 2020-06 “A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Excavating Equipment for the Service Department” was introduced by Councilmember AuWerter.

Councilmember AuWerter moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Resolution No. 2020-06 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Sogg 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 AuWerter, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that Resolution No. 2020-06 be approved.

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

Resolution No. 2020-07 "A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a 2020 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle from Lebanon Ford" was introduced by Councilmember Frankel.

Councilmember Frankel moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Resolution No. 2020-07 be placed upon its final passage. Councilmember Sogg 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 AuWerter, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that Resolution No. 2020-07 be approved.

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

Business from the audience: None.

Councilmember Reynolds shared information about the new compliant driver's license/ID. She provided a checklist of documents you need for getting the new compliant license. Councilmember Reynolds also acknowledged Councilmember Welsh's 20 years of service and Mayor Schneider's 24 years of service to the Village.


There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Reynolds, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, 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