

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
March 9, 2021

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 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, Chris Burke (Burke Brothers), and resident Mike Pinto.

The minutes of the February 9, 2021 Council meeting were presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Welsh moved to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes as presented. Councilmember Reynolds seconded the motion.

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

Pay Ordinance #1247 in the amount of \$388,422.27 was presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Welsh to approve Pay Ordinance #1247. Councilmember Frankel seconded the motion to approve Pay Ordinance #1247.

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

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

Mayor Schneider asked Chief Minichello to introduce Agent Mike Pinto from the FBI and resident of the Village. Chief Minichello thanked Agent Pinto for his assistance with the recent burglary in the Village involving an international crime ring. Agent Pinto noted the South American Theft Group visited Gates Mills and Moreland Hills on January 30, 2021. There were three related burglaries on February 2, 2021 in Michigan. There were four suspects in the Grosse Pointe, Michigan burglaries, which is located outside of Detroit. A van was recovered with some items. The investigation shows the thefts are related to the South American Theft Group. The group is very transient and they sell the stolen items in Los Angeles and New York. This group is from Chile and they target homes for jewelry and purses. There is information about the group online. The members enter the United States on a 90-day VISA. Individuals are not as thoroughly vetted when a 90-day VISA is requested. Agent Pinto noted he has worked violent crimes at the FBI for fifteen years and noted these cases are hard cases to work. Today there are many sophisticated tools to use and Gates Mills did a great job. He recommends that residents have alarms, leave outside lights on, use security cameras and own a dog. Let the police know if

you are out of town and if you see anything suspicious. The case is being actively worked by the FBI and is a country-wide issue. Mayor Schneider asked why the United States keeps letting individuals in from Chile on the 90-day VISAs. Agent Pinto responded the FBI is bringing the issue up. Councilmember Welsh asked how many individuals there were. Agent Pinto responded there were four in this group, but an undetermined amount in the country. Councilmember Reynolds asked if the group had moved on or if we are still vulnerable. Agent Pinto stated the group is very transient and typically move on. He can't say for certain, but the past shows they move on. Councilmember Sogg had heard there was an incident where people were home and asked if that was true. Agent Pinto noted the group looks for homes where no one is there, but recommends security systems, especially for when sleeping. The group also looks for packages left at the front of the homes as well. Councilmember Reynolds mentioned the group targeting master bedrooms. Treasurer Reynolds asked if residents with cameras let us know when things are captured on the system. Chief Minichello responded the Police Department is starting a database for this purpose and noted it was in his March Pink Sheet letter. Councilmember Welsh asked if only homes with ADT alarm systems were targeted. Chief Minichello answered that it has been many different alarm systems.

Mayor Schneider, for her report, noted it has been a year since the shut down and it has been unbelievable. She added that the Easter Egg Hunt will be a drive through event again this year and information is in The Pink Sheet. The State of the Village letter was also mailed to residents.

Clerk DeCapite inquired about structures on the Polo Field. Mayor Schneider responded that the chicken coops on the Polo Field should be removed by tomorrow. The Hunt Club had permitted a resident to put them up temporarily.

There were no Committee Reports given.

Chief Minichello provided his report. He thanked Agent Pinto and noted the cases kept them busy this month. New lights on the cruisers are called alley/scene lights. The new Flock safety cameras are being installed beginning tomorrow. The cameras will be up and running 24 hours after installation. Councilmember Frankel asked if we should put information on the website about unemployment scams. Chief Minichello stated the area is being inundated with this type of fraudulent activity. Individuals should check with credit card companies and report the claim as fraudulent. Councilmember Turner asked if Chagrin Valley Dispatch would be discussed next month. Chief Minichello said Nick DiCicco would be available next month. Councilmember Sogg met with Mr. DiCicco and is reviewing data with Councilmember AuWerter. Chief Minichello noted he, Detective Sergeant Day and Mayor Schneider met with seven Daisy's Wood residents via Zoom to discuss the recent burglaries.

Service Director Biggert provided his written report. Councilmember AuWerter asked if our salt bin is full. Service Director Biggert responded the bin is full, but there would probably be another storm or two. We will most likely be able to purchase our minimum requirement. Councilmember Turner asked if First Energy representative Dean Hayne would be reporting back to Council. Mayor Schneider stated she has spoken with him. He noted they found an issue and are trying to fix it. Mayor Schneider noted he is not likely to report back until May

with Chagrin Valley Dispatch in April. A First Energy brochure was included with the State of the Village and is a really helpful tool. Treasurer Reynolds asked if there is any discussion about trimming trees and creating better paths for the lines? Mayor Schneider responded that is part of what they are looking into. They are using helicopters to view the area and potential problems. Trees are the property owner's responsibility. She also noted that Hunting Valley is doing a widening of Chagrin River Road and many trees will be removed.

Chief Robinson provided his report. He thanked Council for trying the meetings with the new audio visual and technological improvements. Chris Burke is in attendance and we are very happy with the systems he installed. Councilmember Sogg inquired about a fire in a washing machine with water in it. Chief Robinson stated students overloaded the machine in the dormitory and the belts started to burn.

Ordinance No. 2021-10 "An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal by Sale of a Vehicle that is Unfit, Obsolete and Unneeded for Village Purposes; and Declaring an Emergency" was read by Mayor Schneider.

Councilmember Reynolds moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2021-10 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 Turner, seconded by Councilmember Frankel, that Ordinance No. 2021-10 be approved.

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

There were no questions from the audience.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth DeCapite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen E. Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Karen E. Schneider, Mayor

Village of Gates Mills

Treasurer's Report

Month Ended March 31, 2021

Revenues for the month totaled \$371,407. Expenses for the month totaled \$323,500 before transfers to other funds of \$530,000. The general fund produced a small surplus, before transfers, of \$47,907. All departments are operating at or below budget.

Our All Fund Balance stands at \$8,863,840. Our Ancora account now stands at \$6,824,157.86 including accrued interest. As noted during the February meeting, we transferred \$2,000,000 from our cash accounts to the Ancora account to maintain a normal operating fund balance.

The House Committee on Oversight estimates that the Village will receive \$434,679 with the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act. This estimate will be refined by the US Department of Treasury. When received, our allocation will be added to the Ancora Account.

As discussed previously, the Village now stands with an abundance of reserves, largely because of unexpected municipal tax payments in 2020 and 2021. Without evidence either way, our Long Range Financial Projection assumes that these payments were one time events and will not continue. The projection therefore produces annual deficits, starting in 2023, resulting from "normal" revenue projections and structural operating and capital expenditures. The amount of the deficit in any given year is largely dependent on the amount of capital expenditures on roads, bridges, culverts, and vehicle purchases) in that year. The receipt of the ARP allocation pushes out a return to our reserve target of one year's operating expenses to sometime beyond 2025.

The final version of the Long Range Financial Plan projection is completed and has been sent to Council Members. I request that it also be posted on the Village website, replacing the older draft. It is expected that the projection will be reviewed and revised as necessary on an annual basis going forward.