

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
March 13, 2012

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. in the Village Hall.

Councilmembers present: Barnes, Bletcher, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.

Councilmembers absent: Reynolds, Welsh.

Mayor Riley presided.

It was moved by Councilmember Schneider, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that Councilmembers Reynolds and Welsh be excused from the meeting.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

The minutes of the meeting of February 14, 2012 were presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Sogg pointed out that on page 3, third line of last paragraph "Christen" should be "Christine" and on page 6, fifth line of second paragraph "impervious" should be "imperious". It was moved by Councilmember Turner, seconded by Councilmember Bletcher, that the minutes as amended be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Bletcher, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.

Nays: None.

Abstain: Barnes

Motion carried.

Pay Ordinance #1139 in the amount of \$344,790.29 was presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Turner questioned check #5106 payable to J & L Door Service Inc. She noted in 2011, \$3,250 was paid to J & L Door. She hopes expenses are watched since they can add up over time. She wondered if the Service Department employees could make some of the repairs. Service Director Biggert said the service department makes all repairs they can, but do not repair springs or tension items since they are not qualified or have the equipment to make the repair. Councilmember Bletcher said J & L Door Service charges over \$80 per hour and he feels other companies or a retired garage door mechanic would charge less. Service Director asked Councilmember Bletcher to recommend a company. Councilmember Bletcher will contact Service Director Biggert with a name. He added that safeguards should be in place to prevent injuries.

Councilmember Bletcher pointed that maybe window cleaning and other types of cleaning can be done by employees. Councilmember Sogg asked why the windows are cleaned every month. Service Director said the restaurant and Burton Court windows are cleaned every month and the rest are cleaned about twice a year. Councilmember Schneider asked if the Town Hall windows were washed by employees and was told they were.

Finance Administrator Lechman asked how long she should hold a check that is being questioned by a Councilmember and how many Councilmember requests does it take to hold a check. She was told to hold the check until the following council meeting. It was moved by Councilmember Schneider, seconded by Councilmember Bletcher, that Pay Ordinance #1139 be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

The financial statement for the period ending February 29, 2012 was presented by Councilmember Barnes. It is too early in the year to comment on how well things are going. The Finance Committee met on Saturday. There was a good discussion about areas to look at. The Committee concluded that the \$450,000 note due in May should be paid rather than rolled over. Last year by March we knew we were going to receive over a million dollars of inheritance tax. This year we have been notified we will receive about \$40,000. It was moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Bletcher, that the note for \$450,000 be repaid this year.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Mayor Riley said he is attending the Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers meetings and the Chagrin Valley Intergovernmental Council meetings. He intends to periodically report to Council on those meetings so everyone has a sense as to what is going on. A number of communities who had contracted with the State for salt now have too much salt since they had to buy the quantity they requested even if they did not need it. They are looking for storage areas. Service Director Biggert made a good decision this year to not get the salt through the state bid. The Intergovernmental Council is putting together a Chagrin Valley website to draw people to the valley. Councilmember Schneider's group "Positively Gates Mills" is currently working on something similar so he hopes the two groups can work together. The Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers are putting together an anti-poaching agreement. When the agreement is finalized he will bring it to Council. It doesn't affect Gates Mills but to show we are "team player" he will recommend it be accepted and signed.

Chief Szeredy presented a written report for the Police Department for the preceding period. Councilmember Barnes asked about the number of alarm calls. Chief Szeredy said some of the calls do not require a house call. Councilmember Bletcher asked about the welfare checks. Chief Szeredy said some of them are requested checks that may require a daily telephone call and others may be a relative asking for a check on a resident.

Service Director Biggert submitted a written report for his department for the preceding period. He said Sherman Road is open for traffic. He hasn't received a date for the closing of the Old Mill Bridge for sandblasting. It should be closed 6-8 weeks. Mayfield catch basin project is still on track. Construction on it should not be at the same time the Old Mill Bridge is closed.

Chief Robinson presented a written report for the Fire Department for the preceding period. Councilmember Barnes said there was an article in the Wall Street Journal reporting that some communities are charging residents if the volunteer fire department shows up for a call.

Mayor Riley said today and in the future he is going to ask for committee reports at the council meetings.

Councilmember Bletcher reported on the meeting of the dispatching collaboration subcommittee, which is a subcommittee of the safety committee. There were two conclusions reached at the meeting. It would be difficult for a small dispatch center to pick up dispatching for a larger center due to logistical issues. It would be to the village's benefit to collaborate with multiple communities and/or larger communities. The County is considering the potential for having some regional dispatch centers which would be an efficient way of handling dispatching. The subcommittee is going to continue to study the issue.

Councilmember Barnes had commented on the Finance Committee when he presented the Financial Statement. There is nothing to report on the Service Committee. That committee will meet in a couple weeks to revisit the current budget.

Councilmember Turner reported on the Gas Well Safety Committee. Due to the influx of gas wells, the Governor has developed a new policy proposing a lot of changes. Under the policy the state over the next 5 years could receive between \$666,000,000 and \$1,000,000,000 in taxes. A lot of that money would come back to the **communities residents in the form of tax reduction (amended April 10, 2012 council meeting)** and some would go into infrastructure to improve safety. We should communicate to our legislators quickly to support the policy. She is asking for edits and comments on the letter she distributed and requests that it then be emailed to residents and mailed to gas well owners.

Councilmember Schneider reported on the "Positively Gates Mills" Committee. She said they have a lot of pictures titled and ready, and they have new write-ups for organizations. There will be two social information events. The first one will be for Howard Hanna only. The second one will be for "power sellers". The committee will have something ready relatively quickly.

It was moved by Councilmember Bletcher, seconded by Councilmember Schneider, that the Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for the purchase of a new police vehicle.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that the Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for asphalt and aggregates.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Bletcher, that the Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for sanitary sewer separation. Service Director Biggert said this was to install drains for the Village's building complex so the runoff won't continue to go directly into the river. Councilmember Bletcher asked if the service department could do some of the work. Service Director Biggert said the employees will do as much as they can.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Schneider, that the Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for the 2012 road program. Councilmember Bletcher asked how the bids are advertised. He wondered if Dodge Reports is used. He will get Service Director Biggert contact information for a northeast Ohio web service. He said someone at Ronyak Paving will have the information about where to advertise to get the most bidders.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Schneider, Sogg, Turner.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Business from the audience:

MaryAnn Kish said that at 620 County Line Road there are tanks that are not camouflaged. Now that the house is in foreclosure, can the Village contact Bank of America to get them to make the property more presentable. Also, there are several split-rail fences around the village that have rotted and/or are falling down. The village should give the homeowners a notice with a deadline to fix up the property. The village should have a Beautification Committee that drives around and reports what needs to be addressed. Mayor Riley asked Law Director Riehl if we have authority to require the tanks on County Line to be camouflaged. He said no but we could reach out to the bank that has the house in foreclosure. Mayor Riley asked Service Director Biggert if he and Finance Director could find out how to reach the bank. Meantime, before the next meeting he will try to find volunteers to serve on the Beautification Committee.

Jerry Bohinc said that Gates Mills is involved in wells. The issue of wells has changed tremendously. The Governor is going to tax wells which will raise a billion dollars. We need to reach out to the representatives. There is an abundant amount of information on gas wells available at the Library.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:

Shawn M. Riley, Mayor

