

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

October 13, 2021

MINUTES

The Regular Council Meeting of the Village of Moreland Hills was called to order by Mayor Fritz at 7:01pm, in the Village Council Chambers.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Emerman, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis
ABSENT: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart

Also Present: William Hanna, Law Director, Sherri Arrietta, Clerk of Council; Chuck Keiper, Executive Director of NOPEC; Nicole Harris, NOPEC Relationship Manager; Tom Fish, resident; George & Kris Tesar, residents

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 8, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Fritz stated that they were going to change the order of the agenda in the interest of time for Officer Lee and his family and our representatives from NOPEC. He stated that they are going to start with Appointments and Confirmations first.

Appointments & Confirmations

Mayor Fritz introduced Charles Lee who will be sworn in tonight as a Moreland Hills Police Officer. He is coming here from Garfield Heights where he was a well-respected officer. He stated that they quickly found out after an extensive background check that Charles Lee fits the type of officer we strive to have on the Moreland Hills Police Department. He stated that he hears comments from residents all the time about how great our Police Department is and stated that he is incredibly proud of this department. This does not happen by accident, but from the solid leadership of Chief Wyant, Lt. Dietzel, and all the officers. That structure has existed for some time and has put measures in place to make our department an excellent one. We truly have something very special in our Village. Mayor Fritz stated that having met Officer Lee several

times now, and putting him through a very long interview, he can attest that his addition to the Police Department is going to allow us to continue down this path of excellence. He stated that he could not be more proud to swear in Officer Charles Lee to our Police Department.

At this time, Mayor Fritz swore in Charles Lee as a Moreland Hills Police Officer. Ptl. Lee thanked everyone and introduced his family to Council.

Resident Comments

Mrs. Kris Tesar, resident, stated that she thinks the swearing in process was wonderful to see.

Mayor Fritz stated that at this time, he would like to invite Mr. Chuck Keiper to take the floor. Mr. Chuck Keiper, Executive Director of NOPEC and Ms. Nicole Harris, NOPEC Relationship Manager were in attendance at the meeting to provide Council with information about the Green Community Choice Project. Mr. Keiper and Ms. Harris gave an informative presentation and answered questions from Council. Ms. Harris will be sending an email to provide some further information that Council requested. Mayor Fritz encourage Council to do some homework to come up with more questions about this project and they will discuss it further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting, after which they can look at putting it on First Reading at Council.

Reports from the Mayor and Other Municipal Officials

Mayor Fritz thanked everyone for the Head for the Hills event and stated that he is so proud of this community. It was so great to see everyone getting together. The Parks Commission raised \$1,000 of for the parks from this event and he is looking forward to next year.

Mayor Fritz reported that he has been in contact with The Natural Classroom in their search for another location for the second half of their session, they have landed on Hiram House Camp as that location and he stated that he thinks it should go well.

Mayor Fritz gave an update on COVID and stated that the current campus protocols were recently vetted through the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and are still well in play and along the lines of their recommendations. These protocols are posted and meetings are had to correct shortcomings from time to time. Our vaccination numbers are good and as follows:

- 7 out of 11 Service Employees (up from 5)
- 12 out of 18 Police Department Employees

- 3 out of 3 Building Department Employees
- 2 out of 3 Administration Employees

This brings the total to 24 vaccinated and 11 unvaccinated of those that work on campus. We have other employees/professional staff that do not count in those numbers because they are not on campus with us.

Since the inception of COVID, our positive numbers/exposures have been low, at only five. We have had a total of two members of the Service Department, which was only recently; two members of the Police Department, and one member of Administration. We have only had one of those exposures in the workplace, but it did not result in a COVID positive. Mayor Fritz stated that we would continue with protocols and continue doing what the Board of Health recommends. He stated that the Village has also requested and received home test kits for employees and they are available to Council as well, if they need one.

Mayor Fritz gave an update on cameras on campus, which was budgeted for in this year's budget. Cameras will be placed behind the Service Department and additional cameras will be placed inside the buildings; they worked with a consultant to determine where they will be placed. Mr. Shah is working on contract legislation with Gilmore.

There were no reports from other municipal officials as no Department Heads were present.

Roads & Safety Committee

The Roads and Safety Committee met on October 5, 2021. Mr. Spencer gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on November 2, 2021.

Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee did not meet in October. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on November 2, 2021.

BZA

The Board of Zoning Appeals met on October 4, 2021. Mr. Stanard gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on November 1, 2021.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission met on October 4, 2021, immediately after the BZA Meeting. Mr. Stanard gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on November 1, 2021.

Parks Commission

The Parks Commission met on September 20, 2021. Mr. Stanard gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on October 18, 2021.

Green Commission

The Green Commission met on October 6, 2021. Mr. Spencer gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be December 1, 2021.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2021-47- Introduced by Mr. Stanard

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATURAL AREA LAND CONSERVANCY’S EFFORTS TO SECURE THE CLEAN OHIO FUND GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION FUNDING TO PURCHASE AND PERMANENTLY PROTECT THE CHAGRIN MEADOWS PRESERVE PROPERTY IN THE VILLAGE OF MORELAND HILLS, OHIO.

Mr. Stanard stated the Clean Ohio Fund has a program available where they can grant money so Natural Area Land Conservancy, a subsidiary of the WRLC, can making another run to get funding to purchase this 26 acres plot of land and preserve it, which will be known as Chagrin Meadows Preserve. The best-case scenario would be for this land to become part of the Chagrin Valley green space that has already been protected along the corridor. It will be good for the Village to return that property to our coffers with a conservation easement for the betterment of the land.

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman to suspend the rules for Resolution 2021-47.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Emerman for passage of Resolution 2021-47.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance 2021-48 - Introduced by Mr. Spencer

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERRING ITEMS ALREADY APPROPRIATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Spencer stated that this ordinance is a little longer than normal, which is typical as we get later into the year. More things change the further away from the budget process we get. The six amendments to current appropriations are as follows: \$15,000 for flock cameras; \$10,000 for Police Department equipment (cars, lights, etc.); \$15,000 for equipment maintenance for the Falls Creek and Easton pump stations where we had some failures and at Cableknoll for the replacement generator; \$32,000 to close out the contract for maintenance for waste water treatment plants with United Survey; \$26,000 for House on the Hill contractual services – the asphalt change order which was discussed at Council; and \$1200 for Village Park Donations from Head for the Hills.

There were the typical transfer to the Police Pension Fund for \$30,000 and one to the Muni Motor Vehicle Fund for \$50,000, which is only transferred when needed, and in this case it was needed for culvert and drainage work. There was an advance from the General Fund to the House on the Hill Fund for \$40,000; this needs to be advanced and will be paid back when the money from the grant is received.

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Emerman to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-48.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard for passage of Ordinance 2021-48.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Miscellaneous

Mayor Fritz introduced and welcomed Meghan Walsh from Chagrin Valley Times. Julie Hullett is taking an extended leave of absence while she studies for the LSATS. We have known Julie to be very professional and fair and she is known throughout the Valley as an excellent reporter, which he believes to be the same for other reporters from Chagrin Valley Times. He stated that he and Council would like to welcome Ms. Walsh and encouraged her to reach out if she has any questions. Ms. Walsh thanked Mayor Fritz and Council.

Mayor Fritz mentioned to Council that they were going to have a discussion about PACE financing, however, he is going to suggest they take a different approach tonight. He drafted a lengthy email to Mr. Shah laying out Council's conversation and the summation of their options. Mayor Fritz informed him that they did not land anywhere specifically, but that they were thinking of different options to reduce the burden of the financial impact on the Village. Mr. Shah has agreed to reach out to negotiate and feel out the situation. He feels this will be more productive if he does that and then they can discuss it at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Shah does like the option to have the Wolstein's pay for the full amount, which is based on the fact that he did reach out to some other small communities that have done it that way.

Ms. Sturgis stated that she was not able to weigh-in at the last Committee of the Whole meeting about the Inclusion Commission, as she was listening in over the phone. She stated that she would like to give Council her considerations regarding the age of members and amount of members. There was discussion around 7, 8, or 9 members; she would like to ask Council to consider 9 members; two of which can be younger/high school students. That would provide age variation and would start to prepare them to engage in civic duties.

Mayor Fritz stated that he does support that but after discussing it at length, one of the issues that came up was the ability for someone of that age group to serve for four years. We can stagger them and get around that, but there was other concern that if we are targeting a specific age, which again, he agrees with, it can be a slippery slope to carve out an age demographic and not other demographics. Ms. Sturgis stated that when you have 7 members, you open it up to everyone but if you have the 2 additional members that do not serve the full 4-year term, then you are not excluding, you're including. When you limit the number, then you are potentially excluding the

opportunity to include.

Mayor Fritz stated that some of the discussion was not so much about removing those two positions, but just not designating them by age. He stated that they did land on somewhat of a compromise about not explicitly describing those two positions by ages, but adding some strongly worded language that they can vet to encourage the commission to fall in line with the goal of keeping a very diverse group of people; including race, age, sexual orientation, etc. It could give them some guidance to the point where the commission is not made up of all the same type of people. He asked her to think about that and they can discuss it further at the Committee of the Whole meeting next month.

Mr. Hanna informed Council that they can determine to do it either of those ways with some directory language about what the composition of the commission should look like in terms of reflecting diversity of the community without having mandatory categories. It does not create a liability to specify to have younger members particularly because often they are not included in memberships.

Mr. Emerman stated that he had another idea about getting younger participants. Rather than saying that they want younger members for this particular committee, his thought is that they can have different type of legislation for a program for high school seniors and they can join any committee they like. That way we get that engagement by opening up our committees or commissions to allow high school student as a member for a year. He stated that we could open it up to our school systems and the private schools. Mr. Richman stated that they could reach out to superintendents/principals to see who would be interested.

Mayor Fritz asked Mr. Hanna if they would be able to draft legislation that would do that without having to redraft the whole composition of the commissions, so that they can include more membership for them. Mr. Hanna stated that they would have to work through whether they would be voting members or not first, but they would not have to rewrite the composition of the membership of each committee/commission. He stated that they should make sure to have a reference to this program in that legislation so that the pieces would all fit together.

Ms. Sturgis stated that she feels that the younger members should be included on all committees/commission and still feels there should be a total of 9 members on the Inclusion Commission. She appreciates and supports Mr. Emerman's idea. Mayor Fritz agreed and stated that perhaps they are two different things but that they can do both.

Mayor Fritz stated that Council should come prepared to the next Committee of the Whole to discuss these ideas further.

Adjournment

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 9:11pm

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.

Attest:

Sherri Arrietta, Clerk of Council

Steve Richman, Council President