

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 14, 2021

### MINUTES

The Regular Council Meeting of the Village of Moreland Hills was called to order by Mayor Fritz at 7:02pm, in the Village Council Chambers.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

ABSENT: Mr. Spencer, Ms. Sturgis

Also Present: William Hanna, Law Director, Sherri Arrietta, Clerk of Council

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 9, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

### **Resident Comments**

There were no residents present.

### **Reports from the Mayor and Other Municipal Officials**

Mayor Fritz stated that he thought our first in-person meeting last week (Committee of the Whole) went well. Tonight we have the air purifier in the Council Chambers along with some cross ventilation with some windows open, and of course social distancing as well. There are no Department Heads in attendance other than Mr. Hanna, which we will continue with for the next few months, unless of course, anyone feels the need to have them, or if they want to attend to report on something. He thanked everyone for their input to get to this point as well as all through the pandemic. Council and employees made it collectively easier than it could have been to get through this whole process. He is proud of everyone's efforts. Mayor Fritz stated that the first in-person BZA/Planning Commission meeting also went well this week.

Mayor Fritz passed out pictures and provided an update on the current progress at Forest Ridge.

Carron Construction is doing some grading, preparing for the asphalt that is going in creating the new upper parking lot and the widening of the existing lot. The path going to Potts Pier will be improved as well as made to be ADA compliant. They have leveled the footprint for the pavilion. The project is moving forward and he is getting excited for the end result. There were several buffers built into the construction timeline, one of which included 2 weeks for plan review. The plans were submitted yesterday and it took Mr. Filarski and Mr. Kowalczyk one day to review and approve them. That gets us closer to being able to have the clambake there and if things continue this way, we could be looking at an earlier date than November 12 for completion.

The Road Program is progressing well. He stated that there are pictures of Cableknoll and Meadowhill in the packet he just handed out. Mayor Fritz stated that he had some input from some very happy residents on Cableknoll, as it has been in bad condition.

This past weekend, an Eagle Scout project took place at the JAG birth site. Boy Scout Holden Thomas and his Boy Scout Troop 309 repaired the steps that take you down to the actual site of the cabin; pictures are included in the packet. Mayor Fritz state that they did a great job and we acknowledged their efforts on Facebook and will be doing so in the August newsletter as well. The second phase of his project will be to clean up the birth site area. The Boy Scouts are a big help and we are always proud to collaborate with them.

At the Committee of the Whole meeting, we discussed the contribution to the Chagrin Valley Fire Department's capital improvement campaign. Mayor Fritz stated that he had an opportunity to meet with So. Russell the other night and they had some suggestions to include in the resolution. Mayor Spremulli did send the first draft of that resolution but it is not ready for distribution yet as we would like to add some of the input from So. Russell. After that, we will send it to all member communities to vet it through their Mayors and Law Directors to make sure they are okay with it. It is a non-binding resolution and should be ready to come before Council in September. Some of the questions that came up from So. Russell were a bit of an oversight. The sentiment is that the ask from the communities will be based on 1.5 million, and if it goes above that, it is up to them to come up with the rest. If it is below that amount or they cut the scope of the project, then there should be something, like an escrow account that states that these contributions are being made based on a 1.5 million dollar debt, and for every decrease in that amount, a refund would go to each of the communities. Mayor Fritz asked Council to let him know if there other parameters they feel should be included.

Mayor Fritz stated that he did have the Finance Department look at any potential savings from the new structure of our healthcare plan, and to date, we have saved over \$30,000. If it keeps progressing at that pace, our expectation would be to save \$60,000 or more this year. Another thing of note is what has been happening as far as complaints. One employee had an issue with drug reimbursements. The solution was that this individual was waiting too long to pick up their medications because after a certain amount of time, they cancel it out. He stated that while we need to improve communications to the employees about such things, there have been no other complaints made.

As Council is aware, our ARPA money (\$640,000) was cut in half (\$320,000) with the addition of the townships being added into the formula. We are to receive 50% of it this year and 50% in a year from now. Mr. Shah would like to roll that over and keep it because we are expecting the guidance to loosen up on how to spend it in the future. We are having discussions with Department Heads and Mr. Shah is in discussions with Mr. Filarski and Mr. DeWater regarding infrastructure needs, so that we can prioritize what we would use the money for. By doing that, it will be actual money saved instead of buying things we do not need.

Mr. Richman asked if there had been any discussion regarding an education component at the pavilion. He suggested things such as a display board or a handout that identifies the wildlife and vegetation one might see in Forest Ridge and its history. Mayor Fritz stated that it is a great idea. One of the things he mentioned in his last newsletter was that he was excited to have programming at the pavilion with different aspects such as educational, entertainment, and family events. As far as educational, he was thinking of having someone from the Metroparks or ODNR give presentations there, however, Mr. Richman's idea of having something there permanently like a display board, would be a great idea. He will discuss that at the next Parks Commission meeting.

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart also asked about the addition of a play structure that would fit in the environment near the pavilion. Mayor Fritz stated that he would also take that to the Parks Commission. Mr. Stanard stated that he feels that both Mr. Richman's idea and Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart's idea have been discussed previously at the Parks Commission as possible uses and structures. He stated that he thinks they are both great ideas to promote.

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart asked about the resolution for the Chagrin Valley Fire Department and whether there were other communities that have a similar fire department and have had something like this happen. Mayor Fritz stated that it was a good question and he is not aware of any. There are some examples that come to mind where there is one city contracting with one

other city, but one that contracts with six communities. It really is hard to see an example of that elsewhere.

Mr. Emerman asked if it makes sense to ask Mr. Shah to look at some of our current budgeting items that we have not yet spent the funds on to see if any of them qualify for the ARPA funding, such as the equalization flow tank. He stated that it would offset things we were already planning to spend anyway. Mayor Fritz stated that was a good thought and informed him that it was one of the first things Mr. Shah identified when we first started talking about it, so it is high on the list of something we would spend those funds on. He stated that he likes the way Mr. Emerman is thinking because that is something that could give us savings since it has been budgeted for.

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

### **Reports of Committees**

#### **Roads & Safety Committee**

The Roads and Safety Committee did not meet on July 6, 2021. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on July 27 since the Council Meeting will be held one week earlier in August.

#### **Facilities Committee**

The Facilities Committee did not meet on July 6, 2021. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on July 27 since the Council Meeting will be held one week earlier in August.

#### **BZA**

The Board of Zoning Appeals met on July 12, 2021. Mr. Stanard gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on August 2, 2021.

#### **Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission met after the BZA on July 12, 2021. Mr. Stanard gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on August 2, 2021.

#### **Parks Commission**

The Parks Commission met on June 22, 2021. Mr. Stanard gave a report on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on July 19, 2021.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution 2021-28- Introduced by Mr. Stanard**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE A PREFABRICATED RESTROOM BUILDING (INCLUDING INSTALLATION) FOR PUBLIC USE AT THE FOREST RIDGE PRESERVE FROM CXT PRECAST PRODUCTS, INC., AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Stanard stated that this resolution would allow the Mayor to purchase one of the most important facilities that needs to be available in a public place. It is a double vault, precast restroom facility, which will be delivered on a truck “as-is” and installed at Forest Ridge. This will be through the National Joint Powers Alliance (Sourcewell) where agencies such as the Village are able to purchase in bulk. He suggested that Council Google “Double Rocky Mountain” if they want to see what it looks like.

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman to suspend the rules for Resolution 2021-28.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Emerman asked if the unit includes two unisex restrooms instead of one men’s and one women’s facility. Mr. Stanard stated that he believes the only difference would be the signs on the doors. Mr. Emerman stated that it is something to think about regarding how we want to label them. Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart stated that she thinks it is not appropriate to put “men” or “women” on there.

Mayor Fritz stated that during the grading process, there is a new access drive going in. There is a temporary drive right now for the crane to go in. A few trees will need to come down in the woods behind it, but they are not the large Evergreen trees near that area. The vault will disrupt the root system, which is why they have to come out.

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman for passage of Resolution 2021-28.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

NAYS: NONE  
MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 2021-29-Introduced by Mr. Richman**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JADCO CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC. FOR THE PATCHING AND PAINTING OF THE MILES ROAD RETAINING WALL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richman stated that periodically the Village's infrastructure is inspected and so upon such inspection, it was found that the retaining wall was showing its' age. In order to increase the longevity and effectiveness of the wall, patching and painting of the wall is necessary. Two bids were received and the lowest was from Jadco Construction Services in the amount of \$20,272.52

Mayor Fritz informed Council that this was in the budget for 2020 but because of COVID, it was one of the items we rolled back. The residents were disappointed but they understood; they have been patient and understanding. Since the bid came in under the estimated amount, we may add the other retaining wall on Upper Giles, at similar cost, in order to repair it at the same time, which would be beneficial.

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-29.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart for passage of Ordinance 2021-29.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 2021-30 - Introduced by Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH VANCUREN SERVICES FOR THE 2021 HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart stated that, as discussed last week at the Committee of the Whole meeting, this is the program to remove hazardous trees so they do not cause problems with structures or services that are provide to our Village. Five bid packages were sent out and only two bids were received. They were quite different in their amounts and the apparent discrepancy is that Vancuren Services drove around and looked at the needs of the Village instead of taking the presumptive approach. The recommendation is for the lowest bid from Vancuren in the amount of \$41,700.00

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-30.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman for passage of Ordinance 2021-30.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 2021-31- Introduced by Mr. Emerman**

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

Mr. Emerman stated that there are a handful of items on this transfer ordinance. There are additional appropriations for the Property Improvement Fund for tree plantings at Forest Ridge and other Village property for \$8,000. This was identified in the budget but we did not encumber funds for it. There were transfers from the General Fund to the Police Pension Fund and to the

Police and Fire Levey Fund, which are normal monthly transfers. The third transfer from the General Fund was to the General Bond Retirement Fund. He explained that we have two debt services we are paying back; Village Campus Improvements and three projects that we previously had low interest (zero to less than 1%) loans on from the OPWC. Mr. Shah likes to secure those low interest loans for capital improvements, when he can. Those three are for a slope repair on Chagrin Blvd in 2010, Jackson Valley Treatment Plant in 2014 (before it was converted) and repair of a water main on Bentleyville Road in 2008. The length of those loans is approximately 20 years, so we have been paying those back. The two transfers that we see every year for the bond for payment of the Village Improvements, is separate from this. Finally, there is an advance from the General Fund to the House on the Hill Fund for \$150,000. That is the amount we are expecting to get from the state, for the House on the Hill project. It is an advance because the General Funds is paying for it now, but it will be paid back to the General Fund once the funds are received.

Mayor Fritz stated that regarding the submittal of reimbursement from the Natureworks Grant, the first request would be for the grading, the first bill from Carron Construction, and the cost for the restroom. He stated that they want to keep everything fiscally lined up, so it made sense to submit one request for those three items, instead of doing three different requests. Mrs. Bossart and Mr. Shah are doing a good job keeping a handle on it.

Mr. Emerman made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-31.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Emerman made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman for passage of Ordinance 2021-31.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

### **Miscellaneous**

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart asked if there was an update on the status of the property at Chagrin

River Road and 87, owned by Hunting Valley. Mayor Fritz stated that it was not awarded funding through ODNR, which we applied for. The WRLC keeps working on other options, which is he not privy to, but they are still looking for funding. The good news for us is that Hunting Valley is not looking to sell it to someone that will build a bunch of houses on it, which is why they bought it in the first place. He stated that there is nothing new to report right now.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:57pm

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Emerman, Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Stanard

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.

Attest:

---

Sherri Arrietta, Clerk of Council