

**Village of Evendale
Special Council Meeting
December 3rd, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was held at the Raffel's Conference Center located at 10160 S. Reading Rd., Evendale, Ohio 45241. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Mayor-Council retreat to review the 2016 budget and to discuss other matters on the Agenda. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Finan at 8:30am

The following elected officials were present: Mayor Richard Finan, Councilmembers Mr. Bill Puthoff, Mr. Jeff Albrinck, Ms. Carolyn Smiley-Robertson, Mr. John Ranz, Mr. Chris Schaefer, and Ms. Beth McDaniel. Mr. David Elmer, Director of Administrative Services, was also present.

Mayor Finan introduced and reviewed the proposed Capital Budget. Council and the Mayor reviewed each item and agreed, in principal, to appropriating \$6,587,332 to fund 2017 Level 1 priority projects at their December 2016 regular meeting; however, prior to spending any capital funds, Department Heads must first present justifications for each item at Council's January 2017 sub-committee meetings. Mr. Elmer agreed to convey this requirement to Department Heads.

Mayor Finan and Council further discussed the AeroHub and Thru the Valley projects and the expenses associated with those projects. The group concluded that although projected expenses were significant, the projects represent significant advancements that should produce long-term positive results for the Village. Mayor Finan noted that the proposed budget includes a built-in \$7 million dollar carry-over.

Mayor Finan and Council discussed the proposed Property Maintenance Code. Mayor Finan asked if Council had any final suggested revisions. Mr. Schaefer suggested the following 3 modifications: 1) make trimming/edging sidewalks, etc. a recommendation rather than a requirement; 2) remove the requirement for ceiling lights; and 3) change the penalty for non-compliance from a misdemeanor in the 3rd degree only to a minor misdemeanor for a first offense and a misdemeanor in the 3rd degree to a second offense. Council and the Mayor agreed to these modifications. Mr. Elmer will revise the proposed code and email to Council and the Law Director. Mr. Ranz noted that the penalty for falsifying a sworn affidavit would remain a 1st degree misdemeanor. Mr. Ranz and Mr. Elmer also clarified that a Rental Permit Fee must still be paid even if a landlord chooses to sign a sworn affirmation. Council and the Mayor suggested a "soft" roll out the new code after adoption. Mr. Elmer will work with the Building Commissioner to assure this.

Mayor Finan and Council further discussed options for making the Cultural Arts Center handicapped accessible. The group agreed to allocate \$100,000 in the 2017 Capital Budget for such improvements but will first revisit existing proposals and/or seek additional proposals for several accessibility options including, but not limited to, an elevator, exterior ramps and new exterior step handrails. Mr. Puthoff asked for finalization on a plan to relocate and screen the Center's existing dumpster and porta-let. Mr. Elmer will bring the Center Director, Recreation Director and Village Engineer together to finalize and implement a Plan.

Mayor Finan and Council discussed the merits of transitioning the part-time Cultural Arts Center Director position into a full-time position. The group discussed 4 general options; including hiring additional part-time help, or a co-op/intern student, in lieu of creating a full-time position; having the position report to the Recreation Director; or assigning Center duties to other existing Village staff. Ms. Smiley-Robertson suggested, and the group agreed, to further study the Director's current job functions as well as the projected and potential growth and/or expansion of Center services. To start, Council recommended a 3-

month job task analysis. Ms. Smiley-Robertson and Mr. Elmer will work with Center Director Susan Gordy on implementing a task analysis.

Mayor Finan and Council discussed implications of proposed amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act which were recently enjoined by a federal court. The group concluded that the Village will consider increasing its financial contribution to the Gorman Heritage Farm by \$50,000 annually regardless of the Act's final disposition, given the current \$300,000 annual appropriation to the Farm has been unchanged in 14 years.

Mayor Finan revisited with Council the need for a Transitional Duty policy as presented to Council several month ago in draft form. Mayor Finan noted an ordinance to approve the policy would be on Council's December meeting agenda. Mr. Elmer noted the Village could save upwards of \$11,000 on its workers compensation annual premium if the Village adopted and implemented a written transitional duty policy.

Mayor Finan and Council discussed ongoing nuisance activity occurring at the Gorman Farm overlook during night time hours. To curb such activity, Mayor Finan suggested changing the Farm's park closing hours from 11pm to "at dusk". The group discussed how such change might impact people who actively use the park for lawful purposes. The Mayor will proceed with modifying the closure hours to "at dusk" and instruct residents to call the police anytime they see illegal or nuisance activity, regardless of the time of day. The group agreed that the Police still have discretion to determine how to best handle a situation when responding to calls for service.

Mayor Finan suggested the Village permit political signs on the Evendale campus but only on election days. The group discussed the merits and potential problems associated with allowing political signs on public property. Mayor Finan will work with Law Director Burke to prepare a draft ordinance, or a modification to Evendale's existing zoning sign codes, which would allow political signs on the Village campus, in designated areas only, on election days only with additional restrictions or conditions as deemed appropriate by the Mayor and Law Director.

Mr. Elmer presented an ordinance renewing Evendale's electric service agreement with Dynegy for the Village's building and street light accounts. Elmer explained that the current contract expires at the end of December 2016. The proposed rates are lower than the current rates but are valid only thru the end of the day.

Mr. Schaefer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Puthoff, to amend the meeting agenda from "Electric Rates on VOE Campus" to "Ordinance Authorizing Mayor to Enter Agreement to Secure Electric Rates for VOE Campus and declaring an emergency". Mayor Finan called for a vote. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mayor Finan called for a motion to read the Ordinance by title only. Mr. Schaefer made a motion to do so, seconded by Mr. Puthoff. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mayor Finan called for a motion to suspend the 2nd and 3rd readings of the Ordinance and to declare the ordinance an emergency. Mr. Schaefer made a motion to do so, seconded by Ms. Smiley-Robertson. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mayor Finan called for a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Schaefer made a motion to do so, seconded by Mr. Albrinck. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mayor Finan declared Ordinance #16-82 adopted as an emergency.

Mayor Finan shared with Council the status of several bills and issues currently at the State level related to availability of state bonds/funds for local capital projects, a proposal to freeze tax collection on development projects before completion and a proposal to enable cellular communication companies to place towers and devices on public property.

Mr. Elmer advised the group he is finalizing the JobsOhio Grant application for a \$500,000 award for public infrastructure/roadway costs associated with AeroHub. Elmer will be submitting the application to Law Director Burke for final review prior to submission. The application is due to JobsOhio by no later than the end of December 2016.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Puthoff. Council unanimously approved the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:15am

Respectfully submitted,
David W. Elmer