

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Bethalto, IL

October 10, 2022

7:00pm

Council Chambers

The Village Board of Trustees met on the above date in the Council Chambers of Village Hall in a regular meeting called to order by Mayor Bost at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the “Pledge of Allegiance”. Roll call was taken by Village Clerk Sue Lowrance. Present: Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull. Trustee Tweedy was absent. Also present: Police Chief Mike Dixon, Village Attorney Ken Balsters, Fire Chief Brian Buhs, Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick, Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, and Joseph Hughes.

Motion made by Mull, seconded by Lowrance, to approve Village Board meeting minutes of September 12, 2022, as printed. All members voted aye viva voce. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISORS:

Fire Chief Brian Buhs presented his report for September, noting 123 calls for the month and 1,283 year-to-date. Buhs reviewed the significant incidents in September: light smoke from an air conditioner compressor at Burger King and the delivery of a healthy baby boy at a residence on Meadow Drive. There were no questions.

Police Chief Dixon presented the monthly activity report for September, with his department logging 613 incidents. Both the airport fly-in and the CM Homecoming parade went well, and Dixon thanked the Public Works Department for their assistance with these events. Work is continuing on the department’s policy manual. The Madison County Sheriff’s Department will deputize several area officers in conjunction with a new task force; Sgt. Dugger will be the representative from our department. Dixon reviewed several significant

cases. Trustee Perkhiser noted that domestic battery cases seem to be increasing; Dixon responded that was likely due to the economy. There were no further questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his monthly report by department. The Albers Lane/Friedel Bridge is nearly complete; there has been a delay in obtaining wedges for a wall, but those were supposed to be to the contractor by October 7. We have had no updates. Once those are installed, inspections will be completed and the bridge can open. The interceptor lining project should begin in the next couple of weeks, depending on the weather. The Splash Pad has been winterized and new lights installed at the pickleball courts. There were no questions.

Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick presented his monthly report, noting 91 permits issued in September. Permits continue to be issued on a timely basis. Reddick updated the board on some of the major construction projects: Step by Step daycare is under construction; Scooters has opened and is busy; Weathervane work continues slowly; Roma's expansion has started up again; Quik Trip should be completed in the next few weeks; Dugan Tool & Die has started framing and rough-in plumbing; Prairie Street Storage has pads poured. One other significant project is in the works but Reddick doesn't want to announce until the permit applications have been received. There has been a decrease in code violations this month. Reddick updated the board on the nuisance properties he's working on. At last month's meeting, residents expressed concern over 340 S. Prairie: the owner has a final court hearing tomorrow and is hoping to clear out the property after that. Reddick stated the owner has apologized to the Village and neighbors for the issues at the property. 327 Spencer St. was another property mentioned last month; Reddick did a drive-by and noted the property is being maintained but that he asked for some brush to be cut back, which the owner did. Trustee Mull asked if solar panels required permits; Reddick answered yes and

explained that process. Reddick noted 25% of permits this year have been solar-related. There were no further questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dave Wiegand and Jacob Lowry of the Wealthcare Group were in attendance to review the upcoming employee medical insurance renewal and present the options to the Board. The current provider, UHC, came back with a 29% premium increase; after going out to the marketplace, Aetna has come back with a similar plan at a rate increase of 4.28%. The Village has had coverage with Aetna before with no issues. Deductibles and some co-pays would be higher with this plan, but the Village HRA account would offset those costs and still save the Village money. Wiegand reviewed the HRA program and provided an example of what the Village would pay for a similar plan if we didn't use the HRA; a similar plan would have a premium of \$1,021,000 annually. There were no questions; Wiegand stated he recommends the Village sign on with Aetna.

Rose Bickmore, 203 W. Central Street, asked why the taxpayers pay so much toward the Village employees' health insurance. Mayor answered that this benefit is negotiated in collective bargaining agreements.

Jeff Allsman of Bethalto Spirit announced that the Christmas Parade has enough committed participants to move forward, and thanked the Board for allowing this event to happen.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2022-11 A Resolution Authorizing Unsell, Schattnik & Phillips, PC to Represent the Village in the Appeal in the Matter of Bethalto v. Hartweger, Currently Pending in the Appellate Court was presented. This authorizes the Village to enter into an agreement with the aforementioned law firm for representation in this matter, as they have

experience at the appellate level. Erin Phillips will be the attorney to represent the Village. There were no questions. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Dugger, to approve Resolution 2022-11 A Resolution Authorizing Unsell, Schattnik & Phillips, PC to Represent the Village in the Appeal in the Matter of Bethalto v. Hartweger, Currently Pending in the Appellate Court.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2022-12 A Resolution Declaring 100 S. Wesley Drive Lot 75, East Alton, IL as a Nuisance that is Unsafe, Dangerous, and Uninhabitable for Human Occupancy and Authorizing the Village to Proceed to Clean up Same and Demolish was presented. This property has been deemed as unfit for occupancy and this is the first step in the eviction and demolition process. Zoning Administrator Reddick presented photos and narrative regarding the property, which is owned by the trailer park itself. There are many code violations, no power to the unit and no running water in the kitchen. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Lowrance, to approve Resolution 2022-12 A Resolution Declaring 100 S. Wesley Drive Lot 75, East Alton, IL as a Nuisance that is Unsafe, Dangerous, and Uninhabitable for Human Occupancy and Authorizing the Village to Proceed to Clean up Same and Demolish.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister, and Mull voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2022-04 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 –Building Code was presented. This updates the code to include annual inspections of commercial property by Village personnel. Reddick noted that the language is already included in our fire code, but this will add it in ordinance form as well. **Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Mull, to approve Ordinance 2022-04 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6-Building Code.**

Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2022-05 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7-Business Code was presented. This updates the code to change the annual business license period to coincide with the fiscal year, beginning in May, 2023. Current licenses will be extended to expire on 4/30/23. This will allow more time to begin the annual inspection process as well. **Motion by Mull, seconded by Perkhiser, to approve Ordinance 2022-05 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7-Business Code.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2022-06 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16-Garbage was presented. This updates the code to show that the Village will pay for yard waste pickup for the fourth quarter of 2022, October 1 – December 31, 2022. **Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Mull, to approve Ordinance 2022-06 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16-Garbage.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2022-07 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21-Liquor was presented. This updates the code to add an additional Class B liquor license for issuance to SSP Dairy Fresh. The number of Class B licenses would increase to five. **Motion made by Perkhiser, seconded by Dugger, to approve Ordinance 2022-07 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21-Liquor.** Trustees Dugger and Perkhiser voted aye; Trustees Lowrance, Keister and Mull voted nay; Motion failed on a vote of 3-2. Mayor Bost added that there has been a suggestion by a board member to get the Village's parameters for issuance of liquor licenses in writing for future reference.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Fall Cleanup is next week, the week of October 17-21. Early voting will be offered at Village Hall from October 24-November 7, weekdays only. The Rotary Club Halloween Parade and Trunk or Treat will be October 25; the parade starts at Rose Lawn at 6:30 and empties into Central Park for Trunk or Treat. There will be a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on October 27 regarding the appeal of Edmar & Marie Schreiber for property located at 781 Roosevelt. Election Day is November 8, and there will be polling places at the Museum, Spirit Building, Senior Building and Village Hall in the Council and Committee Rooms. Village offices will be closed on November 11 for Veterans Day.

Mayor Bost presented the awardees for the fall round of Business District Façade Grants: Runway Lounge \$20,625; Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Home \$20,750; HanDee Mart \$25,000; Laux Brickhouse \$25,000; Roma's Pizza \$25,000. These total \$116,375 which leaves a balance of \$33,625 to award in Spring.

Mayor Bost asked for a motion to proceed with the recommendation of the Wealthcare Group and enter into an agreement with Aetna for employee medical insurance coverage beginning November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Lowrance, to enter into an agreement with Aetna for employee medical insurance coverage for the term of 1 year starting 11/1/22.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The September Treasurer's report was presented with revenues and expenses reviewed. The Village's ending cash balance was up approximately \$850k. There were no questions. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Mull, to approve the Treasurer's Report for**

September, 2022. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee meetings will be held on October 24 at 6pm.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Mull, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$430,266.96. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$324,444.45. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

LIABILITY INSURANCE FUND

Motion by Lowrance, seconded by Perkhiser, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$160,094.98. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$54,112.00. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 14, 2022 at 7:00pm in the Council Room of Village Hall.

Having no further business, **a motion was made by Mull, seconded by Lowrance, to adjourn the meeting.** All trustees voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor