

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Bethalto, IL

March 13, 2023

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, Tweedy, Keister and Mull. Also present: Police Chief Mike Dixon, Fire Chief Brian Buhs, Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick, Village Attorney Ken Balsters, and Joseph Hughes.

Motion made by Tweedy, seconded by Mull, to approve Village Board meeting minutes of February 13, 2023, as printed. All members voted aye viva voce. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISORS:

Fire Chief Brian Buhs presented his report for February, noting 141 calls for the month. Buhs noted that this places the department on pace for a record-setting 1800+ calls for the year. There are a few business inspections still to complete; some reinspections have started. There were no questions.

Police Chief Mike Dixon presented the monthly activity report for February, stating his department had 626 incidents. Dixon reviewed the report and updated the board on some of the significant cases. Deputy Chief Lamb is researching grants for body cameras, which will be required by 2025. Dixon anticipates this mandate to cost up to \$100,000; grants they’ve found thus far are all reimbursement-based, so the purchase of the body cameras will need to be budgeted for. Due to increased training requirements due to the Safe-T Act, Sgt. Dugger is now certified to train in-house, and Public Works crews (specifically Jeremy Nolte) have transformed a room in the PD basement into a training room. SRO Shank will be assisting Sgt. Dugger with the training. Work on updating the policy manual is continuing. There will

be two life-saving awards presented to officers Dodge and Rivera next month; their efforts saved the life of a gentleman in cardiac arrest. The department's hiring list has expired and a call for lateral applicants has netted zero applications. Dixon added that hiring officers in the future is going to be an issue across the profession. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his monthly report by department. There were no questions.

Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick reviewed the monthly zoning activity, noting 61 permits issued. This is up 6.3% from last year. Step-by-Step Daycare is in the final inspection phase; Roma's has their new kitchen open but the expanded dining area is still under construction. All other construction projects are in a holding pattern with nothing new to report. Reddick is waiting to hear back from the attorney for 58 N. Williams regarding working on a timeline for rehabbing the house. We're still waiting on a court date for the Virginia Street property. There was nothing new to report on the other nuisance properties. There have been no updates to the Village's Zoning Map in the last year, so no publication is required. There were no questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Edmar Schreiber addressed the board to thank them for their work on issues related to the property at 781 Roosevelt.

Scott Sarandis, 96 N. Williams, addressed the board regarding concerns on his road ranging from flooding issues with the storm drains, to deteriorating streets & curbing, to issues with Clearwave fiber installation. Sarandis presented Mayor Bost with a packet of photos for follow-up.

Nathaniel Rainey, 408 Winona, addressed the board regarding continued concerns over sinkholes and deterioration of his yard and asked the board to assist in addressing his issues.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions presented for consideration.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Bost stated that a recommendation has been forwarded from the PC/ZBA regarding the creation of a special use category for specialty agriculture in RS-5 and RS-8 zoning districts. This recommendation includes the layout for Ordinance 2023-01, including performance standards that spell out acreage, type and number of livestock, etc. Trustee Keister asked how the PC/ZBA came up with the number of allowable livestock; Reddick answered that their figure was initially based on USDA recommendations of 1 head per first 2 acres and then 1 head per acre after that, but that the board then settled on allowing only 2. Trustee Dugger asked if the ordinance as presented needed to be voted on as-is or if it can be amended; Attorney Balsters stated that the board can reject the recommendation and then amend the ordinance for the next meeting if they choose to do so. Trustee Lowrance argued whether or not the ordinance can be amended and voted on at this meeting. Balsters stated that since this ordinance stems from the recommendation by the PC/ZBA, this board can accept or reject that recommendation and, if rejected, the Village Board can amend the ordinance for the next meeting; no adjustments to tonight's ordinance will be made "on the fly", Balsters added that an agenda item should be available for review by the public prior to being acted upon. Trustee Lowrance asked what would happen if there is no motion on the recommendation by the PC/ZBA; there was discussion of the petitioner then being stripped of their right to "judicial review"; Balsters stated that if the matter is to be acted upon at all, then it needs to be voted on at this meeting. If the recommendation fails, then this ordinance dies and can be amended for the next meeting. Trustee Lowrance asked if the motion can be

to reject the recommendation, in order to avoid confusion. The motion can be to accept or reject the PC/ZBA recommendation. **Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Dugger, to reject the recommendation of the PC/ZBA as it relates to the establishment of a special use category for Specialty Agriculture in RS-5 and RS-8 zoning districts.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0 and the recommendation was rejected.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2023-01 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 40-Zoning Code was not voted on since the recommendation from the PC/ZBA did not pass.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Business District façade grants will be awarded to Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Home, Step by Step Day Care, and St. Louis Regional Airport as discussed in committee meetings.

Village offices will be closed April 7 for Good Friday.

The Bethalto Rotary Club has requested use of Central Park on April 8 for their annual Easter Egg hunt. Trustee Lowrance asked if the Village is going to check with our liability insurance company to determine their stance on such an event, adding that “if we’re doing it for one we better do it for all” and that he will only vote to approve this event if the Village will check with our insurance provider. Mayor Bost stated we will check. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Keister, to approve the use of Central Park by Bethalto Rotary on April 8 for their annual Easter Egg hunt.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The February Treasurer's report was presented by Joe Hughes, with revenues and expenses reviewed. The Village's ending cash balance decreased \$320k from the previous month. There were no questions. **Motion made by Keister, seconded by Lowrance, to approve the Treasurer's Report for February, 2023.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee meetings will be held on March 27 at 6pm. Mayor Bost asked the board to bring their suggestions for updating the specialty agriculture ordinance to that meeting.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Motion made by Mull, seconded by Lowrance, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$132,679.89. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Lowrance, seconded by Mull, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$193,774.43. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Tweedy, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$55,194.24. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

TIF FUND

Motion made by Tweedy, seconded by Perkhiser, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$103,592.43. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 10, 2023, at 7:00pm in the Council Room of Village Hall.

Having no further business, **a motion was made by Perkhiser, seconded by Lowrance, to adjourn the meeting.** All trustees voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor