

**VILLAGE OF BETHALTO
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2025, 6:00PM
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Members Present:

Gary Bost	Terri Keister
Brady Dugger	Tim Tweedy
Maria Perkhiser	Rachel Sontag

Also Present:

Village Clerk Sue Lowrance	PW Director Rod Cheatham
Police Chief Jason Lamb	Village Attorney Ken Balsters

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gary Bost at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers of Village Hall.

Rosewood Café-Tija Hunter-Liquor License Request

Tija Hunter, owner of Rosewood Café at 961 E. Airline Drive, is requesting a Class B liquor license for her café, noting that she would like to offer wine, mimosas, etc. and hold special occasional events such as wine tastings and Sunday brunches, possibly even outside since they have a large outdoor area available. Mayor Bost noted that the board has guidelines on issuing liquor licenses, stating they are generally required to be a full-service restaurant, bar, or gas station, and added that an outdoor license would be a separate license. Bost provided Hunter with our liquor license application, noting the \$300 fee for a Class B license, and provided the State's application which requires a fee of \$750. Liquor License Class B was discussed, noting it is for beer and wine with an alcohol volume of less than 12%. A full tavern license would be required to offer anything "stronger". Bost reviewed our license issuing process, noting that we have no licenses currently available but can amend our current ordinance to add one should the board decide to do so. The consensus was to bring the amendment to a vote at the May meeting.

EPA Letter RE: PFAS

The Village, along with 47 other water plants, received a notice from the IEPA regarding the level of PFAS in our water, along with a requirement to send notifications to all our water customers regarding these findings. This notice resulted from testing done in April 2022, which showed Village levels at 13 parts per trillion, which is over the EPA's new "acceptable level" of 10 parts per trillion. Public Works Director Cheatham stated that PFAS are present in almost everything, from Teflon to carpet to clothing to dental floss, and have been present since 1940. Cheatham also added that this test was done prior to water treatment, and he believes levels are likely to be around 6 parts per trillion after treatment. This has not been evaluated but tests have been ordered. Cheatham stated that he contacted IEPA's Springfield office regarding this notice, as the Collinsville IEPA office was not even aware the notices were sent out, and

we've received an extension on mailing out our letters as we wanted to provide more information to residents in the mailer and help educate about what PFAS are and where they come from. Schwarzkopf Printing has the mailer and will be printing and sending that out on our behalf. Cheatham added that IEPA seems to have jumped the gun regarding these findings, and even though they've stated that corrections must be made by 2029, they have not said what those corrections should be and how to accomplish them. Trustees noted this is ill-timed due to the recent outcry over discolored water within the Village. Cheatham reiterated that, like the discolored water, the level of PFAS in our water is no more of a health issue now than it has been for the past several decades; of course we want to provide safe water to our customers, so we will do whatever steps the IEPA finds are necessary to ensure that happens.

Parking Violation Ordinance-final reading

Mayor Bost presented the final reading of the proposed Parking Violation Ordinance update, which increases the fine for a parking ticket from \$5 to \$50, with late fees added incrementally for non-payment. Chief Lamb agrees with the fines included and added that at some point the board should also review our tow release fees, which are quite low compared to other municipalities. The mayor asked Lamb to research what other departments charge for tow releases and the board will discuss an update to those as well. There were no questions, and the ordinance will be presented for consideration at the May meeting.

Department Head Recommendations

Mayor Bost presented his proposed Department Head appointments so trustees could review them prior to voting at the May meeting. Bost asked the board to let him know if they have any questions or concerns regarding these appointments.

Playground Behind Bandstand

Mayor Bost touched base with the board regarding plans to construct an all-inclusive playground in the area behind the bandstand in Central Park. Bost noted that this is a prime spot due to its central location, parking availability, and accessibility to restrooms. Bost added that he received a letter from a young resident asking for such a playground and added that Gordon Moore Park has some inclusive equipment but that not all playgrounds offer it. Everything would be ADA compliant with wheelchair accessibility, rubberized surfaces, and safe spaces. We would utilize Madison County PEP Grant funding for the project, which would cost approximately \$140k. Our allotted PEP grant funds for this year are \$73,549. Trustee Keister asked if there was enough space at that location; Cheatham believes there is and that the space is unused even during events in the park. Keister asked if this would affect trail funding; Bost responded no, as this grant must be used for park enhancement only. Cheatham added that our crews would do prep work, but that a contractor would complete construction of the playground as installation would be too technical. Trustee Dugger asked if we could fund the project over a couple of years like we did the Splash Pad; Bost noted we are in a better financial position now than we were then and that since the property lies within the Business District, some of those funds could be allocated for this as well. Attorney Balsters asked the board to consider how events like concerts in the park might affect or be affected by a playground, and how future use of the old water office might play into things. Trustees noted that there is no

other “good location” for such a playground within the park and that families using the playground would adapt to any events, not seeing any real conflicts.

Trustee Keister then expressed concern over what she believes to be a lack of communication within the board, especially when it comes down to issues such as the email received over the weekend from a disgruntled developer regarding the withdrawal of plans for development at the 140/Moreland Road intersection, the recent soccer field issues, or even the IEPA PFAS notice. Keister added that she feels the board has no input, can give no feedback, and that committees aren’t utilized as they should be when it comes to progress within the Village. Keister stated that “trustees get the flack” but that she feels like she can’t do her job due to lack of communication and not knowing about certain issues going on. Bost stated that sometimes items cannot or should not be discussed in a public forum, which all Village meetings are, due to privacy issues as some businesses don’t want information out until a deal is finalized. Bost noted it would be irresponsible to let information out that should not be released. Keister stated that our committee structure is unclear, and that standing committees should meet on a regular basis, not just the committee-as-a-whole. Balsters noted that he couldn’t speak for the soccer field issue, but that the issue with the development at Moreland Road came down to the developer not wanting to follow our Subdivision Code. Preliminary plats for developments go through the Plan Commission for recommendation prior to coming to the Village Board for approval; this developer pulled their presentation the day before the Plan Commission was set to meet, so the village board would not have been involved at that point. Balsters added that this plat was of concern due to the developer only wanting to develop one part of the land and trying to propose a preliminary plat on that one piece rather than the entire parcel. There are drainage issues and access issues for that property, thus the need to see an entire plan, not just a piece of it. Balsters again stated that the Village was only asking them to follow our code, nothing else. Keister understood but still expressed concern over the lack of communication, the purpose of committees, and stated that she may even be misunderstanding the role of the trustee.

Having no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Bost at 6:36pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk