VILLAGE OF BETHALTO
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2026, 6:00PM
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present:

Gary Bost	Brady Dugger	Maria Perkhiser	Terri Keister
Jeff Mull	Rachel Sontag	Jay Wright	

Also Present:

Village Clerk Sue Lowrance Public Works Director Rod Cheatham

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

Solicitor Permit Fee Updates

Following research into other municipalities' fees and further discussion, the proposed solicitor permit fees are a $50 non-refundable application fee and a $50 daily permit fee, assessed per person rather than per company. The changes would help address applicants failing to return and pay after background checks are completed. The proposed fees exceed those of some municipalities but align with others. With no questions raised, an update of our current ordinance will be proposed at the November or December meeting for implementation on January 1st.

Cannabis Dispensary Consideration

Mayor Bost requested Board direction on amending the ordinance banning dispensaries in the Village. One party has expressed interest in opening a dispensary if permitted, but Bost will not begin discussions until he understands the Board's position. Trustee Mull compared dispensaries to gaming machines, which initially drew controversy but have caused few issues. He reported that several residents he spoke with supported the potential revenue if the location was appropriate and away from neighborhoods. Mull added that little Village oversight would be needed once guidelines were established. Bost noted that federal guidelines are changing in January and would need consideration if the Village proceeds. Trustee Keister said cannabis purchasers will travel to obtain it and argued that Bethalto should share in the revenue, noting that all surrounding municipalities have dispensaries. Trustee Wright agreed that he would prefer to see revenue remain in Bethalto rather than go to neighboring cities. Keister proposed an advisory question on the April ballot to gauge residents' views. Wright asked how the Board would respond to a close vote; discussion would continue, and the Board would retain final authority. Trustees agreed that location was the primary concern. Wright noted that the interested party has a sound business model and understands its customer base, suggesting he sees Bethalto as a suitable location and that the proposal merits consideration. Discussion of an advisory ballot question continued. Bost noted that Godfrey is also placing

electrical aggregation on the ballot and asked whether Bethalto should do the same. Resolutions for ballot questions will need to pass by January.

1 Shot Liquor Discussion

At the October Board meeting, a resident raised concerns about litter from one-shot liquor bottles and suggested a ban. Mayor Bost reported that a distributor described the bottles as popular products occupying prime store space. Trustees noted that soda cups and hamburger wrappers are also common litter but are not banned. Discussion included concerns that the bottles may indicate underage drinking and driving under the influence because their contents can easily be poured into cups and the bottles discarded. Trustees also discussed banning individual small bottles while allowing multi-packs; Trustee Wright indicated he could support that approach. Bost said legal questions require review and would ask the Village attorney to determine whether a ban would be enforceable, noting that the current Kratom ban would likely not hold up in court. With the Board's support, Bost announced that research would proceed with further discussion at future meetings.

Burn Permit Updates

A recent large fire on a resident's property highlighted the need to review and update the burn permit ordinance. Although the resident obtained a valid open burn permit for land clearing, gaps in the current policy allowed the fire to smolder for days, prompting numerous residents' complaints. Mayor Bost presented two proposed permit applications—one for open burning and one for recreational burning—for Board review and discussion. The proposals would limit fire size and establish other requirements. Permits would remain free, and the Fire Chief could grant exceptions to specific requirements on a case-by-case basis. Bost requested feedback to advance the proposal at an upcoming meeting.

Proposed Riverbend Enterprise Zone Update

An ordinance revising the Riverbend Enterprise Zone boundaries will be presented at the November Board meeting. Bost distributed the proposed changes and ordinance for consideration. The changes do not affect Bethalto, where all current commercial property is already within the Zone.

November Planning & Zoning Board meeting

The November Planning & Zoning Board meeting will be held a week early due to Thanksgiving and is scheduled for November 19th. One item on the agenda is the appeal of Michael Paslay for a metal carport that he constructed at 308 Logan Street before realizing it was a violation of code. Since construction, Paslay has submitted plans to update the carport in attempt to satisfy code, but PW Director Cheatham noted there are still significant structural, load and updraft issues with his proposal. There are several ordinances the carport does not comply with. Everyone agreed that Paslay is doing great work with rehabilitating homes in that area, but that code must be followed. Bost stated he wanted the Board to have all the information for review so they can attend the meeting and be informed. Once the Planning & Zoning Board renders a recommendation, it will come to the Village Board for final action.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk