

**VILLAGE OF GREENHILLS**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MARCH 27, 2018**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Council of the Village of Greenhills was called to order on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor David Moore. Present were: Mayor Moore, and Messrs. Jeff Covode, Glenn Drees, Jeff Halter and Jack Lee and Ms. Melanie Hermes and Maria Waltherr. Also present was: Kathy Lives, Clerk of Council.

Municipal Manager Evonne Kovach, who was on vacation and Law Director Jeff Forbes, who was caught in a traffic jam, were excused by unanimous consent.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION/PRAYER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

After a prayer led by Ms. Waltherr, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The February 27, 2018 Regular Council meeting minutes and the March 13, Work Session minutes were approved as submitted.

**RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

This is the time for citizens to comment on matters before Council. When recognized, please come forward to the lectern, give your name and address and then state your comments or questions. This is not intended to be a dialogue with Council or Village staff. If you have questions, the questions will be recorded and referred to the Manager's office for response. This will allow time for thoughtful and thorough consideration to be given to each question. Council meetings are recorded for ease of transcription. Comments are limited to 3 minutes.

Ms. Jennifer Weikert, Manager of the Greenhills Branch Library, spoke as a citizen in support of the upcoming 1 mil library levy which will be on the May 8, 2018 ballot as Issue 3. She explained in detail the services offered to the half million cardholders throughout Hamilton County, including registration and early voting, homework help and reading programs for children. In 2013, the Hamilton County Library received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service which is the top honor for libraries and museums along with many other awards. In 20 years, the library has not had a budget increase. After a comprehensive study, a free-standing branch has been identified as a priority for the Village of Greenhills community. The one mil levy will amount to \$3.00 per \$100,000 of property evaluation. She then urged all citizens to vote for the levy on May 8, 2018.

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Ms. Waltherr expressed appreciation for the “curb service” offered to the residents at the Greenhills branch library. In answer to a question by Ms. Waltherr, Ms. Weikert indicated additional information about the levy can be found at [voteforcincylibrary.com](http://voteforcincylibrary.com).

In response to a question by Mr. Halter, Ms. Weikert explained the library administration advocates diligently for additional state funding. Mr. Halter suggested that Council pass a motion or resolution in support of the levy.

Ms. Monique Maisenhalter, 154 Junefield, expressed concern about increased costs to Village residents, including the monthly trash collection fee, and requested Council to find another way to pay for refuse collection. She also indicated her support for the Police Department, but opposes a tax levy to fund this service. Ms. Maisenhalter said she has spoken to many long-time residents who are unhappy about decisions made by Council in regard to cost increases, demolition of historic properties and more. She indicated her belief that it is on public record that Council approved paying approximately \$160,000 to demolish historic residential properties without attempting to first sell the properties for renovation. At this point, Mr. Bob English, 19 Jewel Lane, another potential speaker, yielded his time to Ms. Maisenhalter who concluded her remarks by asking that the police tax levy be abandoned, demolitions be halted, garbage collection fees be removed, and alternative ways to pay for raises and other projects be found.

Ms. Pat Andwan, 32 Chalmers Lane, offered support for the library tax levy. She then offered her strong opposition to the demolitions that have recently taken place and criticized Council for this and other actions Council has taken and may be considering in the future.

## **REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

### **Police Chief Ferdelman for the Municipal Manager**

Greenhills *Spring Clean Up* Leaf Collection – The Village of Greenhills Service Department will collect leaves on April 9-13, 2018. Each Greenhills street will get at least one pass by the leaf truck. To ensure your leaves are collected, please have them raked into neat piles along the right-of-way prior to April 9<sup>th</sup>. Avoid raking leaves into street gutters where they may clog storm drains or behind parked cars where the leaf truck cannot reach. After April 13, 2018, citizens may bag leaves for collection by Rumpke on the regular collection day.

The Village of Greenhills has been recognized for the 33<sup>rd</sup> year as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. Tree City USA designation signifies a commitment to effective urban forest management. In order to qualify, the Village satisfied four requirements: a tree board, a tree care ordinance, an annual forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. The Arbor Day celebration this year will be on April 27, 2018 at the Marquardt House.

The Village of Greenhills is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The traditional gift for an 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary is oak—so it seemed only fitting to celebrate trees throughout the community. The Village is inviting residents and friends of Greenhills to donate the planting of these 80 oak trees. For a donation of \$100, the Village will plant an oak tree and add your name to a time capsule, along with a

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photo of the tree that was planted thanks to your donation. If you purchase a Memorial Tree through the Village's Memorial Tree Program, your name, as well as the name of the person honored, will be placed in the time capsule. The Village will kick off 80 oak plantings on Arbor Day, April 27, 2018 at the Marquardt House.

The Blue Dot Buddy Program is a collaborative initiative designed to identify and locate the members of the elderly community who do not have any known support system and who are located within the boundaries of the Greenhills and Forest Park area. The two main objectives are to make certain that basic life needs are being met and to establish an informal support network by cross matching local members of the elderly community who are alone and in a similar situation,

In response to a question raised by Ms. Walther, Mayor Moore indicated no decision has been as yet regarding "historical" plaques at the entrances/exits of the Village.

#### **Law Director – Jeff Forbes**

The Law Director filed the following written report with Council.

#### **Legislative Update**

HB 410 – TRAFFIC CAMERAS – Passed by the House. Sponsored by Rep. Seitz (R - Cincinnati) and Rep. Butler (R - Oakwood), this bill would deduct Local Government Fund (LGF) distributions from municipalities in the exact amount of revenue which that municipality generates via traffic citations issued by traffic cameras. This is despite a ruling from the Ohio Supreme Court last year that stated municipalities had the Home Rule authority to use traffic cameras to issue traffic citations. This legislation seeks to penalize municipalities from exercising their Home Rule rights as upheld by the highest court in the state.

HB 478 – SMALL CELL FACILITIES – This is a new bill to address small cell facilities in municipal right of way, in response to courts declaring a previous bill unconstitutional. Several groups representing wireless infrastructure groups presented opponent testimony.

#### **Other items of interest**

On February 28, 2018, an appeal was filed in the Tenth District Court of Appeals in the lawsuit challenging the net profits centralized collection provision included in the state operating budget bill, HB 49. In addition, a Motion to Stay the lower court judgment was filed on March 16, 2018. A motion in opposition was filed on March 20, 2018. No decision has been rendered yet on the question of the stay. In the meantime, RITA has provided additional correspondence indicating that its initial recommended legislation did not include the required language related to the collection election for corporate taxpayers. RITA has now provided additional recommended legislation to adopt this required language. Greenhills will need to amend its local tax ordinances in order to be compliant with this provision. That legislation can be prepared for a future agenda.

#### **Clerk of Council – Kathy Lives**

The March 2018 Community Calendar and Ordinance No. 01-2018 and Resolutions 2018-06-F and 2018-07-S&S were posted as required.

### **Chief of Police – Neil Ferdelman**

Officers of the Greenhills Police Department, in conjunction with the Drug Abuse Reduction Task Force (DART), and with the assistance of the Colerain Police Department and their canine unit, simultaneously executed search warrants at two residences on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 2:15 PM, resulting in five drug charges. Both residences were near schools, which under Ohio law, increases the severity of the charges. The initial warrant was at 31 Farragut Road. Methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia were found in the residence, and several adults were arrested on drug charges. Charged were: Kim Caudill, 48, of Farragut Road in Greenhills, charged with Possession of Drugs, a Fifth Degree Felony; and Possession of Drug Abuse Instruments, a Second Degree Misdemeanor; Zachery Murphy, 30, of Farragut Road in Greenhills, charged with Possession of Drug Abuse Instruments, a First Degree Misdemeanor; and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a Fourth Degree Misdemeanor; Nicholas Nolan, 23, of Cincinnati, charged with Drug Abuse, a minor misdemeanor. A child at this location was removed from the residence and turned over to the care of Hamilton County Family Services.

The second search warrant was served minutes later at 65 Gambier Circle, where heroin and methamphetamine were also found. Two adults have been charged from this residence: Jeffrey Schwab, 48, of Gambier Circle in Greenhills, charged with Drug Possession, a Fifth Degree Felony; and Possession of Drug Instruments, a First Degree Misdemeanor; Patricia Schwab, 71, of Gambier Circle in Greenhills, charged with Permitting Felony Drug Abuse, a First Degree Misdemeanor.

Further charges may result when lab results are received after testing of suspected drugs confiscated during the execution of the search warrants. These actions are the result of complaints and intelligence received, and continues the department's goal of addressing drug abuse and drug trafficking occurring in the community.

Greenhills Police Officer Michael Willis will be honored by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) at their Awards of Excellence Recognition Event on March 29, 2018 in Blue Ash. The event is held to recognize and honor the very best in law enforcement in Southwest Ohio – distinguished officers who have made a significant impact to help stop impaired driving. Congratulations were extended to Officer Willis.

The Mayors of both Greenhills and Forest Park, as well as other representatives of each municipality, delivered lunch to area residents in conjunction with the Meals on Wheels program on March 14, 2018.

The Police Department was recently awarded from the State of Ohio another bike helmet grant. Last years, 36 helmets awarded, the year 56. The plan is to distribute these helmets during community events such Pioneer Days, Harvest Fest, etc. If a helmet is needed immediately, please contact the Police Department at 825-2101.

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On March 8, 2018, the Board of Advisors of the Regional Crime Information Center (RCIC) approved the department's request for a second RCIC terminal at Greenhills Police headquarters. The terminal will be placed in the booking room, a move that will increase efficiency and enhance officer safety. The new terminal will allow officers to access criminal history information without leaving the booking room.

As the result of the switch to a collection service run by the Ohio Attorney General's office, fines are being collected at a much faster rate for unpaid traffic citations. The state service takes funds from winnings from the Ohio Lottery and State Income Tax refunds and diverts them to unpaid debts owed to Greenhills. Since February 1, 2018, Police Clerk Vonda Secoy took in \$15,205.00 in fines and collections for deposit into the Greenhills General Fund.

In an effort to ensure greater security and identification protection for customers and to comply with federal regulations, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles is introducing a single, central point of production for state driver licenses and identification cards, effective July 2, 2018. Licenses and identification cards will no longer be produced while you wait at a local Deputy Registrar office. While motorists will still go to their Deputy Registrar's office for license and card renewals or other transactions, they will receive their driver licenses and identification cards by mail rather than over the counter. Only a temporary proof of transaction will be issued at a Deputy Registrar location. The extra level of security provided through centralized card production provides greater protection against counterfeiting and complies with all state and federal security standards. Ohio will be joining 41 other states to provide driver licenses and identification cards through the mail.

In Austin Texas, two persons have been killed and multiple persons were injured in the past few weeks as they innocently opened packages sent by a single deranged individual. Fearing copycats, the Department of Homeland Security recently issued a bulletin with a refresher course on suspicious mail and packages. Contact the Police Department if anything that appears suspicious or out of the ordinary. Additional information is on the Village of Greenhills website.

During the month of February, the department investigated three accidents (down from 13 in February of 2017), three crimes (the same as last February), and 126 other incidents (up from 112 last February). Of a total of 513 contacts (500 last February), 228 were dispatched or received by telephone as compared to 260 last February, and 285 were self-initiated by police officers as compared to 240 last February. The department provided assistance to the public in 110 instances (70 times last February), assisted other agencies 16 times (down from 22 times last February), and made 26 criminal arrests (compared to 23 last February) and 65 traffic arrests (100 last February). Each crime was analyzed for geographic, temporal, and other factors.

Ms. Walther expressed appreciation to Chief Ferdelman for agreeing to check the Commons for used needles prior to events beginning at this site.

Ms. Walther questioned if there will be two licenses issued, one for driving and one for identification purposes only; Chief Ferdelman indicated he would research this question.

**Mayor – David Moore, Court Receipts**

Court receipts for February 2018 – Village of Greenhills - \$5,573.38; State of Ohio - \$1,200.70; Hamilton County \$42.00; total \$6,816.08

For those who spoke earlier in the meeting and subsequently left, Mayor Moore commented the financial situation of the Village is no different from those of the public library and other communities. The State has done very well in balancing its budgets on the backs of local and county governments and the libraries. A significant cost is the work force, and the Village wages need to be compatible with other communities in order to keep trained employees. He noted an increase in taxes affects Council members also. The garbage collection issue was under discussion for approximately three years before a decision was made. The public was welcome to attend those discussions.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance and Audit – Glenn Drees**

Mr. Drees offered the following in reference to comments made during Communications from the Public:

- Council lives in the Village and is subject to the actions it takes. Encouraged residents to contact any member of Council for an explanation, clarification or suggestions related to Village issues.
- The Village of Greenhills is diverse in age and many other ways. Pointed out this is a great place to live for retirees given the tax rates and amenities.
- Stated several years ago, the Village of Greenhills hired an outside contractor to assess the structures that were demolished. At that time, the professional contractor stated said structures were functionally obsolete and the cost to renovate the structures would be prohibitive in terms of rental income. After careful consideration, Council made the decision to tear down the structures to make way for re-development.
- Some small steps have been made to make police wages equitable with other departments in the area, but this has not been enough. A survey of starting pay for police officers in Hamilton County ranked Greenhills 29 out of the 34 departments surveyed; top pay for police personnel was not any better. The number one job of local government is public safety—police, fire and EMS. In order to maintain the current quality of the Police Department, who is CALEA certified, officers pay must improve.
- Ms. Andwan is a frequent visitor at the Municipal Building, including Council meetings, and a critic of high taxes. She pays \$83.26 in property taxes every six months which equates to approximately \$.456 per day as her portion of taxes to the Village of Greenhills for all the services and amenities the Village offers.

### **Inter-Governmental Affairs, Laws and Rules – Jack Lee**

Mr. Lee concurred with Mr. Dree's above comments.

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The Laws and Rules Committee met on March 26, 2018 to discuss shopping center signage and restrictions related to golf carts and to hear updates on medical marijuana and abandoned cars throughout the community.

### **Community Development – Jeff Halter**

The Community Development Committee will meet on April 5, 2018, 5:15 p.m., Municipal Building.

The repeal of the inheritance tax and the drug epidemic requiring more demand are some of the issues that have placed an increase stress on the Village budget. Offered his support for the Police Levy and encouraged residents to understand the concepts of issues and to vote the consciences on this and other issues.

### **Services and Streets – Jeff Covode**

As he is moving out of the area, Mr. Jeff Covode officially announced and submitted his resignation verbally a member of Council effective March 29, 2018 for the term expiring December 31, 2019. Messrs. Drees and Lee and Ms. Waltherr reminisced about past events and thanked Mr. Covode for his many years of service to the Village of Greenhills.

Because of the resignation of Mr. Covode, Services and Streets Committee meetings have been suspended.

### **Safety – Melanie Hermes**

The Safety Committee will meet on April 24, 2018, 5:15 p.m., Municipal Building.

Pointed out that levies are an opportunity for citizens to express their stand on issues. Council takes all matters seriously. Encouraged residents to attend Council meetings or to contact Council members, Police Chief or other Village officials for additional information and input on the Police levy or other areas of interest or concern.

### **Recreation and Cable Television – Maria Waltherr**

Attended the March 14, 2018 meeting of the Community Programming Board; the next meeting is scheduled on June 13, 2018. Summer programs for junior and senior students are available; additions information in on the Waycross Community Media website.

Due to the resignation of Mr. Covode, all Recreation Committee meetings are suspended.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **1. ORDINANCE 2018-02-L&R**

*Amending Section 505 of the Village of Greenhills Codified Ordinances to Include Restrictions on Tethering Dogs* was read in full for the second time by Mr. Lee.

Mr. Lee moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Halter.

No discussion.

Voting as follows: "Aye" – Covode, Drees, Halter, Hermes, Lee and Waltherr; "No" – none.  
 Ordinance No. 2018-02-L&R adopted 6-0 by roll call vote.

## **2. ORDINANCE 2018-03-L&R**

*Repealing Chapter 745 of the Village of Greenhills Codified Ordinances Regarding Market Place Sales* was read in full for the second time by Mr. Lee.

Mr. Lee moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Drees.

Lee – The market stand will be treated in a similar fashion as the gazebo, picnic shelter, and so forth with the appropriate fees.

Voting as follows: "Aye" – Covode, Drees, Halter, Hermes, Lee and Waltherr; "No" – none.  
 Ordinance No. 2018-03-L&R adopted 6-0 by roll call vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. RESOLUTION NO. 2018-08-F**

*Resolution Authorizing Increases for Certain Village Employees* was read in full by Mr. Drees

Mr. Drees moved to adopt, seconded by Ms. Waltherr

No discussion.

Voting as follows: "Aye" – Covode, Drees, Halter, Hermes, Lee and Waltherr; "No" – none.  
 Resolution No. 2018-08-F adopted 6-0 by roll call vote.

### **2. RESOLUTION NO. 2018-09-F**

*Resolution Transferring Funds from General Fund to Pool Fund* was read in full by Mr. Drees

Mr. Drees moved to adopt, seconded by Ms. Waltherr.

Drees – This transfer represents funds needed to prepare the pool for the upcoming season.

Voting as follows: "Aye" – Covode, Drees, Halter, Hermes, Lee and Waltherr; "No" – none.

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Resolution No. 2018-09-F adopted 6-0 by roll call vote.

Mr. Drees moved, seconded Ms. Waltherr, to amend the agenda to add as Item 3 under New Business, a motion regarding the upcoming library tax levy. Voting as follows: "Aye" – Covode, Drees, Halter, Hermes, Lee and Waltherr; "No" – none. Motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote.

3. Mr. Lee moved, seconded by Ms. Waltherr, to publically endorse and urged passage of Hamilton County Library Levy of one mil, which will appear as Issue 3 on the May 6, 2018 ballot. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### CALENDAR

Golf Course opens April 1, 2018, weather permitting

Easter Egg Hunt, April 1, 2018, 2:00 p.m. on the Commons

Community Development, April 5, 2018. 5:15 p.m., Municipal Building

The time of the April 10, 2018 work session was changed from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., Municipal Building.

Laws and Rules Committee, April 23, 2018, 9:00 a.m., Municipal Building

Safety Committee meeting, April 24, 2018, 5:15 p.m., Municipal Building

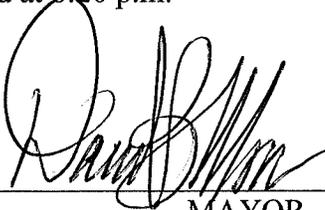
Spaghetti Dinner at the American Legion, April 27, 2018, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Contact a member of the American Legion or Councilwoman Maria Waltherr for further information.

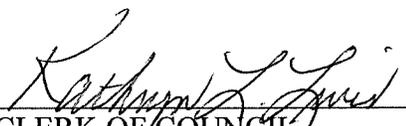
Arbor Day, April 27, 2018

Concerts on the Commons begin on May 30, 2018

### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business forthcoming, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

  
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 MAYOR

  
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 CLERK OF COUNCIL