

VILLAGE OF GREENHILLS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2018 | 7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Councilmembers Jeff Halter, Melanie Hermes, Jack Lee, Natashia Metz and Maria Waltherr. Also present were Chief of Police & Acting Municipal Manager Neil Ferdelman, Law Director Jeff Forbes and Acting Clerk of Council David Lumsden. Councilmember Glenn Drees and Municipal Manager Evonne Kovach were excused without objection.

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

Following 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 minutes for the September 25, 2018 Regular Council meeting and the October 9, 2018 Council Work Session were approved as submitted.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

No members of the public addressed Council.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Acting Municipal Manager – Neil Ferdelman

Owing to the absence of Municipal Manager Evonne Kovach, Chief of Police Neil Ferdelman, as Acting Municipal Manager, presented her report.

The Manager's report said the water main replacement project is underway. Notification letters were delayed due to a technical error. Greater Cincinnati Water Works is working to send updated and corrected notices to residents. GCWW anticipates completion of the main replacement in May of next year. Access for residents will be maintained during the project. Residents with questions or concerns may contact Greater Cincinnati Water Works or the contractor directly; phone numbers for both are available on the Village website or by contacting the Village.

Leaf collection has begun for the season and is scheduled to be conclude on November 28th. As a reminder, please do not place sticks or branches in leaf piles.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works is working to repair a water main break that occurred today along Winton Road across from the Shopping Center.

Law Director – Jeffrey Forbes

Mr. Forbes had no report.

Ms. Waltherr thanked Mr. Forbes and Wood & Lamping for their donation to Harvest Fest 2018.

Acting Clerk of Council – David Lumsden

Resolutions 2018-29-F, 2018-30-S&S and 2018-31-F were posted as required, along with the October Community Calendar.

Chief of Police – Neil Ferdelman

Greenhills Police Officer Zzach Clark responded to a call at Bargains and Buyouts in Greenhills to investigate the possible misuse of a credit card. The furniture thefts at Bargains and Buyouts began on August 31st in an amount over \$20,000 and continued onto September 3rd when over \$30,000 in purchases were made. Using the fraudulent credit cards, the gang of criminals since June bought alcohol, more than a dozen vehicles from small car lots, and even rented the trucks used in the commission of the furniture thefts. Other charges are still pending that will add to the current estimated loss of over \$100,000 in goods and services. Greenhills Police Chief Neil Ferdelman stated that “This investigation serves as a reminder that merchants must be alert for new and innovative methods used by criminals to steal their merchandise. It also shows that law enforcement will work together to apprehend criminals wherever the evidence leads.” He thanked the other agencies and the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office for all of the work done to bring the charges placed so far. He also commended Greenhills Officer Clark for his initiative and excellent instincts to quickly organize the investigation that led to the charges.

The Greenhills Police Department partnered with its Citizens Police Academy (CPA) Alumni at the Greenhills Harvest Fest celebration on Saturday, October 6th. Volunteers Jim Hadley, Jim Zeller, Beth Bolce-Owen, Kathy Fisher and Paul & Mary Ann Odegard staffed the Police Department booth and gave out fliers, magnets and Junior Greenhills Police badges. Children were able to sit in a cruiser, seeing the controls, video system and computer equipment.

Greenhills’ newest police officer, Cody M. Ritchie, was sworn in at the September 25th Council Meeting. Officer Ritchie’s family and friends attended the meeting to witness his swearing in. Incidentally, Officer Ritchie wasted no time in making friends in our community. After his departmental orientation, he has been assigned to a senior officer for field training and during this period, responded to a traffic crash on October 13th. One of the persons involved wrote: “Officer Ritchie responded to an accident at Junefield and Jewel tonight (I was a passenger in the car). He made the process fairly painless. What impressed me most was his compassionate approach while still conducting his investigation and doing what he needed to do. I appreciated that kind of policing. Thank you.”

A group of Greenhills citizens formed a levy committee to support the Greenhills Police Levy, which will appear on the ballot as Issue 24 on November 6th. The levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$120 per year, or around ten dollars a month. There currently is a significant discrepancy in salary levels for Greenhills officers in contrast to other comparable communities. Consequently, the department hires officers and they stay for several years and move on to higher paying jobs elsewhere. The costs associated with hiring a new officer is in excess of \$15,000 each time this occurs, which includes training and equipment.

During the month of September, the department investigated three accidents (down from six in September of 2017), four crimes (the same as last September), and 346 other incidents (up from 219 last September). Of a total of 554 contacts (628 last September), 245 were dispatched or received by telephone as compared to 280 last September, and 309 were self-initiated by police officers as compared to 348 last September. The department provided assistance to the public in 174 instances (137 times last September), assisted other agencies 21 times (down from 31 times last September), and made 28 criminal arrests (compared to 29 last September) and 34 traffic arrests (106 last September). Each crime was analyzed for geographic, temporal, and other factors.

Mayor – David Moore, Court Receipts

Mayor Moore thanked Ms. Hermes for filling in for him at the previous meeting.

Court receipt information was not provided in advance of the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Services and Streets – Natasha Metz**

Ms. Metz stated the Committee had a meeting on October 17th. The Committee discussed the equipment schedule and the projected replacement of the leaf truck for next year. Additionally, they discussed new street sign designs. A recreation survey will be sent to residents, the Committee will report back with results.

The next meeting has been scheduled for November 14th at 9 a.m. at the Municipal Building.

Inter-Governmental Affairs, Laws and Rules – Jack Lee

Mr. Lee moved to amend the meeting's agenda to add a first read of Ordinance 2018-09-L&R. Mr. Halter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

At the previous Law Committee meeting, topics included Shopping Center signage as well as a review of the Village's dog bite ordinance.

Finance and Audit – Glenn Drees

The next meeting of the Finance Committee has been scheduled for October 26th at 8:15 a.m. at the Municipal Building.

Community Development – Jeff Halter

Mr. Halter said the gateway sign sample has been approved and bid packets have been sent to vendors for pricing.

The next meeting of the Committee is November 21st, at 5:15 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

Safety – Melanie Hermes

Ms. Hermes said she is consulting with the Committee to schedule a November meeting.

She also commended the Service Department for picking up branches following the inclement weather.

Ms. Metz said she was approached by another resident on DeWitt who had concerns about the safety of the streets for children. This resident expressed support for "children at play" signage. Mayor Moore was concerned that this type of signage can encourage play in the street. Chief Ferdelman stated residents can always call and request radar enforcement on their street if they have concerns about speed or traffic safety.

Recreation and Cable Television – Maria Waltherr

Ms. Waltherr thanked everyone for help with Harvest Fest, saying the event was successful. The efforts of volunteers helped the event go well. She thanked State Farm, Wood & Lamping and the CIC for their donations. She encouraged those with feedback, suggestions or changes to Harvest Fest should reach out to staff or the Committee members.

Ms. Waltherr expressed her deepest sympathies to the family of Len Silas, the owner of Mackensie's Workshop. Ms. Silas passed away unexpectedly prior to Harvest Fest this year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION 2018-32-S

Resolution Adopting the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (Hermes)

Ms. Hermes read the Resolution in its entirety and moved to adopt it as submitted. Ms. Waltherr seconded. Mr. Lumsden gave background on the legislation and the work being performed by the Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency. The Resolution passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

2. RESOLUTION 2018-33-F

Resolution Making Transfers from the General Fund (Drees)

Ms. Waltherr read the Resolution in its entirety and moved to adopt it as submitted. Ms. Hermes seconded. No discussion. The Resolution passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

3. RESOLUTION 2018-34-S&S

Resolution Authorizing Assessments on Certain Properties in the Village of Greenhills (Metz)

Ms. Metz read the Resolution in its entirety and moved to adopt it as submitted. Mr. Lee seconded. No discussion. The Resolution passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

4. ORDINANCE 2018-09-L&R

Amending Section 377.02 of the Greenhills Codified Ordinance Regarding the Inspection of Golf Carts (Lee)

Mr. Lee read the Ordinance for the first time by title only. He explained this legislation is amending the fee schedule and adding non-resident inspection fees for golf carts.

CALENDAR

Safety Committee meeting – November 27th, 5:15 p.m., Municipal Building.

Community Development Committee meeting – November 21st, 5:15 p.m., Municipal Building.

Services and Streets Committee meeting – November 14th, 9:00 a.m., Municipal Building.

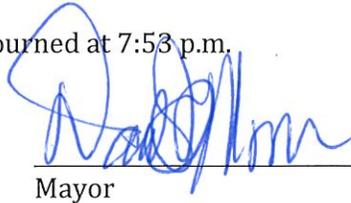
Laws and Rules Committee meeting – November 26th, 9:00 a.m., Municipal Building.

Harvest Fest meeting – November 26th, 9:00 a.m., Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business pending, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

 (acting)
Clerk of Council


Mayor