

VILLAGE OF GREENHILLS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2012 MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Greenhills, Ohio was called to order on February 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Fred Murrell. Present were: Mayor Murrell and Messrs. David Adams, Glenn Drees, Jeff Halter, Greg Hermes, Bud Wolterman and Mrs. Maria Waltherr. Also present were: Municipal Manager Evonne Kovach, Law Director Jeff Forbes, Police Chief Thomas Doyle, and Clerk of Council Kathy Lives.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Murrell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the January 3, 2012 regular Council meeting, January 17, 2012 special Council meeting, and the January 17, 2012 work session were approved as submitted.

RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – (This is the time for citizens to comment on matters before Council or to ask questions of concern to them. When recognized, please come forward to the lectern, give your name and address and then state your comments or questions. Council meetings are tape recorded for ease of transcription. Comments are limited to three minutes.)

A resident of Springfield Township addressed Council regarding the traffic sign near Beechwoods Elementary School which states “traffic restricted to 20 mph during restricted hours”. He indicated there is no way to know what are the restricted hours, and explained his daughter was cited at this site. After contacting the Greenhills Police Department, he learned the restricted hours are thirty minutes before and after school starts and ends. He then imparted his research to determine the actual restricted hours at various school zone locations, and stated the ordinary citizen would not know the law as do the police officers and those knowledgeable of school hours. He then requested Council to install blinking yellow lights or a sign listing the restricted hours at school zone sites and expunge his daughter’s citation. Mayor Murrell stated his daughter will have an opportunity plead her case when she appears before the Magistrate. The school zone signage issue was then referred to the Traffic and Safety Committee for follow up.

Ms. Cindy Emmert, board member of Winton Woods City School District, stated she is the board liaison to the Village of Greenhills. She then stated the following:

- Invited Council and the public to attend a tour of the Global Academy on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 8:00-9:00 a.m.; Leadership Cincinnati will also attend the tour.
- Residents of the Winton Woods City School District over the age of 55 are entitled to a MVP Warrior card which admits the bearer to school events and programs at no charge. Cards are available at the central office on West Kemper Road.
- On February 25, 2012, a school update meeting with Dr. Camile Nasbe, Superintendent, will be held at the Greenhills Community Center.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Municipal Manager – Evonne Kovach

- The Greater Cincinnati Water Works water main project has started. There have been some calls regarding parking. For the most part, the contractor seems to be moving along quickly. There is no specific time for the digging as this depends on the weather.
- A number of complaints regarding street lights being out have been received. Duke Energy maintains the street lights and has a very specific process for reporting non-working street lights which the Police Department uses in making the reports. Unfortunately, it takes Duke Energy up to three to six months to replace street lights. With respect to outages of traffic signal lights, citizens should notify Village administration during normal business hours and the Police Department after business hours.
- The Zoning Code update is moving forward, and the consultant has addressed additional changes recommended by the Village Solicitor and Village staff. Once the new draft has been completed, an internal proofing can be set up with the Planning Commission. Some additional meetings are anticipated for this project and perhaps some additional drafts leading to a possible increase in expense of \$1,250 in addition to the original estimate of \$8,200. Mayor Murrell noted there are items that may be of specific interest to residents, including additional regulation of recreational vehicles. Interested residents are encouraged to attend the public hearings relative to the Zoning Code update.

Mr. Wolterman noted Duke Energy actually owns the street lights and Duke is responsible to change the bulbs within 48 hours. He suggested the Village seek out a more responsive contact. Ms. Kovach stated there is in place a more responsive contact and this person is contacted when necessary; timely response to street light outages is a problem in other communities as well as Greenhills.

In response to a question asked by Mr. Drees, Ms. Kovach stated the new inspection company is doing well and compliance is being met. Additionally, a reporting system is in place.

In reply to a query by Mr. Wolterman, Ms. Kovach said the illuminated signage project has been postponed.

Law Director – Jeff Forbes

Mr. Forbes reminded Council of the requirement to attend the Sunshine Law training sometime during their term. He indicated he will attend the workshop scheduled on October 9, 2012 in Milford, Ohio.

Clerk of Council – Kathryn L. Lives

Mrs. Lives reported the January Community Calendar. Ordinance Nos. 2012-01-T&S, 2012-02-R&C, and 2012-03-CD were posted as required. Additionally, the notice of the Laws and Rules

Committee meeting on January 30, 2012 and the Traffic and Safety Committee on February 1, 2012 were also posted as required.

Chief of Police – Thomas Doyle

- In January, notification was received that the Police Department was awarded one of thirteen available automatic license plate readers (ALPR) in Hamilton County. This ALPR was awarded to the Greenhills Police Department after completion of a competitive grant process. The grant finding came from the Department of Homeland Security Grants Program. The funding will cover the purchase and installation of the camera system. If the Greenhills Police Department purchased the equipment, the amount needed for all hardware, software, and installation would have been in excess of \$20,000. Council has been provided with information which further explains what an ALPR is, how it works, and what value it will be providing to the community and agency.
- In November 2011, Officer Bryan Johnston stopped a vehicle and subsequently arrested an individual for drug offenses. During that arrest, Officer Johnston also recovered \$2,172.00 in US currency. The Police Department filed for forfeiture of these funds as department personnel believed the money was part and parcel of the individual's drug trafficking offense. The department was just notified that the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas agreed and forfeited these funds to the department. The department will share these funds with the prosecutor's office as follows: \$1,737.60 (80%) to Greenhills Police Department, and \$434.40 (20%) to Hamilton County Prosecutors Office.
- With respect to the street robbery that occurred on December 19, 2011, an arrest warrant has been issued for one of the individuals involved. Officer Ray Tensing has been working this case since its occurrence and through some dogged, old fashioned police work, he was able to identify one of the persons involved.
- The Officer Activity Report, Monthly Crime Analysis, and Personnel Early Warning System Report have been filed with Council and are available for public inspection.

Mayor – Fred Murrell, Audited Court Receipts

- Audited Court receipts for December - \$1,845.00 State of Ohio; \$6,461.00 Village of Greenhills; bonds minus \$25.00; total \$8,331.00
- Announced the *Concert on the Green* line up for 2012; bands have been booked. Encouraged residents to attend and support the concerts.
- The annual Council Retreat was held on February 4, 2012 at Molloy's with several residents in attendance. The retreat was a most worthwhile event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic & Safety – Wolterman

- The Traffic and Safety Committee met on February 1, 2012 to discuss the new LED traffic lights scheduled to be installed shortly at intersections on both sides of the shopping center.
- Also, discussed the pool passes for the Fire Department. Requested a discussion of this matter at the February 21, 2012 work session.
- Reminded all residents to indicate Greenhills on the form when renewing motor vehicle license plates.

Services & Streets – Adams

- Received questions from residents regarding aggregation rates. Suggested to these residents that they refer to the latest issue of the Greenhills Journal for a full explanation provided by the Municipal Manager.
- Referenced the corporate rate for pool membership; this will be addressed at the February 21, 2012 work session.
- The Streets and Services Committee will meet in the near future to form and update the Tree Commission.

Community Development – Halter

- Attended the Council Retreat on February 4, 2012; found it very helpful and worthwhile.
- Began the ground work to meet with and draw upon the resources of previous chairs of the Community Development Committee
- Announced a Community Development Public Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at Molloy's on the Green, 3:00-7:00 p.m., with an open house format. Bulletin boards will be posted under five categories: annual events, special event, design and communication, residential development and business development.
- Researching the possibility of having the Global Academy students attain their community services hours by assisting with projects in the village.
- Mayor Murrell noted the 75th anniversary of the Village of Greenhills will be celebrated in 2013.
- Mr. Halter indicated the Village of Greenhills will host the *Tree City USA* event in 2013.

Finance & Audit – Drees

- Recently met with the Municipal Manager and Fiscal Officer for informational purposes. A meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee will be scheduled in the near future. A regular monthly financial report is in the planning process.

Inter-Governmental Affairs, Laws & Rules – Waltherr

- On February 10, 2012, attended a Spanish Chamber of Commerce business luncheon; there were several contacts that may be of interest to the village. Provided these contacts the Municipal Manager's business card.
- Requested the village's assistance in obtaining her business cards; reimbursed the village for the cost of the cards.
- On January 17, 2012, attended the Council work session.
- On January 18, 2012, attended the Recreation Commission meeting.

- Recently joined the Greenhills Hill Toppers; encouraged residents age 55 and above to also join.
- On January 23, 2012, was introduced to the Winton Woods Board of Education.
- On January 24, 2012, was interviewed by a radio station during which she expressed the attributes of the Village of Greenhills.
- Recently attended a workshop on financing at Miami University-Hamilton Campus sponsored by the State Auditor.
- On January 27, 2012, was invited to lecture at the Winton Woods Global Academy.
- On January 28, 2012, attended the Parliamentary Procedure Workshop for Elected/Appointed Officials and the Community at the Forest Park Senior Center.
- Recently attended the Winton Woods City School District Community Focus Group meeting.
- On January 29, 2012, was interviewed by a public radio station where she again showcased in detail the attributes of the Village of Greenhills.
- On January 30, 2012, chaired the Inter-Governmental Affairs, Laws and Rules Committee at which the Rules of Council were discussed. The proposed revised Rules of Council were provided to Council with the request that this matter be discussed at the February 21, 2012 Council work session and placed on the March 6, 2012 regular Council meeting for consideration.
- On February 1, 2012, attended a Sunshine Law workshop; a Certificate of Attendance is forthcoming.
- On February 4, 2012, attended the Council Retreat.
- The next meeting of the Inter-Governmental Affairs, Laws and Rules Committee is scheduled for February 27, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Municipal Building, to discuss the personnel manual and property maintenance.

Recreation & Cable Television - Hermes

- The Recreation Commission met on January 18, 2012 to discuss goals for the year; the next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2012, 8:00 p.m., at the Municipal Building.
- Several small meetings were held with individuals who wish to become involved with the Pioneer Festival.

NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2012-04-F

A Resolution Opposing the State of Ohio Taking Control of Municipal Income Tax Collections was read in full by Mr. Drees.

Mr. Drees moved, seconded by Mrs. Waltherr, to suspend the rule requiring reading the resolution two times on two separate occasions. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

In response to a questions asked by Mr. Halter, Mr. Forbes stated that if the State legislators approve this proposal, a lawsuit would have to be filed by a municipality in conjunction with possibly the Ohio Municipal League.

Voting as follows: “Aye” – Adams, Drees, Halter, Hermes, Waltherr, and Wolterman.
Resolution No. 2012-04-F adopted 6-0 by roll call vote.

CALENDAR

- Council Work Session, February 21, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers
- Recreation Commission meeting, February 22, 2012, 8:00 p.m., Council Chambers
- Finance and Audit Committee meeting, February 23, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Municipal Building
- Inter-Governmental Affairs, Laws and Rules Committee meeting, February 27, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Municipal Building
- Community Development Committee Open House, March 7, 2012, 3:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m., Molloy’s on the Green

With no further business forthcoming, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Fred Murrell, MAYOR /s/

Kathryn L. Lives, CLERK OF COUNCIL/s/