

## VILLAGE OF GREENHILLS

### COUNCIL WORK SESSION MARCH 20, 2012 MINUTES

A work session of the Council of the Village of Greenhills, Ohio was called to order on March 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Fred Murrell. Present were: Mayor Murrell and Messrs. Adams, Drees, Halter, Hermes, Wolterman, and Mrs. Waltherr. Also present were: Municipal Manager Evonne Kovach and Clerk of Council Kathy Lives.

#### **Traffic and Safety** – Wolterman

The Traffic and Safety Committee recently met to discuss school zone signage and the vicious dog regulations.

#### **School Sign Signage**

- On the bottom of the current school zone signage, it states the speed limit is 20 mph during restricted hours.
- The law is flexible in this area, and various approaches can be taken.
- The Traffic and Safety Committee recommends removing the portion of the sign that states “during restricted hours”, and posting a 20 mph school zone sign for the entire day.
- Further review of the recommendation will be conducted by the Municipal Manager and Police Chief.
- The final verbiage on the school zone signage will be communicated to the public through the *Greenhills Journal* and other available means.

#### **Possible Changes to the Vicious Dog Ordinance**

- The State of Ohio has repealed that portion of the law that regulates specific dog breeds, namely pit bulls. This will go into effect at the end of May 2012.
- The current ordinance is adequate and workable. However, if the decision is made to keep the breed specific portion, namely the pit bull, the possibility of litigation increases.
- The recommendation of the Traffic and Safety Committee is to rescind the portion of the Codified Ordinances that refers to the pit bull breed.
- After lengthy discussion, it was decided to place this matter on a future Council meeting agenda for Council’s consideration.

#### **Laws and Rules** – Waltherr

#### **Suggested Amendments to the Rules of Council**

- Halter – Understands from the Law Director that the amendments to the Rules of Council are covered elsewhere in the Ohio Revised Code. Questioned the unduly repetitiveness, and some of the verbiage is inviting law suits. Struggles with making more rules and regulations that may offend freedom of speech. Has an issue with customizing laws because of one individual. Prefers to err on the freedom side even if it comes with some abuse.

- Hermes – Amendments appear to repetitive and redundant. It is up to the Mayor to maintain decorum.
- Waltherr – Problems with individuals addressing Council now exist, and if the amendments are not in place, the problems will continue.
- Wolterman – The public speaking portion of the meeting is not required; it is permitted to allow the public to offer constructive input.
- The amendments will appear on the April 17, 2012 Council meeting agenda for the second reading and Council's consideration.

#### Modifications to the Employee Handbook

- Waltherr – The Laws and Rules Committee had some questions relative to the Employee Handbook and the International Property Maintenance Code. A meeting of the Laws and Rules Committee has been scheduled for March 26, 2012, 9:00 a.m., to further discuss these issues.
- The village offers to eligible village employees the ability to opt out of the village health care benefit if proof is shown that he/she has other coverage. Said employees are compensated accordingly for opting out.
- If an employee drives his/her personal vehicle in the scope of his/her work and is in an accident, his/her personal insurance would respond. If she/he had inadequate or no limits and the village is sued because he/she was on village business, non-owned automobile coverage would respond. If an employee drives a village-owned vehicle, village insurance would respond to an accident.
- The policy regarding prohibiting employees from making negative statements about the village is legal.
- An attorney may be present during a pre-disciplinary hearing.

#### International Property Maintenance Code

Mrs. Kovack stated the following:

- With reference to commercial structures, the ordinance does cover all structures.
- Electrical wiring will fall under either the fire code and/or the electrical code.
- Unaware of any procedures that will require filing with Hamilton County. The recourse is placing a lien on the property. The village has no specific procedure to notify the buyer of a property code violations.
- The section of the code regarding garbage will be retained.

#### Community Development - Halter

#### Electrical Fee Schedule

- The Municipal Manager will send a letter terminating the services of IBI. Presented an electrical schedule to Council for their review and consideration. The new schedule should be in place by May 2012.

#### Update on Banquet Hall RFP

- Two proposals for management of Molloy's banquet hall are under review. The Municipal Manger will weigh the positives and negatives of the proposals and present a summary of the findings for Council's consideration. The two proposals are from Riley's and Destiny's Catering.
- Drees - It is in the best interest of the Village of Greenhills that Molloy's is used for the purpose it was designed. He may not vote on this matter due to a possible conflict of interest.

#### Discussion on Presentation of Legislation

- Halter – The challenge he has is the timing for making a decision. Suggested the Law Director read the legislation for Council's consideration. Concerned that his name is on the agenda for presentation of legislation he does not favor. Information was provided on how to handle this situation.
- Mrs. Lives provided the following from *Robert's Rules of Order*.  
*REFRAINING FROM SPEAKING AGAINST ONE'S OWN MOTION. In debate, the maker of a motion, while he can vote against it, is not allowed to speak against his own motion. He need not speak at all, but if he does he is obliged to take a favorable position. If he changes his mind while the motion he made is pending, he can, in effect, advise the assembly of by asking permission to withdraw the motion.*

#### **Finance and Audit** - Drees

##### Clerk of Council Performance Feedback

- Drees – Requested Council to provide input for the Performance Evaluation of the Clerk of Council. This will be discussed in executive session on April 17, 2012 after which feedback will be discussed with the Clerk of Council.

#### **Other**

Mayor Murrell reported a receipt of a letter from the Governor's office acknowledging the receipt of Council's position in opposition to the centralization of municipality income tax collection.

Mayor Murrell reported receipt of a letter from the Arbor Day Foundation indicating the Village of Greenhills was named a *Tree City USA*; the village has received this award for the past 26 years. The *Tree City USA* awards luncheon will be held on April 20, 2012 in Amberley Village;

Council is invited to attend. The Village of Greenhills will host the *Tree City USA* awards luncheon in 2013.

Mayor Murrell reported receipt of a letter from Congressman Steve Chabot regarding the congressional update luncheon on April 20, 2012, 12 noon, at the Springdale Community Center; Council is invited to attend.

Mayor Murrell reported receipt of a letter from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation soliciting \$850.00 for a survey. This letter was forwarded to Mr. Halter for review.

The Hamilton County Municipal League will meet on March 29, 2012 at the Forest Park Senior Center. Mayor Murrell, Mrs. Waltherr, and Mr. Wolterman will attend.

Because of business commitments and vacations, the April 3, 2012 meeting was changed to a work session and the April 17, 2012 was changed to a regular Council meeting.

Mr. Halter informed a three-community-wide event, *Day at the Reds*, is scheduled for April 24, 2012. Requested placement of a banner across Winton Road and an article in the *Greenhills Journal* to promote this event. The Winton Woods High School choir will sing the national anthem before the game. Tickets are available at the Winton Woods Board of Education central office.

Mr. Drees indicated he will attend the Hamilton County Planning Partnership meeting on Friday, March 23, 2012.

Mr. Drees referenced the official and unofficial Greenhills flags. The Community Development and Finance and Audit Committees will work together on this matter. Further information is forthcoming.

In response to a question asked by Mr. Hermes, Ms. Kovach informed a number of former employees have applied with SwimSafe for positions at the pool.

Mr. Hermes referenced an abandoned property on Andover, and Ms. Kovach stated the contractor is handling this matter.

Mrs. Waltherr called attention to *Pioneer Days* and stated there is a bronze category sponsorship of the event in the amount of \$250.00. She requested the Mayor and Council to donate \$35.71 each to reach the bronze sponsorship level.

With no further business forthcoming, the work session adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Fred Murrell, MAYOR /s/

Kathryn L. Lives, CLERK OF COUNCIL /s/