

OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 7, 2023 7:00 PM

Call to Order – Vice Mayor Marc Thompson

7:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Councilman Edward Shimborske III
Councilwoman Dana Dunbar
Councilwoman Heather Phillips
Village Administrator John Wenzlick

Solicitor Sarah McHugh
Councilman Marc Thompson
Councilman John Lewis

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh
Diane Rusk
Dan Wimmers

Yarko Kuk
Larry and Katherine Nameche
Adam Smidi

Acting Clerk

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Shimborske to appoint Mr. Wenzlick as acting clerk. The motion passed unanimously.

Swearing In

Mr. Wenzlick introduced Officer Maria Hiltner and Vice Mayor Thompson swore her in.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Phillips to approve the minutes, from the July 10, 2023 Council meeting, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments

Larry Nameche read his statement: “An Engineering firm was hired in March and conducted a study from May-June with a focus on four intersections on Bancroft. It is worth noting that Central Ave. was closed in April and Secor was blocked thereby increasing traffic on Bancroft and Talmadge by an estimated minimum of 30 %. This blockage caused a very abnormal increase in traffic and emergency vehicles on both Bancroft and Talmadge. The study had good intent to focus on traffic and pedestrian safety and long term needs of the residents of Ottawa Hills and those who travel through. A traffic light or caution HAWK signaling at Evergreen to accommodate those students who walk along that area is certainly in order but, the other proposals seem to be unnecessary as normal traffic at Talmadge and Bancroft moves smoothly with minimum delays. A right turn from Richards to Bancroft, after traffic clears, is not prohibitive. Even with the 30% increase in traffic caused by road closures, the flow is not prohibitive. Ottawa Hills intentionally does not have sidewalks in the majority of the area and the majority of the citizens don't want them. If walking is an objective, we have adequate means with the trail that runs right behind the Village offices and the best park system in the country. The proposed sidewalks along either side of Bancroft represents (sidewalks to nowhere used by no one). Indeed, the number of students walking to Ottawa Hills schools is minimal and for those few who do, safety is an important consideration which can be addressed by the signaling at Evergreen. We have pedestrian friendly streets and if more safety is required, would suggest we could add 6 new police officers for about

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\$1.0 million instead of the proposed expenditures of \$4.0- \$5.0 million which is 75% less and would add to both traffic and pedestrian security and protection. We could assign an officer to escort students across Evergreen and Bancroft during the morning and afternoon at a whole lot less expensively than the proposed changes. The potential changes recommended by the proposal appear to be an unnecessary and absorbent expense”.

Vice Mayor Thompson stated that we asked the engineer to take our comments into consideration, and they are yet to finalize the proposal. They will be returning in the future to discuss further proposals.

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lewis stated the Finance Committee met and discussed the possibility of RITA for a future tax option. Our next step is to gather additional information before the final committee recommendation is made to Council. The next finance committee is scheduled for August 17th. Mr. Lewis stated the July income tax collection was higher than estimated, and we are now around 6% above our projection year to date.

Human Resources – Mrs. Dunbar

None

Safety – Mrs. Phillips

Mrs. Phillips stated there was a joint Safety and Street Committee meeting to discuss the Bancroft Corridor study. As stated earlier, we have asked the engineer to take our comments into consideration, and they are yet to finalize the proposal. They will be returning in the future to discuss further proposals.

Mrs. Phillips stated there was discussion for Flock safety cameras, license plate cameras, that the school obtained a grant for. The school and police department are asking for permission to put the cameras on the existing street poles to utilize the electricity.

Mr. Wenzlick stated the Police Department is working with Mr. Pounds to publish pedestrian safety tips.

Services & Environment – Mrs. O’Connell

None

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Thompson

Mr. Thompson stated the committee discussed the 2025 Road Project plan; they identified what projects are the next logical step. Mr. Wenzlick stated Central Ave bridge will open next week and Secor bridge opening is anticipated by August 23rd.

Mrs. Dunbar and Mr. Thompson both stated the Village should have a bridge opening celebration. These projects were mostly funded by grants and these substantial projects should be celebrated.

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Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Shimborske

Mr. Shimborske stated the next committee meeting is August 15th and they plan on discussing tennis courts and Hardman field.

Solicitor's Report

Mrs. McHugh stated the closing date for Avis has not been scheduled yet. She stated the claim against Lewandowski had a delay in response. We were told REI was the insurer, and that turned out to be incorrect. We have now made a claim to the current carrier. She will keep Council updated on the progress.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wenzlick stated the office has been very busy with property maintenance and Zoning requests. He is making sure the hydrants are being replaced. Our service foreman, Jason Pelland, and our office staff have been extremely helpful. Mr. Wenzlick stated we are still a few weeks out on Bexford opening. There are many entities working together and there was a small delay with Columbia Gas.

Mayor's Report

None

Old Business

Mrs. Dunbar asked if there was any update on the Go Zero program and Mr. Wenzlick stated the Services and Environment Committee meeting has not been scheduled yet.

New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Dunbar and seconded by Mrs. Phillips to approve payment of attorney fees to Mr. Parker. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dunbar and seconded by Mrs. Phillips to approve payment of attorney fees for Mrs. McHugh. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Dunbar stated she would like to promote employee appreciation and asked what the office does to celebrate birthdays or anniversaries. Mr. Wenzlick stated that we do have a few meals catered each year, from generous donations from residents. She will discuss this in more detail at the next Human Resources Committee meeting.

Mr. Wenzlick stated there is no pathway under Central Ave bridge, if we would like to pursue that, we would need to work with ODOT and the engineers due to the river narrowing. Mrs. Dunbar stated we need to express our disappointment and find out who to contact to pursue this important detail that we thought was incorporated into the design.

Ordinances & Resolutions

Vice Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2023-16

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Motion to adopt legislation as emergency:

Motion –	Mr. Lewis
Second –	Mr. Shimborske
Yeas (5) –	Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Shimborske, Mr. Lewis

Mayor