

OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2024 7:00 PM

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

7:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Thompson
Councilwoman Dana Dunbar
Councilman Dan Wimmers
Councilwoman Wendy Greeley
Solicitor Kati Tharp

Councilman Edward Shimborske III
Councilwoman Heather Phillips
Councilman John Lewis
Village Administrator John Wenzlick

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh
Katherine O’Connell
Diane Rusk

Kevin Gilmore
Steven Hart

Acting Clerk

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

Proclamations

Mayor Thompson presented proclamations to Mayor Kevin Gilmore and Councilwoman Katherine O’Connell.

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2024 Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments

Mrs. Afjeh stated her disapproval of the attorney fees on the agenda for approval.

Mr. Hart stated his concern with the increase in invisible fences in front yards and properties adjacent to streets. One example is that he was walking with his dog and son and a dog came running through its yard and crossed the street to them. Mrs. Rusk stated she believes the collar amperage can be altered but some dogs are very determined and will go through the invisible fence. She stated that dog owners need to be aware of how their dog acts. Mayor Thompson stated based on these discussions, we need address these concerns with the Zoning Commission. Mayor Thompson stated as a walker, you don’t always know there if there is an invisible fence in place.

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lewis stated the committee met with Mike Pniewski, Lucas County Engineer, regarding assessments for Ten Mile Creek improvements. The County will be clearing log jams in the creek and drainage ditches. The Village and residents will be assessed a share of the costs. The Village share would be approximately \$14,000 and the remaining \$17,000 could be assessed to homeowners. The Village can also assume the full assessment of \$31,000 as part of our budgeting

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process. The Committee concluded that the Village should assume the full assessment. The Village can also do some of the work and receive a credit back of the \$31,000 each year. This is an attractive alternative because we have cleared log jams in the past and may need to in the future. Mr. Wenzlick stated they will clear log jams on private properties also, which is a positive. There will be future legislation to assume the assessments.

Mr. Lewis stated our year-to-date income tax collection is approximately \$797,500. This is good news because this collection number is comparable to previous years collections at this point in the year. As a reminder, there was a one month lag this year for January collections, so we are in good shape year to date.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

Ms. Phillips stated the next committee meeting will be held on April 16th. We received our health insurance renewal rates later than anticipated this year. The increase will be 4.93%, which is lower than the budgeted 20% increase. We will continue to offer our no cost, higher deductible plan, which is a slight savings to the Village.

Safety – Mrs. Dunbar

None

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

Mrs. Greeley stated she saw public notice on social media regarding the Sled Hill being closed from April to August. Mr. Wenzlick stated The Nature Conservancy will be placing signs at the Sledding Hill soon.

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

Mr. Shimborske stated there is legislation on the agenda tonight to award a bid for the 2024 road projects.

Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

None

Executive Session

At 7:31 pm Mr. Shimborske made a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of conferring with the Village Solicitor in regard to pending or imminent court action and also potential purchase or sale of real property. Ms. Phillips seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:08 pm Council returned to regular session.

Solicitor's Report

None

Administrator's Report

None

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Mayor's Report

None

Old Business

Mrs. Dunbar asked for a bridge path update on Central Ave. Mr. Wenzlick stated ODOT essentially did not want to incur the greater cost. They are willing to work with us in the future for a pedestrian path. Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Dunbar both stated this is disappointing since we found this out after the fact.

New Business

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

Ordinances & Resolutions

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2024-4

Resolution 2024-4	Authorizing an agreement with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to provide health insurance benefits for village employees, establishing the amount of employee premium share, and declaring an emergency.
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Motion to waive three readings:	Motion – Ms. Phillips
	Second – Mrs. Greeley
	Unanimous Approval

Motion to declare an emergency:	Motion – Ms. Phillips
	Second – Mrs. Greeley
	Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:	Motion – Ms. Phillips
	Second – Mrs. Greeley
	Yeas (6) – Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Greeley
	Nays (0) –

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2024-5

Resolution 2024-5	Authorizing a contract with E.R. Zeiler Excavating Incorporated for the 2024 roadway improvements including the reconstruction of Secretariat, Avatar, and a portion of
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	Second –	Mr. Wimmers
		Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion –	Mr. Shimborske
Second –	Mrs. Greeley
Yeas (6) –	Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Greeley
Nays (0) –	

Resolution 2024-6	Authorizing the transfer of \$1,975,000 from the General Fund of the Village of Ottawa Hills, with \$675,000 to the Capital Projects Fund, \$1,100,000 to the Road Levy Fund, and \$200,000 to the Police Pension Fund, and declaring an emergency.
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Nays (0) –	

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April 29, 2024

Adjournment

7:40 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Thompson", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Mayor Thompson