

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

August 05, 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
Yarko Kuk
Matt Killam
Ryan Wronkowicz
Alta Richter
Tyler Fairchild

Riley Nixon
Audrey Nixon
Jeremy Nixon
Natalie Nixon
Emily Nixon

Acting Clerk

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2024 Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Proclamation

Mayor Thompson presented a proclamation to Riley Nixon recognizing his 2024 Division III State Championship for the 1600-meter run.

Citizen Comments

Matt Killam, Chief Outreach Officer for Metroparks Toledo, provided an update on the Metroparks projects. After 96 years, the Metroparks cover 13,000 acres with 19 parks obtaining around \$56 million dollars in grant money in the last five years. Mr. Killam shared a map of the current parks which also included their future parks. The Metroparks transformed an onion farm into a world-class birding site and have been transforming dump sites into State Nature Preserves.

The Treehouse Village is the only public treehouse village in the country. The Blue Creek Native Nursey is celebrating its 20^{-year} anniversary. The Wildwood Boardwalk Park is the busiest park with 2 million visits annually. The Secor expansion was a former golf course being turned into a giant wet land and will eventually be the home of a cross-country course with a completion date of 2026.

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Glass City Phase 1 and 2 includes the Riverwalk which includes the Ribbon, the Mini-Maumee Discovery Play, Prairie & Pollinator Discovery Play and Grosbeak Discovery Play. The next step is an international park, and they just received a \$19 million federal grant. This will be invested into the Vistula District, which includes the Streets and Harbors building being flipped into a pickle ball and family rec center.

Mrs. Afjeh asked where the trees would be planted, and Mr. Killam responded that 300,000 trees have been planted and 50,000 are along the river front and Ravine Park. There will be another 25,000 trees planted. The City of Toledo has 132 parks with a lot of green space where trees can be planted. Mr. Killam stated he doesn't know where all the trees will go but will collaborate with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. They will heat map the city and see where those trees should go. Metroparks will be leading the planting of the trees with a team of 200 people along with tree experts.

Mrs. Dunbar stated it is an interesting idea of reactivating spaces and it makes her think about the Village spaces that could use more trees, such as Arrowhead point. Mr. Killam stated one of the challenges is that everyone has a different opinion about green space. He stated that the Metroparks does an 80/20 split, meaning they only activate 20% of what they oversee.

Mayor Thompson stated that the Village has a good working relationship with the Metroparks systems. Tim Teeter helped the Village evaluate the deer damage and if the deer hunt was having a positive impact on the diversity. Mr. Killam stated Metroparks understands it can be difficult to make the right decision with deer management. Mayor Thompson stated that Metroparks have been very helpful in identifying progress.

Finance and Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lewis stated a meeting is scheduled for August 8th and he will have a report at the next meeting.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

Ms. Phillips stated the community picnic is not happening this year, but the fall festival is back and will be September 21st from 11am-3pm. The back-to-school 5K is scheduled for August 25th and Music at the Point is August 7th.

Safety – Mrs. Dunbar

Mrs. Dunbar stated the next meeting is August 27th.

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

No Report

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

Mr. Shimborske stated there was a joint meeting with Buildings and Grounds on August 1st to discuss the Lucas County water system updates. We also discussed the Evergreen Road Bridge replacement. Mr. Shimborske stated both committees met with Nate Inkrott from Lucas County Board of Commissioners. Lucas County is still checking for closed and broken valves, and they

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did find one that was closed on Edgevale and Bancroft. It did not affect the pressure and had nothing to do with the fire. Mr. Wimmers stated the valve was replaced. Mr. Wimmers stated they did some waterflow testing after that and the norm for static pressure is at 45 psi. They are maintaining that when all hydrants are closed since they replaced the valve. Mr. Shimborske stated the committees gave their support to Lucas County for their proposed 2026 water main project and grant submission. Lucas County is going to submit a grant application for the watermain replacement on Indian and Talmadge. Mr. Shimborske stated that getting funded is difficult because the waterlines as a standalone application don't score well. Mr. Wimmers stated Council will need to pass a resolution to partner with Lucas County next month if the Finance Committee approves.

Mr. Shimborske stated the OPWC application for the reconstruction and water main replacement on Edgevale is due in October. The Village will lead that grant and Lucas County will reimburse us for the watermain costs. Mr. Shimborske stated there will be legislation for the following: submission of the OPWC grant application, a joint cooperation agreement with Lucas County for the watermain replacement, and an agreement with Fishbeck to start survey work for the 2026 project. Mr. Shimborske stated some of the projects were not budgeted for this year and will be moved to the Finance Committee for approval. The Evergreen Bridge grant will be submitted by Fishbeck, with an estimated cost of 2.5 million, with 95% of costs being covered by the grant.

Mayor Thompson stated these are big dollar projects, but the bridge would be an upfront cost, reimbursed by a grant. Mr. Wenzlick stated we usually get reimbursed within a year. Mayor Thompson stated that as we look to the future, we are going to have some financial challenges. Mr. Wimmers stated there was also discussion regarding lines coming off the main line to the shut off from the homes. If they are lead lines the city would be responsible for replacing them. Mr. Wimmers stated beyond that it would be up to the homeowner.

Ms. Phillips stated that Lucas County has a better system in place now to keep track of which valves are being closed off during work, so they can reopen them after work is complete. Mayor Thompson stated the County employees are not always working under ideal conditions. Mr. Wimmers stated the original maps Lucas County provided us with showed the areas of high concerns. Of all the areas that were red, Lucas County has now checked those.

Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

Mr. Wenzlick stated there is a meeting tomorrow to discuss the tennis courts and walk paths.

Solicitor's Report

No report

Administrator's Report

No Report

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson stated there was a Records Commission meeting on July 16th. The Records Commission is made up of the Mayor, Solicitor, Clerk and a resident. Their role is to manage the

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Village processes as it relates to public records. The Historical Society creates the rules for public records in Ohio. The Records Commission has revised the schedule, and it has been submitted to the Historical Society and is now waiting for approval.

Mayor Thompson stated that long-time Village employee who retired several years ago, Bob Cornelison, passed away today. Mayor Thompson stated that Bob was a service department employee for the Village that really enjoyed his job and did it very well.

Old Business

Mrs. Greeley asked about the Woodhill zoning request regarding a shed being moved, and how the Village follows up for compliance. Mr. Wenzlick stated it's been going on for a long time with a lot of back and forth and has circled back to the Zoning Commission. Most recently, there has been some work done for a concrete pad to get the shed moved. Mr. Wenzlick stated that it should be almost done, and he is keeping an eye on it for progress.

Mayor Thompson stated that in his experience this one has been more complicated than most due to a host of reasons. Mr. Wimmers asked if the Zoning Commission ever puts timelines in place for leniency when projects need to be done and Mr. Wenzlick stated that in the zoning code there are timelines. This one was more complex, and it must be balanced with the cost and time of litigation to try to keep it moving along.

Ms. Phillips asked if there is an update on police vehicle delivery, due to the vendor issues. Mr. Wenzlick stated he does not have an update, the last he knew VIN numbers had not been assigned. Normally, once you receive a VIN number it means the car is being built. Ms. Phillips asked if we are one year behind, there should be two this year and Mr. Wenzlick responded that is correct.

New Business

Mr. Wimmers asked regarding the Village being responsible for cleaning the bathrooms and emptying the trash at Geresy. Mr. Wenzlick stated he had a conversation with Mr. Hardman who was not excited about us doing it and stated he would take care of the bathrooms. Mr. Wenzlick's intent was to get the company back over there, getting the company over there wasn't easy to do the first time as they didn't make any money from it. Mr. Wimmers asked about the bathrooms only being open during school functions and not open when people are using the park or tennis courts. Mr. Wenzlick stated they are trying to minimize vandalism. Mr. Wimmers stated there are other areas of the village that get vandalized as well but if it's community property it should be open to the community. Mayor Thompson stated that maybe this is something the Joint Rec Board can consider. Mrs. Dunbar stated that having family in the area she knows that people find other places to use when facilities are not open. Mr. Wimmers stated that maybe we could open them from sunup to sundown. Mr. Wenzlick stated he would suspect someone would have to check them daily if we start doing that. Mr. Wimmers asked if the police could open them; Mr. Wenzlick stated that can be done remotely. The bathrooms would need to be checked daily for supplies, cleanliness and vandalism, which is all doable, just need a change in operation. Mr. Wimmers asked if AAA, who does the janitorial work for the Village, could check them and clean them.

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Ms. Phillips asked if the baseball season went longer this year. Mayor Thompson doesn't believe it was longer but there were tournaments at the ball field. Mayor Thompson stated he had the opportunity to talk to some of the coaches and they all spoke very highly of the facility. Mr. Wimmers asked about the teams renting that field from these tournaments, and from his understanding there is no documentation on where that money is going from those rentals. Mr. Wimmers stated he believes there should be documentation of where that money is going and what it is being disbursed to. Mayor Thompson agreed with him.

Mrs. Greeley asked about election signs, and if there is a policy in place. Mr. Wenzlick stated if they are taken out of the front yard it is usually the police officer throwing them in a bin because they were too close to the road. Mr. Wenzlick will make sure the sign regulations are included in the next resident newsletter. Mr. Wimmers asked if there is a timeline for how long signs can be there; Mr. Wenzlick stated the ordinance does not have a timeline, but restrictions are based on square footage and height. Mayor Thompson stated that some communities try to do it 30 days after an election but that becomes a first amendment issue. Ms. Phillips asked if Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful will be doing sign recycling event yet. Mr. Wenzlick stated he hoped so, but he had not heard from them yet.

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve payments to Reminger in the amount of \$1,340 for the period of May 2024 and \$5,385 for the period of June 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve the payment to Kati Tharp in the amount of \$2,253 for the period of July 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances & Resolutions

Mayor Thompson

Resolution 2024-15

Authorizing a grant agreement with the State of Ohio through the Office of Budget and Management for the Ottawa Hills Walk Path Project.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mrs. Dunbar
Second – Ms. Phillips
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mrs. Dunbar
Second – Ms. Phillips

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

Nays (0) –

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Next Meeting Date
September 16, 2024

Adjournment
7:56 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mayor J. Thompson", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Thompson