

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 08, 2024 5:00 PM

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

5:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Thompson
Councilwoman Dana Dunbar
Councilman Dan Wimmers
Councilwoman Wendy Greeley
Village Administrator John Wenzlick

Councilman Edward Shimborske III
Councilwoman Heather Phillips
Councilman John Lewis
Clerk/Treasurer Mark Mockensturm
Solicitor Kati Tharp

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh
Julio Rodriguez
Larry Nameche
April McDonald

Emily Murphy
Kim Rodriguez
Diane Haas
Kayla Rodriguez

Swearing In

Mayor Thompson introduced and swore in Officer Rodriguez.

Proclamation

Mayor Thompson presented a proclamation to Diane Haas and thanked her for her many years of dedication to the tax office.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Dunbar and seconded by Ms. Phillips to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2024 Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2024 Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

Mrs. Afjeh stated the citizen comment section of the minutes from the June 24 meeting were taken out of context.

Finance and Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lewis stated that the June income tax collection was just above \$600,000, noting that we received \$390,000 on July 1st. Our revenue budget for the year is \$4.2 million and our collections year to date are \$2.77 million. Due to the transition to RITA and a one-month lag, it is difficult to compare YTD with the previous year projections. However, Mr. Lewis stated he and Ms. McDonald feel they are on track for our revenue budget.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

No Report

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 08, 2024 5:00 PM

Safety – Mrs. Dunbar

No Report

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

No Report

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

No Report

Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

Mr. Wimmers stated the committee met on June 14th and reviewed the answers to the questions regarding turf. Mr. Wimmers stated that Council was sent a copy of the minutes from the meeting. Mr. Wimmers stated that there was a citizen comment regarding health issues with turf. Mr. Wimmers stated California is making a big transition regarding turf. California used to have rules where they couldn't ban turf from being in yards, but they have taken a different approach due to the impact of turf on the environment and health issues. A county in California has had their Council pass a motion to ban turfs all together. Mr. Wimmers stated the Council supports the foundation's fundraising efforts, but with the understanding any improvement to the field would need approval from the Village Council. Mr. Wimmers stated at this point there will be no decision made tonight regarding turf.

Mayor Thompson stated we made a commitment to respond to the request as it relates to fundraising and turf. There are some questions about the turf fundraising proposal that have not been resolved yet. Mayor Thompson stated Geresy Field is a community asset, and we encourage fundraising in the community. Mayor Thompson stated the foundation is aware there was not going to be a definitive answer on turf this evening, but they are looking for a response from us. Mr. Wimmers stated that one of the questions asked was the cost estimate to go from turf back to a natural field and we do not have the answer yet. Mr. Wimmers stated he has done some research, and the cost could be \$8 to \$10 per square foot. Mr. Lewis asked how many square feet Geresy Field is, Mayor Thompson stated roughly 10,000 square feet. Mrs. Dunbar stated more research will need to be done.

Mrs. Dunbar stated she wanted to address the Council, we support fundraising but don't know what we will do about the turf, since the turf is the driver for the fundraising. Mr. Wimmers stated there are other ways to improve Geresy field, but they would still need to come to Council to get approval. Mrs. Dunbar stated we have a donor willing to donate \$100,000 for artificial turf, is the donor going to give the \$100,000 without turf? Mayor Thompson stated he had conversation with the foundation, and they understand the concerns the Council has regarding the unanswered questions on turf. The foundation is hopeful we will adopt a statement like this that does not mention turf and they understand all the implications. Mayor Thompson stated he had the very same concern regarding someone making a big pledge based on the assurances that there will be turf. Mrs. Dunbar stated she just didn't want them to raise money for turf and then we decide against it. Mayor Thompson stated the foundation is trying to do a positive thing in the community and we don't want a positive effort to turn into a negative event.

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 08, 2024 5:00 PM

Mrs. Greeley stated they are already advertising for fundraising. Mrs. Dunbar stated she brought the article with her tonight. Mrs. Greeley stated that it does not say turf, but it does say what the giving levels are for renovation. Mrs. Dunbar stated the items listed were: naming recognition, home dugout, visitor dugout, warmup wall, bullpen and batting cage. Mrs. Greeley stated it is very generally worded, it does not say turf, but it does say enhancements. Mayor Thompson stated his conversations with the foundation regarding recognition is there would be one plaque placed on the structure. This would identify the individuals or companies who have made contributions and that there would be no advertising.

Mrs. Greeley stated if they are raising money and the Council says no to the turf, she wonders what they will spend the money on. Mrs. Dunbar stated she just wants clarification; she thinks it's wonderful they want to do this and benefit the community. Mrs. Dunbar stated it was confusing to receive the advertisement for fundraising efforts before this Council decision. Ms. Phillips stated it would be helpful to know if they have a backup plan.

Mr. Wenzlick stated he believes it's fair to say the OH Foundation is aware that Council discussion will be ongoing. Mr. Shimborske asked if the foundation is not going to raise money for turf, it would leave the door open to be reimagined. If they are raising that kind of money, is there a possibility of intertwining it somewhere else, like White Field? Mr. Wenzlick stated there are deed restrictions on White Field. Mayor Thompson stated he has not had any conversations with the foundation regarding White Field as an option. Mayor Thompson stated it could be a complex situation if the fundraising money had to change its purpose and location. Mr. Shimborske said it seems like no one is getting what they want. Mayor Thompson agreed and stated the process seems to have gotten ahead of itself and we are trying to recognize the positive efforts while protecting the long-term interest of the community.

Mrs. Dunbar asked Mrs. Tharp for more explanation regarding the baseball and softball field needing to be of the same standard. Mrs. Tharp stated it would not have any implications for the Village, Title IX says the facilities do not have to be equivalent, but they must be of the same quality. Mr. Lewis stated the baseball field is already of a higher standard than the softball field. Any new improvements would make it even higher quality and we don't want to aggravate the school financially on top of everything else. Mr. Lewis's reaction is to go slow with this timeline. Mayor Thompson stated that we have tried to be as positive as we can and keep all the options open. Mayor Thompson stated the Title IX issue is a community issue and could have implications for the school and we want to be cognizant of that as well. Mayor Thompson stated we do not want to be a financial burden on the school.

Mrs. Dunbar asked about the cost, stating we did not receive answers regarding the questions we had. Mrs. Dunbar stated that Mr. Hardman has put in a lot of time and effort to keep the field in great condition. What would our maintenance costs be if Mr. Hardman did not dedicate so much time? Mr. Wenzlick stated Mr. Hardman is very meticulous and he suspects it would not be kept up to the standard that Mr. Hardman has. Mr. Wenzlick stated he doesn't think it would be significant, as coaches generally do that in their own time. Mrs. Dunbar stated we need to know the numbers; Ms. Phillips stated it was the understanding of the committee that we would have those numbers tonight, but we do not.

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 08, 2024 5:00 PM

Mr. Shimborske would like to know if the Village is on the verge of losing this project all together. Mr. Wimmers stated yes and no, they are coming up with new types of turf that wouldn't have health or environmental issues and if that does happen the Village could be open again in the future. Mr. Shimborske stated the foundation could take their money elsewhere. Ms. Phillips stated the foundation came to us and wanted to do this project and they haven't provided the cost estimate yet. Mrs. Greeley stated the football field has had turf for the last 14 years and no one seems concerned about the health issues. Mayor Thompson stated we are clearly not ready to commit to turf and any improvements would have to be approved, which the foundation is aware of.

Mrs. Afjeh asked Mr. Shimborske if he had read the letter she wrote, and he stated no. Mr. Wimmers stated there are cost implications the Village would incur down the road as well as watering and mowing maintenance. Mr. Shimborske understands that but feels we are standing in the way. Mr. Wimmers stated that we are doing our due diligence. Ms. Phillips stated the life span is 8-10 years and we don't know the costs later down the road. Mrs. Greeley thought it would be a longer lifespan, the football stadium lasted 14 years with the use of football, soccer, and lacrosse.

Mr. Shimborske asked if Mr. Hardman is set on turf at the field. Mayor Thompson stated his sense is that when the Title IX implications are addressed, the turf is less likely to occur, and he doesn't know where the fundraising is going to go. Mr. Shimborske stated at the end of the day we still must take care of the fields. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that no decision is being made tonight.

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve the statement of support from Mayor Thompson stating they support the foundation's fundraising efforts to improve the baseball field, but with the understanding any improvement to the field would need approval from the Village Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor's Report

No report

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wenzlick gave an overview of the upcoming meetings we anticipate. First, with a joint Streets and Buildings & Grounds meeting to discuss the possible reconstruction of Edgevale and water main replacement in 2026. Lucas County would pay for the water line replacement and the Village would pay for the reconstruction, estimated at two million dollars. Also, he hopes to have an update from the County as it relates to valve repair/replacement and hydrant testing. The County would also like to put in an OPWC application on their own for 2026, for water main construction. Evergreen Road Bridge is also a discussion topic due to the rating going down. We can now apply for state funds, in which the grant would cover 95% and the Village would cover 5%, similar to Riva Ridge. There is a cap at \$2.5 million and the engineer thinks we would be right at the cap or slightly over which would need to be included in our 2027 budget.

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 08, 2024 5:00 PM

Fishbeck is preparing the paperwork for the Village, just like they did with Riva Ridge. The second Doodle is for a follow up meeting with Buildings & Grounds to further discuss the tennis courts. The Brookside & Indian walk path press conference is this Friday at 2:30pm to acknowledge us being awarded \$175,000 from the State. In 2022, there was an estimate of one path being \$149,000 and the other path being \$115,000, with a total cost of \$265,000. That was from November 2022 and the cost is probably higher now.

Mr. Wenzlick stated there is legislation on the agenda to authorize the mayor to submit the application for OPWC. We submitted this last year, but it was not approved. The Village must do a clone application, meaning we need updated legislation. Mr. Wenzlick stated this is for the mill and fills in 2025, with a cost around \$350,000 noting we asked for a \$33,500 loan and \$33,500 grant. There is legislation on the agenda relating to the vacation accrual. Deputy Chief Estok has had no opportunity to vacation due to staffing shortages. The legislation would lift the cap on his vacation, so he does not lose any vacation time. Mr. Wenzlick stated this has been done before for Deputy Chief, but it's still challenging to get things stabilized.

Mr. Wenzlick stated we are hoping to schedule Mr. Fischer for a strategic planning meeting in August. The meeting will be 3 to 4 hours which will focus on all the projects and any items the Council wants to prioritize. We will also need one meeting prior to the strategic meeting to identify items we want Mr. Fischer to discuss.

Mayor's Report

No Report

Old Business

Mrs. Dunbar inquired about the island at Evergreen and Bancroft that does not look complete. Mr. Wenzlick stated the Village had recommendations initially from the engineers on the best course of action. This includes extending the dotted lines that go up to the island, which helps guide residents. We added reflectors and painted the curb yellow. Mr. Wenzlick stated we are ordering breakaway signs, which have a base that pops out in hopes of not damaging cars, as well as putting in some kind of vegetation to increase visibility. Mrs. Dunbar asked if it would be done by the end of summer, and he responded the Village is just waiting on the signs so the service department can install them, along with vegetation.

Mr. Shimborske stated he would like to see tougher action regarding barking dogs and lawnmowing. He stated some residents are cutting their grass as late as 8pm. Resident and contractor hours should follow similar rules. Mr. Wenzlick stated he does have the barking dog comments noted and the issue will be coming up in a safety meeting. We also need to discuss right-of-way legislation and we can add on discussion about mowing hours. Mr. Wimmers asked if the ordinance verbiage needed to be tightened up. Mr. Wenzlick stated some of the language is subject to interpretation and what constitutes continuous barking.

New Business

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

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 08, 2024 5:00 PM**

In 2021, a purchase order was created for P& R Communication for \$4,290. However, P&R is now stating a portion of the purchase order, for parts, should be payable to Motorola. The remainder of the purchase order would remain with P&R for labor. The total amount of the purchase order remains the same, no increase to the expenditures. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Phillips to approve a purchase order vendor change. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Dunbar stated the importance of the elected officials and the importance of running for office. She would like to encourage residents to step up and run. Mayor Thompson stated he agrees entirely. We have a community of extraordinary people with a sense of ownership. This is a huge advantage to our community.

Mrs. Dunbar stated the pedestrian light on Secor takes about 40 seconds for the light to turn. She has noticed that people are not waiting for the light to turn on and would like to know if there is an opportunity to lower that count. Mr. Wenzlick stated he would talk to Toledo about it.

Ordinances & Resolutions

Mayor Thompson read Ordinance 2024-3

Ordinance 2024-4	To assess a special tax for the planting, maintenance, and removal of shade trees on and along the streets and public rights-of-way of the Village of Ottawa Hills in accordance with section 727.011 of the Ohio Revised Code, for the year ending December 31, 2024.
------------------	--

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion –	Mr. Lewis
Second –	Ms. Phillips
	Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

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

Ordinance 2024-5	To assess a special tax to pay the cost and expense of lighting the streets and public ways of the Village of Ottawa Hills, for the year ending December 31, 2024.
------------------	--

Motion to waive three readings:	Motion – Mr. Lewis
	Second – Ms. Phillips

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 08, 2024 5:00 PM

Motion to adopt legislation:		Unanimous Approval
	Motion –	Mr. Lewis
	Second –	Ms. Phillips
	Yeas (6) –	Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Greeley
	Nays (0) –	
Ordinance 2024-6	Amending Ordinance 2023-13 fixing salaries for Village employees for calendar year 2024, and declaring an emergency.	
Motion to waive three readings:	Motion –	Ms. Phillips
	Second –	Mr. Wimmers
		Unanimous Approval
Motion to declare an emergency:	Motion –	Ms. Phillips
	Second –	Mr. Wimmers
		Unanimous Approval
Motion to adopt legislation:		
	Motion –	Ms. Phillips
	Second –	Mr. Wimmers
	Yeas (6) –	Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Greeley
	Nays (0) –	
Resolution 2024-12	Authorizing a contract with Fishbeck for engineering services related to the 2025 resurfacing project including Hardale, Lape Kala, Miner, Stableside and a portion of Talmadge.	
Motion to waive three readings:	Motion –	Mr. Shimborske
	Second –	Mrs. Dunbar
		Unanimous Approval
Motion to adopt legislation:		
	Motion –	Mr. Shimborske
	Second –	Mrs. Dunbar
	Yeas (6) –	Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Greeley

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 08, 2024 5:00 PM

Nays (0) –

Resolution 2024-13

Authorizing the Mayor to submit one or more applications for funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission, and authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreements as they may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining such financial assistance.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Lewis
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Lewis

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

Nays (0) –

Resolution 2024-14

Authorizing the Mayor to submit an application for funding through the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program for the Evergreen Road bridge.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mrs. Greeley
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) –

Executive Session

At 8:14 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. Mr. Wimmers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:32 pm Council returned to regular session.

Next Meeting Date

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 08, 2024 5:00 PM

August 5, 2024

Adjournment

8:33 PM

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

Mayor Thompson