

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2024 7:00 PM**

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

7:01 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
Finance Director April McDonald

Citizen Attendees

See Attendance Sheet

Acting Clerk

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Ms. Phillips to appoint Ms. McDonald as acting clerk. The motion passed unanimously.

Swearing In of Council Member

Judge Puffenberger swore in Councilwoman Greeley.

Proclamations

Mayor Thompson presented proclamations to Tax Commissioner Don King, the Ottawa Hills Service Department and Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Phillips to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2024 Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments

Mr. Nameche stated he is concerned about the number of pending capital projects and if the brick wall at Monticello will need transformed, torn down or replaced. He would like more information about the sidewalk proposal from our most recent study. Mayor Thompson will ask Mr. Wenzlick to reach out to Mr. Nameche regarding his concerns.

Mrs. Meade stated her concern for pedestrian safety and speeding in the Village. She stated there is reckless driving in the Village and it needs addressed. Recently, her daughter and friends were outside playing and she witnessed numerous high schoolers speeding near her home. Cars continue to park in the no parking zone by the stadium, even after she has called the police department numerous times. She is hopeful that Council can make a plan of action to address these issues.

Mr. Enderlin stated in the last week he counted over twelve vehicles speeding past the speed limit sign on Indian, going at least 35mph or more. He has almost been hit numerous times throughout the Village. A few weeks ago, he called the police when he heard a gunshot, it took over 30 minutes to see a police officer drive by and it was a UTPD officer. The UTPD officer never

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stopped to ask him any questions. He would like the Village to come together to make a plan that would make the Village safer. He believes we should invest in more electronic speed limit signs to deter speeders. He supports our police department but would like to be part of the solution to make the Village safer.

Mrs. Tomblin stated the speeders are so bad that she will not allow her children to play in her front yard without her supervision because she is afraid something bad will happen. Her daughter, Autumn, a safety guard, stated she witnesses many speeders every day. She has also witnessed numerous accidents and feels that cars try to race her while she rides her electric bike.

Mayor Thompson stated he appreciates all the comments and concerns from our citizens, and he will pass this information on to Mr. Wenzlick and the police department.

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lewis stated the 2023 Financial statements have been submitted to the State of Ohio. This year, our 2022 and 2023 financials will be audited.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

None

Safety – Mrs. Dunbar

None

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

Mr. Shimborske and Mrs. Greeley reviewed the 100% sled hill proposal from The Nature Conservancy. This project is financed through grants from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' H2Ohio program and the NFWF/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the objective of improved water quality. Construction and planting is expected to occur between April and June 2024. Brookside Dr. will be utilized to access the project area. Residents will notice increased truck traffic during this time, access will be maintained on this road throughout the entirety of the project. For resident safety, the area will be closed for public use during construction. The area will remain closed through August to allow for vegetation to establish. This period of non-disturbance is vital to the success of the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve the sled hill design plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

None

Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

Mr. Wimmers stated the Committee had two recent meetings. At the first meeting, Jones & Henry Engineers presented the findings of their fire flow testing report. The report found several areas in the Village with poor water pressure. The Village and County are working on a long-term plan to address the undesirable water pressures. The County has implemented a plan to notify local fire

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departments when a hydrant is out of service. They have collaborated with the Village during our street projects to see if water lines should be replaced during road reconstruction. They are in the process of inspecting all fire hydrants and all water valves in the Village. Mrs. Dunbar asked where the fire department sent the report and Ms. Phillips stated it was sent to dispatch.

Mr. Wimmers stated at the second meeting, the Committee discussed the municipal building window that was bowing last year. The lead holding the 65 pieces of glass together was failing. The window was removed, and a temporary solid pane of glass was installed. Trinity Glass, specialists in these types of windows, provided a quote of \$4009.73 to have the leaded glass window repaired and reinstalled. The Committee approved moving forward with the repair and replacement. If a new building were constructed in the coming years, the window could be installed in it.

The Committee also heard a game court request from 3872 Brookside. A few years ago, the resident hired a contractor to install a pickleball court in her back yard. After installation, the Village was made aware of the game court, which was installed without a permit. The Village Administrator and the resident had been in communication attempting to come up with a solution – of no avail. Per the code, game court permits are issued by the building commission. This legislation also requires that game courts be at least 10 feet off neighboring property lines and this court is not. At the Committee meeting, the committee heard the request for a permit, which was denied. The Village Administrator is working with the resident for next steps moving forward. The resident is also looking to sell the home in the coming months. Mrs. Dunbar asked for more clarification on the game court request and if they will deconstruct it. Mr. Lewis explained the court takes up most of the yard and Mr. Wenzlick has been working with them for over two years. There will be another Building & Grounds meeting to hear a new request from the homeowner.

The Committee also discussed a sculpture donation from the resident at 3717 Indian Road. Doug Adams-Arman lives at a home previously owned by Jo Ann Cousino. Ms. Cousino was a well-known artist from the area and lived in the home for over 40 years. The sculpture has been prominently displayed in the front yard of the home for many, many years. The sculpture would be picked up by the Service Department and stored. Council can review options for placement and display of the sculpture.

A motion was made by Mr. Wimmers and seconded by Mrs. Dunbar to accept the sculpture donation. The motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor's Report

None

Administrator's Report

None

Mayor's Report

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Mayor Thompson stated he has spoken with members of the Ottawa Hills School Foundation about potential assistance with White Field and Geresy Field. There is a broad interest in both fields regarding fundraising needs.

Old Business

Mrs. Dunbar stated she would like to revisit the idea of adding a stop sign at Indian and Orchard. The stop sign would not cost much to install, and it could be a start to addressing the concerns on Indian. Mr. Lewis stated during traffic hours to and from school, the intersection seems to be confusing for some. Mr. Enderlin agrees with Mrs. Dunbar and believes it could be effective to slow down traffic. Mr. Shimborske stated he has asked for speed bumps, more enforcement and more electronic signs. Mr. Shimborske believes the electronic signs are working well and we should add more in the Village.

Ms. Phillips stated the Bancroft and Evergreen island continues to be a problem. Several people have run over the signs and the island itself. Mayor Thompson stated we all want to feel safe and secure, and we have identified problems tonight and we will work towards solutions.

New Business

Mayor Thompson stated we need a motion to approve attorney fees for Ms. McHugh. Mrs. Dunbar would like more clarification on the two attorney invoices. Mayor Thompson stated some items are matters of pending litigation and we can get more information for Mrs. Dunbar before we approve the invoices. A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske to table the requested attorney fee motion and seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Ms. Phillips to appoint Mr. Wenzlick as designee for newly elected officials training. The motion passed unanimously. This similar motion was passed at our previous meeting, but Mrs. Greeley was not sworn in at that time.

Ordinances & Resolutions

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2024-3

Resolution 2024-3	Authorizing the purchase of property, casualty, and liability insurance for the Village of Ottawa Hills, and declaring an emergency.
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Motion to waive three readings:	Motion –	Mr. Lewis
	Second –	Ms. Phillips
		Unanimous Approval
Motion to declare an emergency:	Motion –	Mr. Lewis
	Second –	Ms. Phillips
		Unanimous Approval

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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) –

Next Meeting Date
April 1, 2024

Adjournment
8:01 PM



Mayor Thompson