

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

**July 13, 2020 7:30 PM
Video Teleconference**

Call to Order – Mayor Gilmore

7:38 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Kevin Gilmore	Councilman Edward Shimborske III
Councilwoman Dana Dunbar	Councilman John Lewis
Councilman Jeff Gibbs	Councilwoman Katherine O’Connell
Councilman Rex Decker	Clerk / Treasurer Eric Shreve
Solicitor Sarah McHugh	Village Administrator John Wenzlick

Citizen Attendees

Tom Timmers
Pat Goik
Carol Nichols
Yarko Kuk
Heather Phillips
Jay Berschback
Michelle Richards
Tom Richards

Other Zoom Usernames Present

“Call in User”
“Rachel H”
“Susan”
“Sarah’s Ipad”
“Lauren”
“Tracy”
“Srah”
“Mom”

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Gibbs to approve the minutes from the June 01, 2020 Council meeting, and Mr. Shimborske seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Gibbs to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2020 Council meeting, and Mr. Shimborske seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

Mayor Gilmore called a public hearing to order regarding proposed changes to the zoning code.

Mayor Gilmore read Ordinance 2020-7.

Ordinance 2020-7	Amending Ordinance 2002-8 known as the Ottawa Hills Zoning Code and Ordinance 2010-7 and 2017-7 by the addition of language updating the sign provisions of the zoning code.
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Councilwoman Dunbar, Chair of the Services & Environment Committee, told Council that the Committee was recommending three changes to the Zoning Code: 1) deletion of Section 4(a)(8), which required electronic signs to have a black background and amber lights, 2) deletion of Section 4(a)(12), which required electronic signs to have frontage on Secor or Central, and 3) addition of language requiring a Special Use modification for the installation or modification of any sign on church or school property.

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Motion to waive three readings:	Motion –	Mr. Decker
	Second –	Mr. Shimborske
	Unanimous Approval	
 Motion to adopt legislation	 Motion –	 Mr. Decker
	Second –	Mrs. Dunbar
	Yeas (6) –	Mr. Lewis, Mr. Decker, Mrs. Dunbar, Mrs. O’Connell, Mr. Shimborske, Mr. Gibbs

Citizen Comments

Mrs. Phillips expressed her support for the construction of sidewalk on the north side of Indian Road, between Manchester and Evergreen. Mrs. Phillips expressed concern over the “piecemeal” approach towards the installation of sidewalks; instead, she would like to see a more comprehensive plan for sidewalks.

Mrs. Nichols agreed that a comprehensive plan was necessary, and said she was opposed to the proposed sidewalk on Indian Road. Mrs. Nichols expressed safety concerns for areas where the sidewalk would intersect with several streets, and also congestion during school pick-up and drop-off.

Ms. Tracy told Council that she was in favor of the proposed sidewalk on Indian Road. Ms. Tracy discussed safety concerns related to the current absence of a sidewalk on Indian Road.

Mr. Timmers, a resident of Hardale, said he was in favor of the proposed sidewalk, and said he has seen several near-miss accidents between children and vehicles. Mr. Timmers said he would like to see as much as possible done to improve safety for children in the Village.

Mr. Berschback said he is in favor of improving safety for children, but thought adding the sidewalk may create more safety issues. Mr. Berschback expressed concern over the new crossing areas for pedestrians. Mr. Berschback said he would like to first see a comprehensive study for possible sidewalk locations, and believes sidewalks should first be installed where sidewalks do not currently exist on either side of the street.

Mrs. Richards told Council that she agrees with additional safety for children, but would first like a full plan. Mr. Richards noted that the sidewalk would create increased crossings, and the safety risks may increase.

Mr. Wenzlick informed Council that he had just received a letter that day from Mr. Lawrence Mitchell on Indian Road who said he was in opposition to the proposed Indian Road sidewalk.

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Old Business

Mr. Shimborske reminded Council that they have received several citizen requests for additional sidewalk throughout the Village. Mr. Shimborske said he conducted research, and could not find any studies that showed additional sidewalk would decrease pedestrian safety.

Mrs. Dunbar offered her support for the proposed Indian Road sidewalk to increase safety for children going to school. Mrs. Dunbar said she consulted with Lance Dasher and David Gideon from TMACOG, and both thought the proposed sidewalk was a positive addition. Mrs. Dunbar also summarized that, in his opinion, Engineer Jon Drummond thought this was a logical place for the construction of a sidewalk.

Mr. Gibbs was opposed, at this time, to installing the proposed sidewalk. Even though he is in favor of walkability and pedestrian safety, there has not been a comprehensive study to determine which areas should be a priority for sidewalks.

Mrs. Nichols said she raised three children on Indian Road without a sidewalk. Mrs. Nichols continued by saying that “some days it was a pain, but it was never dangerous.” Mrs. Nichols also said she only found out about the possible sidewalk installation when she observed survey work taking place in front of her home. Mrs. Nichols said that Mr. Thompson said the sidewalk was in the early phases, there was going to be a study, the Village was just gathering information, and no firm decisions had been made. Mrs. Nichols said she did not hear further about the sidewalk until learning it had been approved by the Street Committee.

Mrs. O’Connell noted this is a difficult decision, and that most people support safe streets and walkability. Mrs. O’Connell said she walked the section of Indian Road in question and was in favor of the proposed sidewalk.

Mr. Lewis said he was not in favor of the sidewalk at this time and would like to defer the construction until a more broad-based plan is implemented.

Mr. Decker said he also spoke with Mr. Dasher at TMACOG who indicated, based on the national standard, sidewalks should first be placed on the same side of the street as a school. Mr. Decker said that if we were just constructing the road, the sidewalk should be on the north side first, as opposed to the south side. Mr. Decker said it was important for the school to study their student traffic flows, and how they may be affected with a sidewalk on the north side of Indian Road.

After additional discussion by Council, Mr. Shreve voiced his support for the construction of the proposed sidewalk on Indian Road.

Motion to construct sidewalk on the north side of Indian Road
between Evergreen & Manchester:

Motion –	Mr. Shimborske
Second –	Mrs. Dunbar
Yeas (4) –	Mr. Decker, Mrs. Dunbar, Mrs. O’Connell, Mr. Shimborske
Nays (2) –	Mr. Lewis, Mr. Gibbs

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Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

None

Human Resources – Mr. Gibbs

None

Safety – Mrs. O’Connell

None

Services & Environment – Mrs. Dunbar

None

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

None

Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Decker

Mr. Decker informed Council that construction will be starting soon on White Field.

Visioning – Mrs. Dunbar

OHM is subcontracting with Ken Danter to conduct a market analysis related to the potential development of housing units on the Village’s Richards Road property. Mrs. Dunbar also told Council she spoke with TMACOG regarding the train tracks on Richards Road. In Mr. Gideon’s opinion, the train tracks should have minimal adverse impact on the value of the property.

Solicitor’s Report

Ms. McHugh told Council that litigation will soon be filed against a resident in relation to property maintenance issues. The property maintenance issues involve a property on Talmadge Road, as well as on Manchester, and are both owned by the same individual.

Manager’s Report

Mr. Wenzlick provided an updated on the White Field construction, told Council that Fishbeck Engineers completed RFP specifications for Geresy Field repairs, and that the Village just received a quote from Fishbeck for studying design options for the Village walk paths.

Mayor’s Report

None

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New Business

Mrs. Dunbar told Council that the Services & Environment Committee is recommending a maximum of 50 deer for this season's cull.

Motion to authorize 2020-21 deer cull, with a maximum of 50 deer:	Motion: Mrs. Dunbar Second: Mr. Lewis Unanimous Approval
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Mr. Gibbs made a motion to approve attorney fees. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunbar and passed unanimously.

Ordinances & Resolutions

Mayor Gilmore read Resolution 2020-17

Resolution 2020-17 Authorizing participation in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Program established under H.B. 481, affirming that funds will be used in compliance with the requirements of the Cares Act, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to waive three readings:	Motion – Mr. Gibbs Second – Mrs. Dunbar Unanimous Approval
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Motion to declare an emergency:	Motion – Mr. Gibbs Second – Mr. Lewis Unanimous Approval
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Motion to adopt legislation as an emergency:	Motion – Mr. Gibbs Second – Mr. Lewis Yeas (6) – Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Gibbs, Mrs. O'Connell, Mr. Decker Nays (0) –
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Mayor Gilmore read Ordinance 2020-6

Ordinance 2020-6	Making appropriations and deductions from previous appropriations, amending Ordinance 2019-13, and declaring an emergency.
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Motion to waive three readings:	Motion – Mr. Lewis Second – Mr. Gibbs Unanimous Approval
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Motion to declare an emergency:	Motion – Mr. Lewis Second – Mr. Gibbs Unanimous Approval
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Motion to adopt legislation as an emergency:	Motion – Mr. Lewis Second – Mr. Shimborske Yeas (6) – Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Gibbs, Mrs. O'Connell, Mr. Decker Nays (0) –
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Executive Session

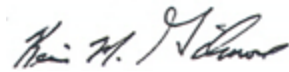
None

Next Meeting Date

August 10, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Adjournment

8:36 PM



Mayor Kevin Gilmore