

Present: President George; President Pro-Tem Hrydziuszko; Members: Abboud, Kecskemeti, Mooney, O’Gorman, and Peddie
All members participated remotely via Zoom from Beverly Hills, Michigan.

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Wilson
Village Clerk / Assistant Manager, Rutkowski
Public Safety Director, Torongeau
Village Attorney, Ryan

Peddie called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Ryan stated that the new Council members have been sworn in by the Village Clerk.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS – SELECT COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT PRO-TEM

The first nominee to receive a majority of votes will be selected as the new Council President effective immediately. Peddie opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Mooney nominated Kecskemeti. Hrydziuszko nominated George. Abboud nominated Abboud.

Roll call vote to select Kecskemeti as Council President:

Abboud - Yes
George - No
Hrydziuszko - No
Kecskemeti - No
Mooney - Yes
O’Gorman - No
Peddie - Yes
Vote failed (3-4)

Roll call vote to select George as Council President:

Abboud - No
George - Yes
Hrydziuszko - Yes
Kecskemeti - Yes
Mooney - No
O’Gorman - Yes
Peddie - Yes
Vote passed (5-2)

George opened the floor for nominations for President Pro-Tem. Mooney nominated Abboud. Kecskemeti nominated Hrydziuszko.

Roll call vote to select Abboud as President Pro-Tem:

Abboud - Yes
George - No

Hrydziuszko - No
Kecskemeti - No
Mooney - Yes
O’Gorman - No
Peddie - No
Vote failed (2-5)

Roll call vote to select Hrydziuszko as President Pro-Tem:
Vote passed (7-0)

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Kecskemeti, be it resolved, the agenda is approved as published.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dawn Meihn, Beechwood, commented on the sewage backup from August and was concerned the discussion item was not on the agenda.

Ken Flaherty, 17166 Beechwood, commented on sewage water backups and was disappointed that the item was not on the agenda.

Judy Jones, 16321 Lauderdale, is a new resident and commented on sewer backups. She requested the item be placed on the agenda.

Lisa Gaulzetti, Nixon, commented on damage from flooding to her house and her neighbors’ houses.

Jon Oen, Verona Circle, commented that residents can install backflow preventers to prevent water in their basements.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Peddie, be it resolved, the consent agenda is approved as published.

1. Review and consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held November 17, 2020.
2. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, November 23, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

DISCUSSION ON VILLAGE OPERATIONS DURING CURRENT COVID-19 HEALTH ORDER.

Wilson provided an overview of Village office operations, staffing, and park closures in response to the current health order. He stated there was a possibility that the order may be extended.

Ryan stated the MML was working with the state legislature to extend PA 228, allowing “no excuse” virtual meetings beyond December 31, 2020.

The Council discussed the closures at Beverly Park and potentially reopening the structures as along as social distancing guidelines are followed and mask requirements are in place.

Colleen Zammit, Beverly Hills, urged Council to reopen park facilities.

Chester Dawson, Beverly Hills, asked Council to open the park equipment and stated it is important for people’s mental and physical wellbeing.

Matt Goodrich, Beverly Hills, stated that he visited ten parks in nearby cities, all of which were open. He asked the Council to reopen the park facilities and to keep the sled hill open going forward.

The Council continued discussion about reopening facilities at Beverly Park and to continue to exercise caution. Suggestions included requiring face coverings, social distancing, maximum capacities, temperature checks, hand sanitizing stations, and more signage.

George summarized the sense of Council: the areas of Beverly Park that were closed at the November 17, 2020 Council meeting will be reopened and additional signage will be posted reflecting requirements of the recent State Health Order with respect to social distancing and face coverings in areas where people congregate (pavilion, play structure, and sled hill).

Roll Call Vote:

Abboud - No

George - Yes

Hrydziusko - Yes

Kecskemeti - Yes

Mooney - Yes

O’Gorman - Yes

Peddie - Yes

Motion passed (6-1)

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT OF A VACANCY ON THE BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD

James Delaney submitted his resignation from his position on the Birmingham Area Cable Board effective November 30, 2020, which leaves a vacancy for a partial term ending June 30, 2023.

The Cable Board meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:45 a.m. The Board is currently meeting remotely via Zoom.

All interested and eligible residents of Beverly Hills are encouraged to apply to become a member of the Cable Board. Applications are available on the Village website or by emailing the Village Clerk at krutkowski@villagebeverlyhills.com. Please submit applications by December 7, 2020 for appointments to be made at the next meeting.

This constitutes the second announcement of the vacancy on the Birmingham Area Cable Board.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM PARKS & RECREATION BOARD TO HOST DECORATION INSTALLATION AT VILLAGE PARKS

Clerk Rutkowski and Parks & Recreation Board Chairperson Borgon provided an overview of the Board's request.

At their November 19, 2020 meeting, the Parks & Recreation Board considered a suggestion from a resident regarding a "Deck the Trails" holiday decoration installation at Beverly Park. Council heard the same suggestion at their November 17, 2020 regular meeting.

The Board seeks approval to purchase evergreen trees to be placed at Village parks and to encourage residents to decorate them for wintertime. Families can hang ornaments or other decorations at their leisure. The installation would last until the New Year, at which time residents can retrieve their decorations. A resident, Stephanie Jones, volunteered to help with the clean-up if decorations remain. The trees would then be chipped for the trail at Beverly Park in January.

The Board unanimously passed the following motion:

The Parks & Recreation Board recommends Council approves the Board's request to plan a holiday installation at parks throughout the Village for residents to decorate and enjoy. They also request the approval of the purchase of evergreen trees not to exceed \$500.00.

Abboud and Borgon clarified that any type of decoration would be allowed: any holiday, wintertime, etc.

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Kecskemeti, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the Parks & Recreation Board's request to plan and promote a holiday installation of evergreen trees to be decorated by residents at their leisure. Be it further resolved, the Council approves the purchase of evergreen trees in an amount not to exceed \$500.00. Funds are available in Account #101-751-956.00 (Parks & Recreation Miscellaneous Expense).

Roll Call Vote:

Abboud - No

George - Yes

Hrydziuszko - Yes

Kecskemeti - Yes

Mooney - Yes

O'Gorman - Yes

Peddie - Yes

Motion passed (6-1)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM PARKS & RECREATION BOARD TO PROMOTE SNOWMAN BUILDING AT VILLAGE PARKS, AS WEATHER PERMITS

Clerk Rutkowski and Parks & Recreation Chairperson Borgon provided an overview of the Board's request.

At their November 19, 2020 meeting, the Parks & Recreation Board discussed promoting winter activities in lieu of the traditional Winter Family Fun Day, given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. They would like to encourage residents to build snowmen at parks throughout the Village as weather permits. This would not be a planned event, rather, residents would build snowmen on their own time with members of their own household. It would be a nice recreational activity for residents to partake in and create a nice installment of snowmen for people traveling by.

The Board unanimously passed the following motion:

The Parks & Recreation Board requests approval from the Beverly Hills Village Council to allow them to promote residents build snowmen, as weather permits, at their leisure, in parks throughout the Village.

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Kecskemeti, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the Parks & Recreation Board's request to promote snowman building in parks throughout the Village to residents, at their leisure, as weather permits.

Roll Call Vote:

Abboud - No

George - Yes

Hrydziuszko - Yes

Kecskemeti - Yes

Mooney - Yes

O'Gorman - Yes

Peddie - Yes

Motion passed (6-1)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH NEXT FOR SENIOR SERVICES

Wilson provided an overview of the annual agreement with Next. Next is a non-profit organization that works to identify and meet the needs of older adults by coordinating community resources to provide educational, recreational, and social programs. Next provides supportive outreach services and volunteer opportunities to seniors in the Village of Beverly Hills and the greater Birmingham School District community. The Village of Beverly Hills does not currently provide these opportunities on its own.

Village Council approved funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget in the amount of \$43,375.00 for contract services for senior services. A contract with Next requesting funding and outlining the services it provides was provided to the Council for review.

Motion by Abboud, second by Mooney, be it resolved, the Village Council of Beverly Hills approves the funding request from Next in the amount of \$43,375.00 and authorizes Administration to sign the annual contract with Next for senior services. Funds for these services are available in account #101-747-891.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Election Certification – Clerk Rutkowski received a notice of certification of the election of November 3rd from Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown for both the Village Council election and the Millage Renewal. Clerk Rutkowski is contacting newly elected Council members to arrange a swearing in prior to the meeting.

Village December Newsletter – The Village newsletter for December has been completed and will be going out in the mail later this week.

Public Safety Radios – The Public Safety Department has notified me that Oakland County will be obtaining new police radios and moving to a different frequency over the next year. This will require the purchase of additional equipment for the Public Safety Department. There is a program where we may be able to save a lot on this additional purchase by paying now as opposed to later next year. Public Safety Administration is evaluating this option and may be coming forward with a request to secure this purchase now to save money.

Joint Senior Services Agreement – The Joint Senior Services Commission has been meeting for many months to address a formal agreement between The City of Birmingham, Villages of Beverly Hills, Franklin and Bingham Farms and Birmingham Public Schools. A draft agreement between the parties has been produced and reviewed by our boards and legal counsel(s). Birmingham City Manager Joe Valentine has been instrumental in leading this process. Joe has announced that he is retiring at the end of December. I believe the Birmingham City Commission will be taking the draft agreement up prior to his departure. I plan to review the draft with the Council President and bring it forward for Council's review and consideration as early as the meeting of December 15. The Council appointed Jim Delaney, Dorothy Pfeifer and Greg Burry to sit on the Joint Commission and all have been active in the development of this draft agreement.

Curbside Yard Waste Collection – Curbside yard waste collection will continue through the week of December 14th. SOCRRA is working on a plan by which residents can bring material to the SOCRRA facility after December 14th. We will make those details known as they are provided to us.

Village Calendar – 2021 Village Calendars will be going out in the mail to all residents soon.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

O'Gorman thanked Council for their kind words and looks forward to working with everyone. He would like to see increased community engagement and participation.

Kecskemeti stated that she is grateful for the opportunity to serve on Council. She appreciates everyone who reached out and welcomed her. She appreciates residents' comments on the sewer issue and suggested creating a working group to address it.

Abboud welcomed the new Council members and congratulated George and Hrydziusko on their new roles. He gave an update on the MML's work on a bridge bill. He congratulated Rebekah Craft for her new role as Director of Baldwin Public Library and thanked outgoing Director Koschik for his service. He said his heart goes out to any resident who was impacted by flooding.

Peddie welcomed the new members to Council and congratulated George and Hrydziusko for being selected as President and President Pro-Tem.

Mooney welcomed the new Council members and stated they ran good campaigns. He looks forward to the leadership on Council.

Hrydziusko welcomed O'Gorman and Kecskemeti to Council. She thanked Peddie and Abboud for their leadership, congratulated George, and thanked everyone for selecting her as President Pro-Tem.

George welcomed the new Council members and congratulated Mooney on his reelection. He thanked the outgoing President and President Pro-Tem and thanked everyone for their support of his new role as President.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Abboud, second by Hrydziusko to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk