

Present: President George; President Pro-Tem Hrydziuszko; Members: Abboud, Kecskemeti, Mooney, O’Gorman, and Peddie
Kecskemeti participated remotely via Zoom from Brooksville, Florida.
All other 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

George 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.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Hrydziuszko, be it resolved the agenda is amended to remove Business Agenda Item 4: Review and Consider Interlocal Agreement for Joint Senior Services, at the recommendation of the Village Attorney.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, be it resolved, the agenda is approved as amended.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, 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 December 15, 2020.
2. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, December 21, 2020.
3. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, January 4, 2021.
4. Set public hearing date for Tuesday, February 2, 2021 to receive comments on amendments to the Municipal Code, Chapter 22, Section 22.28.020 Off-Street Parking Requirements.
5. Set public hearing date for Tuesday, February 2, 2021 to receive comments on amendments to the Municipal Code, Chapter 22, Section 22.26 Single Family Residential Cluster Development (Planned Unit Developments (PUD)).

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA
SET COUNCIL STRATEGY SESSION DATE

Every January the Village Council holds a special strategy meeting to discuss goals for the year.

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, be it resolved, the Council Strategy Session will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER SUBCOMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATION TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD

There is a vacancy on the Birmingham Area Cable Board for a partial term ending June 30, 2023.

The Village has received one application to fill the vacancy from resident Kathleen Tootell.

A subcommittee met on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to review the application and offer a recommendation to the Council. The subcommittee consisted of Councilmember Mooney (chair), Councilmember Abboud, and President George.

Motion by Mooney, second by Hrydziusko, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council appoints Kathleen Tootell to the Birmingham Area Cable Board for a partial term ending June 30, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER RESOLUTION APPROVING ADDENDUMS TO MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MERS) DEFINED CONTRIBUTION AND DEFINED BENEFITS PLANS

Wilson provided an overview. MERS is requiring all groups to define their current reporting practices. The addendums that showing this information were provided to the Council. This does not modify any of our existing plans, but it does require approval by the Governing Body. It is recommended that Council approve the MERS addendums as submitted.

Motion by O’Gorman, second by Mooney, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the addendums to the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS) Defined Contribution and Defined Benefits Plans for the Village of Beverly Hills Administration and Public Safety Department as submitted.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER RESOLUTION TO AMEND RULES FOR ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

As initially noticed by the Village Attorney, the Michigan legislature and Governor Whitmer had amended the Open Meeting Act to allow virtual meetings to occur for no reason by public bodies to December 31, 2020. For the following year there were specific reasons allowed for virtual attendance by a public body member, which expired on December 31, 2021, thereafter allowing virtual attendance by a public member for military service.

With the COVID-19 numbers spiking in Michigan, the legislature passed legislation signed by Governor Whitmer on December 22, 2020, adopting Public Act 254 of 2020, which basically mirrors Act 228 but extends the virtual attendance by a public body member to March 31, 2021. This was a three-month extension continuing all the prior conditions attached to Public Act 228. It is recommended the Council adopt a resolution to reflect the new date of March 31, 2021.

A copy of Public Act 254 was provided to the Council.

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, be it resolved, the resolution amending the rules for electronic meetings is adopted as published and available for public inspection at the Village Office and on the Village website.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

TOPICS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. SEWER AND WATER DRAINAGE DISCUSSION

George and Kecskemeti provided an outline of water management issues which included basement back-ups, water seepage in basements, and flooded yards. Kecskemeti proposed the following actions to address basement back-ups in combined sewer areas and the Council discussed the ideas:

Define the issue

- a. Update village maps depicting combined and separate sewer areas
- b. Summarize actions to date – downspout disconnect, relief sewers, etc.
- c. Identify areas vulnerable to basement back ups
- d. Assess current state of stormwater management infrastructure in most vulnerable areas – relief sewers, restrictor plates, ditch capacity, etc.

Identify and assess feasibility of options

- a. Protect homes - establish Basement Back-up Protection Program
- b. Reduce inflow
- c. Increase retention

The Council also discussed promoting public education on the following topics: infrastructure basics; home system basics; basement back-ups; water seepage; yard flooding; and insurance and liability.

Peddie commented that she would like to compare maps and discussed the option of a Special Assessment District.

Abboud commented on grants to help homeowners.

Mooney would like to see more information or a study on ditches. He liked the idea of rain barrels and rain gardens.

O’Gorman suggested communicating with neighboring communities and including residents in the discussion.

Council members discussed contacting partner organizations such as MML or SEMCOG for resources. They also discussed creating an internship position for this issue.

2. SIDEWALKS

Wilson gave an overview of grant opportunities, Act 51 funding, and the sidewalk program.

The Council discussed doing an inventory on the sidewalks to see where new sidewalks are desired and where existing sidewalks need to be repaired.

The Council also discussed the importance of having community involvement and public input in regards to sidewalks.

3. Traffic Calming

The Council discussed several ways to slow down traffic in the village such as: stop signs, speed humps, and speed signs. They talked about identifying more locations for speed signs and picking a standard type of sign to be used throughout the village. They also discussed alternatives such as elevated crosswalks and increased enforcement.

Hrydziuszko commented that signs that show the speed, opposed to those that just light up, seem to be more effective in slowing down vehicles.

4. Tree Ordinance

Hrydziuszko provided an overview of the proposed tree ordinance that includes provisions on permitting, establishing a tree fund, and clear-cutting lots.

5. Public Safety Committee Update

Peddie discussed the culture of accountability in Beverly Hills. She said that she would like to convene again soon with the new and existing committee members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Janes, Beverly Hills, thanked Council for presenting the sewer outline. She talked about the resale value of properties in relation to sewer backups. She also talked about the cost of backflow preventers.

Elizabeth Dawe, 17095 Dunblaine, commented on a newspaper article that addressed backups, other communities’ approaches to the problem, and potentially using CDBG funding for backflow preventers.

Gwen and Sam Buschell, 15726 Birwood, commented on their neighbor’s new construction. They stated that crossing Greenfield is dangerous and more signs or crosswalks should be installed.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Planning and Zoning Administrator Position – Planning and Zoning Administrator Erin LaPere has been selected as the next City Manager by the City of Charlotte, Michigan. Erin has been employed by the Village for the past 14 years and has consistently advanced in her career at the Village. She has served as an Administrative Assistant to the Village Manager and Public Services Director, as Building Department Clerk and most recently as Planning and Zoning Administrator. In multiple positions and often assigned various tasks, Ms. LaPere has proven herself to be a quality employee. Erin obtained her MPA from the University of Michigan Dearborn earlier this year. I am confident that Erin will perform well in her new position and congratulate Charlotte on making a great hire.

I will begin the search for her replacement immediately. Erin’s last day of employment with the Village will be January 15th. I will be stepping up to assume a lot of her current duties as Planning and Zoning Administrator. Other duties will also be disseminated to other staff until a replacement is obtained. SAFEbuillt has been made aware of the transition and is prepared to work with us until a new hire is made.

Parks and Recreation Joint Meeting – The annual Joint Meeting between the Village Council and the Parks and Recreation Board will be held on Thursday, January 21st at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

Tree Chipping – Christmas Tree chipping will take place the weeks of January 4th and January 11th. Real trees free of lights, ornaments or tinsel can be placed at the curb for collection and chipping. Trees should not be bagged.

Snow Emergency – As we have reached that time of year again the Village would like to remind all residents to remove vehicles from the roadway during snow events so that the roads can be cleared. In the case of significant snow events the Village may declare a Snow Emergency. In such cases residents will be required to remove vehicles from the street until roads have been cleared. Vehicles that have not been removed may be subject to ticketing. Thank you for your cooperation.

Offices Closed – Village Offices will be closed on Monday, January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

O’Gorman stated that people were enjoying the sled hill. He promoted good behavior such as wearing masks and social distancing. He reminded everyone to be responsible and respectful while out in public.

Keckskemeti appreciated the feedback regarding the water management issues outline.

Abboud provided an overview of Next’s services for people 50 years old and up. He announced he will continue in his role as Vice Chair for the Senior Advisory Council. He was also recently appointed to MML’s Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He thanked Erin LaPere for her service to the Village and congratulated her on the new opportunity.

Peddie provided an update from the December Planning Commission meeting and said that the public hearings for parking and PUD would be held at upcoming Council meetings.

Mooney stated that this meeting was extraordinarily worthwhile. He talked about the CDBG allocations that different communities are eligible for.

Hrydziuszko thanked residents for their input and participation. She reminded everyone that masks are required at the sled hill and Beverly Park playground. She asked that people wear masks out of respect for their neighbors.

George stated that COVID-19 vaccine distribution is not complete, and people should still be wearing masks. He appreciated tonight's conversations.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk