

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
Village Attorney, Ryan
Public Safety Director, Torongeau

President George called the regular Village 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 Peddie, be it resolved, the agenda is approved as published.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS – UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVE KYRA HARRIS BOLDEN

Ravynne Gilmore from Representative Bolden’s Office was in attendance and provided budget updates, spoke about the COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program, and stated that the Representative would be recognizing frontline workers. She provided a legislative update about motorcycle insurance and updates to the face mask requirements. She encouraged residents to reach out to Rep. Bolden via email at kyrabolden@house.mi.gov.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Osmer, Riverside Drive, thanked traffic control for the installation of the speed sign at Riverside and Warwick. He commented on the Southfield/Beverly Road stop light line, which is set back from the intersection, and suggested the sign be highlighted so drivers stop in the appropriate location.

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 May 4, 2021
2. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, May 10, 2021.
3. Review and consider resolution appointing SOCRRA representative and alternate for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.
4. Review and consider resolution appointing SOCWA representative and alternate for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

Senator Rosemary Bayer was in attendance and spoke in support of Moms Demand Action and the proposed proclamation.

President George read the following proclamation:

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Village of Beverly Hills, Michigan to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence.

WHEREAS, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 230 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has 1,212 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 12.1 deaths per 100,000 people. Michigan has the 3151 highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all firearm related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation, including in the Village of Beverly Hills, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is the mayors' highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than a year of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in city gun violence;

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 4, 2021 to recognize the 24th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and

the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya' s friends, who asked their class- mates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 4th, the first Friday in June in 2021, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 4, 2021 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that President John George of the Village of Beverly Hills declares the first Friday in June, June 4, 2021, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

SECOND ANNOUCEMENT OF VARIOUS BOARD/COMMISSION VACANCIES

The following is a list of board members whose terms expire on June 30, 2021. All of the members have been notified of their term expiration and those listed below wish to be considered for reappointment. The names in parenthesis are not seeking reappointment. Council agreed in November of 2008 to make these vacancies open to the public as well as the currently seated member.

Birmingham Area Cable Board

Ray Kamoo

Parks & Recreation Board

Janice Hausman
Jennifer Ruprich
(William Kondak)

Planning Commission

Andrew Drummond
George Ostrowski
Robert Ruprich

Zoning Board of Appeals

Chris Crossen
David Crawford
Karen Mitchell
Charlotte Keller – Alternate
(Christina Gennari – Alternate)

All full member terms are for three years beginning July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2024. In order to stagger the ZBA Alternate terms, one vacant ZBA Alternate term will be for two years beginning July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2023. Beginning July 1, 2023, this position will have a three-year term again, expiring June 30, 2026, and every three years thereafter.

All interested and eligible residents of Beverly Hills are encouraged to apply. Descriptions of each Board/Commission can be found on the Village website by selecting “Boards/Commission” under the “Government” tab. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, June 2, 2021. Applications are available on the Village website or by emailing the Village Clerk at krutkowski@villagebeverlyhills.com.

This constitutes the second announcement of the vacancies with appointments scheduled to take place at the June 15, 2021 regular Village Council meeting.

RECEIVE AND FILE HRC’S REPORT REGARDING RIVERSIDE BRIDGE

Wilson provided an overview of the report submitted by Hubbell, Roth, and Clark, Inc. dated May 14, 2021 regarding the Riverside Bridge deck investigation. Wilson recommended the Village include the recommended bridge improvements with the concrete work bid to be performed later this year.

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council instructs Administration to prepare the necessary documents to seek bids in conformity with the memorandum issued by HRC to correct the deficiencies in the Riverside Bridge at the earliest possible date.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

RECEIVE AND FILE CASH AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY AND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT DATE ENDING MARCH 31, 2021

Wilson provided an overview of the Cash and Investment Summary which includes all cash accounts and CD’s as of March 31, 2021 for all funds. Also presented was the Revenue and Expenditure Report which includes revenue and expenditures for the General Fund, Major Road Fund, Local Street Fund, Public Safety Department, Library Fund and Water/Sewer Operation Fund for the 9 months ended March 31, 2021. The Revenue and Expenditure Report does not include prepaid and accrual adjustments that are reflected in the year end audited financial statements. Actual compared to budget financial results are monitored and budget amendments presented for approval, as necessary.

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, the Beverly Hills Village Council receives and files the Cash and Investment Summary and Revenue and Expenditure Report date ending March 31, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. POTENTIAL CHICKEN ORDINANCE

The Council discussed the idea of a backyard chicken ordinance, which has been a topic of conversation among the community as of late.

Keckskemeti acknowledged all of the comments received and conversations had around the idea of a chicken ordinance. She stated it has not been a productive conversation and would like Council to decide on a path forward or how to proceed with this topic.

George acknowledged that this topic opened a can of worms, so to speak. He discussed different routes the Council could take. He stated that there is nothing for Council to vote on right now, so he is not inclined to move this issue forward.

Hrydziuszko thanked residents for their input. She stated that she ran for Council on this issue, but would like community support before moving it forward.

Mooney thanked everyone who sent emails and expressed their opinions. He expressed interest in maintaining the character of the community. He suggested putting this issue on the ballot.

Peddie stated that the Council would need more community involvement to move this forward.

Abboud noted that he is a public servant who listens to and hears the community.

Village Attorney Ryan provided clarification on the Zoning Board of Appeals procedure and ballot procedure.

2. PRIDE MONTH DESIGNATION

Hrydziuszko gave an overview of Pride Month and gave examples of what other municipalities do to recognize the LGBTQ+ community, from resolutions to festivals. She stated she has received requests from residents to bring this item to Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tony Lott, Riverside, commented on reputation, trust, and transparency. He stated the chicken discussion was not published in the last Villager newsletter.

Richard Mannassa, Buckingham, stated he did not want the chicken issue on the ballot.

Stephanie Jones, Beverly Road, commented on the Pride Month designation and asked at what point is every individual represented.

Lisa Mosner, Englewood, asked whether the chicken debate is worth dividing the community.

Diane Brody, Sunset, expressed concerns over enforcement of backyard chickens.

Gabriel Ervin, Riverside, was concerned with transparency and the tone of the dialogue in the chicken debate.

Kate Buck, Old Stage Road, was disheartened by comments and misinformation surrounding the chicken conversations. She supports a backyard chicken pilot program.

Kaitlin Borra, Eastlady, was disappointed with the negativity around the chicken conversation and supports moving forward.

Adam Beslove, Lahser, stated backyard chickens would not impact property value. He talked about caged chickens and chicken tractors.

Tom Maxwell, Lauderdale, spoke in opposition to backyard chickens.

Amy Bumbaugh, Waltham, expressed concern that chickens would attract coyotes and rats, be noisy, and negatively impact property values. She does not want to see this issue polarizing people and suggested it go to a vote.

Dale Wolicki, Amherst, commented on the Code Enforcement report. He suggested a lecture be given by an officer from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

Dale Young, Verona Circle, commented on the population density in the area and stated he was opposed to backyard chickens.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Wilson provided an update on state mask requirements and updating the Village Office hours next month. He also provided an update on public meetings and social distancing. He stated there was a car jacking at 13 Mile Road and Evergreen recently and there is an ongoing multijurisdictional investigation.

The Village Office will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2021 in observance of Memorial Day. Trash collection will be delayed one day that week.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

O’Gorman stated that while the chicken issue has been a great learning experience, the conversation has become hostile. He stated that it is important to start talking to one another again cordially. He is looking forward to the upcoming events, such as the Concert in the Park.

Keckskemeti stated that she appreciated O’Gorman’s comments. She is listening to people’s comments. She stated that people can disagree without being disagreeable. She stated to be mindful of the construction on Greenfield Road.

Abboud provided an update on Next and stated he attended an in-person meeting there earlier that day. He thanked teachers for their hard work during the pandemic.

Peddie thanked all of the community members for attending the meeting.

Mooney requested that the Council President communicate Village issues with the Council, especially when the Manager is absent. He acknowledged the chicken comments received via email. He stated he has never seen this type of reaction to an issue in the Village and thinks there is no need to upset the residents.

Hrydziusko reminded everyone that there is a Parks & Recreation Board meeting on Thursday, May 20th at Beverly Park. She stated she had been asking for a conversation about backyard chickens first as a resident and then as a council member. She said if there is not support for the issue, then she will not move it forward. She also stated that people who want chickens need to be engaged and part of the conversation.

George thanked everyone who attended the meeting, commented, and sent emails. He thanked Rutkowski for coordinating the email deliveries to Council. He thanked all of the volunteers who participated in the Park Clean Up on May 15. He agreed that Council could be doing better and that there are other issues Council could be focusing on, such as sewers and sidewalks.

Mooney left the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Abboud, second by Hrydziusko, to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (6-0)

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk