

Present: President George; President Pro-Tem Hrydziuszko; Members: Abboud, Kecskemeti, Mooney, O’Gorman, and Peddie

Absent: None

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

President George called the regular Village Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Hrydziuszko, be it resolved, the consent agenda is approved.

1. Review and consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held December 7, 2021.
2. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, December 20, 2021.
3. Review and consider Interim Village Manager salary.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

PRESENTATION ON SOUTH EVERGREEN INTERCEPTOR REHABILITATION PROJECT FROM HUBBELL, ROTH, AND CLARK, INC.

Brad Shepler from Hubbell, Roth, and Clark, Inc. was in attendance and presented on the upcoming South Evergreen Interceptor Rehabilitation Project. There is a 54-inch interceptor beneath Evergreen Road that needs to be rehabilitated. The rehabilitation will consist of grouting around the outside of the pipe to seal leaks and repairing the concrete degradation to prevent further erosion. The project will require the closure of Evergreen Road between 14 Mile Road and Village Drive. The project is to begin on January 3, 2022 and will have a duration of 4 to 5 months.

Shepler presented a map of the road closures and discussed maintaining traffic. Evergreen will be closed, but the 14 residential driveways on Evergreen will have access. A one lane roadway will be provided and these residents have been notified separately. All side streets that intersect with Evergreen on this stretch will be closed. The intent of this maintaining traffic plan is to minimize

cut through traffic and promote worker safety. Residents in the surrounding area received a notice and traffic map in the mail. The notice and map can also be found on the Village website.

O’Gorman asked if the road signs could go up sooner rather than later since January 3rd is the first day back to school and people would appreciate advance notice.

Mooney thought the notice that was mailed out was good. He asked that there be increased enforcement on Beverly Road during the project.

Abboud stated the notice is on the Village website.

Tony Dellucci, Sunnyslope Drive, asked what the interceptor does. Shepler stated it carries sewage flow from the surrounding area down to 8 Mile Road.

DISCUSS RESIDENTIAL BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

Keckskemeti stated that Hubbell, Roth, and Clark, Inc. has put together an outline of the ongoing discussions regarding backflow prevention.

Brad Shepler, HRC, Inc. gave a presentation on combined sewer area stormwater management. As an overview, the current system was designed in the 1940s and was designed to carry sewage and rainwater (“combined”). Intense storms are happening more often and basement backups in the combined sewer area may occur during intense rain events. The goal is to minimize the risk of basement backups.

Shepler discussed regional, local, and private options to mitigate basement backups. He suggested focusing on the local and private options. Local options included a relief sewer or a new storm sewer/partial separation. A partial separation in the GWK district would serve approximately 330 homes and cost about \$6.3 million. Private options include backflow preventers, sewage pump systems, footing drain disconnect, public education efforts, and cost sharing.

Keckskemeti went over the proposed Basement Backup Protection Pilot Program. Eligible homes would be in the combined sewer area with a basement. Eligible improvements would include backflow preventers, sewage pumps, and footing disconnects. Through the program, the Village would reimburse 50% up to \$2,500 for one of the eligible improvements. A plumbing permit, inspection, and waiver of future liability would be required to participate. The proposed initial funding would be \$250,000.

George stated that the Village has done everything to maintain the system and the sewers are up to standards. The Pilot Program would be a proactive approach to reducing the risk of basement backups.

Abboud asked how one would propose we educate residents, since public education was a highly recommended option. He suggested an MML Zoom webinar with experts.

Keckskemeti stated that there is information on the Village website. She proposed a workshop or webinar on infrastructure, different ways water gets into basements, and potential solutions. She suggested more information be added about this topic in the quarterly newsletter or calendar. She

would prefer the information by hyper local and specific to Beverly Hills. She stated that the Council does not have an obligation to do this program, but it would be nice for the residents.

Mooney asked for the reason why some houses flood and some do not. He asked if there is something systematic and how we would find out. He also noted these problems seemed to be occurring in an isolated area.

Shepler stated there are several possibilities including elevations and tree roots. He noted water will find the lowest point it can. A topographic survey could be done to find the elevations of the basements.

The Council discussed eligibility further. It was noted that a resident would not have to show that their basement has backed up before in order to be eligible.

The Council discussed potential impact on neighbors.

The Council discussed other options such as rain barrels, digging deeper ditches, and hydraulic pumps. Shepler noted that it is difficult to measure the benefit of low impact options like rain barrels.

Abboud stated that it is beneficial to televise sewer lines.

The Council asked specific questions about installing valves or backflow preventers. Shepler advised residents to speak with their plumbers and follow manufacturer's guidelines because every house could be different.

Kecskemeti stated she would like the Village to be prepared for the next rain event. The Council discussed gathering data and sharing information by way of door hangers.

O’Gorman asked about a capacity assessment to determine how much water went into basements during the last intense rain event.

Council discussed what other communities were doing, such as televising sewers, installing restrictor plates, and public education.

Council agreed there should be an affordability option for low-income residents should this program move forward. Hrydziuszko suggested looking at the City of Lansing’s similar program as an example.

Mooney expressed concern about spending public money on private home improvements and was uncomfortable with reports of raw sewage in basements. He was concerned that plumbers would inflate their costs if participating in the reimbursement program.

The Council discussed the option of using ARPA funding for this pilot program. George stated it is a public health issue.

Mooney thanked Shepler for attending on behalf of HRC and said the discussion was informative.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER DIRECTING ADMINISTRATION TO REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR CODIFICATION SERVICES

Rutkowski provided an overview. Codification is the editing, rearranging, and/or grouping of ordinances under appropriate titles, chapters, and sections. Standard practice is to recodify a municipal code about every ten years and the Village is overdue. Recodification can include a legal review for consistency with federal and state laws, supplements (such as an index and list of cross-references), recommended updates, and a general clean up of the existing code. Companies that provide codification services also provide web hosting services for codes that are user friendly and have advanced search features.

Administration believes recodifying the Municipal Code is in the best interest of the Village and recommends moving forward with obtaining bids for codification services.

Keckskemeti asked about updating the Building Code. Ryan clarified that the State Construction Code is automatically updated without required Council action.

Ryan stated improved searchability of the Municipal Code would be a benefit.

Motion by Abboud, second by Mooney, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council directs Administration to seek bids for codification services for the Village Municipal Code.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO NOT AMEND THE VILLAGE MASTER PLAN

Rutkowski provided an overview of the recommendation. The Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3845(2)) requires every community to review its master plan every five years. On February 24, 2021 the Planning Commission established a schedule to review individual chapters of the Village Master Plan. After a three months long thorough review and discussion, the Planning Commission decided at the June 23, 2021 meeting to focus on the implementation of the plan rather than opening it to amending. It was suggested and agreed upon, that implementation of the plan should be the focal point of our next Master Planning strategies. Furthermore, they agreed that Village staff shall formulate an action/work plan that includes implementation of the Master Plan along with other agreed upon planning priorities.

At their August 25, 2021 meeting, the Planning Commission passed a motion stating: in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3845(2)), the Planning Commission has held numerous public meetings where the five-year review of the Village Master Plan was discussed. As a result of said discussion, the Planning Commission hereby concludes no amendments are needed to the Village Master Plan and recommend to Council the same accordingly.

Excerpts from the Planning Commission meeting minutes were provided to the Council.

Motion by Peddie, second by Mooney, the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the Planning Commission's recommendation to not amend the Village Master Plan after

conducting a five-year review in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3845(2)).

Roll Call Vote:

Abboud – Yes

George – Yes

Hrydziuszko – Yes

Kecskemeti – Yes

Mooney – Yes

O’Gorman – No

Peddie – Yes

Motion passed (6-1)

SET STRATEGY SESSION DATE FOR JANUARY 2022

The Council set a strategy session meeting date for Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to be held in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. LANDSCAPE DESIGN RFP/COMMUNITY INPUT COMPONENT ON PARK #5 GOALS

George discussed creating a landscape design request for proposals bundle to include Park #5, the Southfield Road Corridor, and any other public property that that Council sees fit. George would like public input regarding Park #5 and proposed meeting at the park in February to gain feedback.

Mooney stated there is a list of landscape architects that could do this work. He suggested coordinating with Southfield Township on beautification along Southfield Road. He thought the Council should encourage walkability to Park #5 and he would like to see a new sign.

Hrydziuszko stated a subcommittee met at Park #5 and created a wish list that included a welcome sign. She said the park has limits given its size and location on a main road.

2. SCHEDULING DEPARTMENT UPDATES WITH VILLAGE MANAGER

George stated that Mooney suggested it would be good to get more frequent updates from each department in the Village Administration. George asked that Council be mindful that there are individuals serving in interim roles and it may be better to implement this once a new manager is hired.

Mooney stated he does not think the Council is kept in the loop enough regarding the Village Engineer. In addition to the budget and the audit, he would like more information from the Finance Department on things such as bond obligations and ARPA. He would like to know about new construction updates from the Building Department. He thinks Council should be introduced to new hires. He would like to know of any pending issues from the Village Attorney. Finally, he thinks that Council should be made aware of any serious issues from the Public Safety Department.

Kecskemeti agreed and she would appreciate these updates.

O’Gorman suggested putting some structure and cadence on the department updates. He would like feedback from Administration regarding the timing of updates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Yard Waste

Yard waste collection ended the week of December 13, 2021 for the season. SOCRRA’s Recycling Drop-off Site will be accepting yard waste from residents starting December 20th. Residents may bring up to 10 bags per day. No appointment is needed but residents must show proof of residency and may only bring yard waste. Please visit www.socrra.org for more information.

Emergency Alerts

As the cold and snowy weather approaches, we encourage residents to sign up to receive Emergency Alerts from the Village. Notice of Snow Emergencies are sent out through this alert system. Residents may also sign up to receive our weekly email blast that goes out every Friday. To sign up, visit the Village website, go to the “How Do I” tab, click “Sign Up for Alerts,” and enter your email address. The direct link is listed below:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIOAKLVBH/subscriber/new>

O’Gorman asked about a texting option for these alerts.

Southfield Township Clerk Retiring

On behalf of the entire Village, we thank Southfield Township Clerk, Sharon Tischler, for 37 years of dedicated service to the Township and Village. Tischler has been instrumental in successfully administering elections for Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin. She has provided great leadership in the Oakland County Clerk’s Association and served on the Legislative Committee. Tischler’s last day with the Township is December 31, 2021. We wish her all the best.

Holiday Office Closures

The Village Office will be closed for the holidays on the following dates:

Thursday, December 23

Friday, December 24

Thursday, December 30

Friday, December 31

Happy holidays!

COUNCIL COMMENTS

O’Gorman stated that this is the end of his first year on Council and it has been an interesting year. He thanked the other Council members for their input and lessons. He wished everyone happy holidays.

Kecskemeti hopes everyone can slow down and refocus after a hectic year. She wished everyone happy and safe holidays.

Abboud thanked Sharon Tischler for almost 40 years of service as the Southfield Township Clerk. He thanked her for all of her work on the elections over the years. He commented on an ARPA FAQ link that will be sent out. He recently moderated a FOIA discussion in the MML Elected Officials Academy. He talked about HB 4722 that passed the State House and was moved along to the Senate regarding short term rentals. He discussed the Senior Advisory Council goals of

Education and Outreach and Approving Awareness of the organization. He stated the Village Manager search is ongoing and thanked Council and Rutkowski for holding down the fort in the meantime. He wished everyone happy and safe holidays.

Mooney wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays. He reported that Elaine McClain was recently elected to the Birmingham City Council. McClain served for 15 years as the chairperson of the Birmingham Area Cable Board. He said she ran meetings well and took cable complaints seriously. She even paid out of her own pocket to attend cable related conferences across the country. He congratulated Beverly Hills resident and board member, Gil Gugni for being appointed as the new Chairperson of the BACB. He recently attended a Southfield Township Board of Trustees meeting where the Board accepted Sharon Tischler's retirement as Township Clerk. He stated she held the position for 37 years and ran flawless elections. He commended her for her work on elections and for moving them from March to November. He noted she was a mentor for other local clerks and had been named Clerk of the Year several times. She was a former member of the Beverly Hills Village Council and attended many meetings as a resident as well. He noted that she criticized the Council and Administration on many things and has not always seen eye to eye with Mooney, but he realizes that she always had the Village and Township's best interests in mind. He said she will truly be missed. He congratulated Eileen Harryman on her appointment to Township Clerk and wished her good luck.

Hrydziuszko reported that the winter trees are installed at Village parks to be decorated. She asked residents to be mindful of nature while decorating and discouraged the use of tinsel. She said it is a fun activity for families. She wished everyone a happy holiday season. She said 2021 handed us even more than 2020 and hopes everyone can reflect on what has challenged us and look forward to the new year.

George truly appreciated the discussion on lots of items during this meeting. He said he appreciates Tischler's work on the elections. He is looking forward to 2022. He appreciates residents' input and involvement. He wants to help people realize the possibilities for the Village of Beverly Hills. He said 2021 was spent planting the seeds for projects to be carried out in 2022. He hopes everyone enjoys the holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk