

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 via Zoom
Village Attorney, Ryan

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

Karen Gilbert, Amherst, asked about the Village Attorney’s contract. She said it was stale and expired and wondered why the Village does not update the Attorney’s contract, but puts a calendar RFP out each year, which is comparably much less expensive.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Review and consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held December 21, 2021.
2. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, January 3, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL APPLICATION

George provided an overview of the program and referenced a map of proposed sidewalks that was displayed on the SmartBoard in the Council Chambers. He noted that the initial resolution that was included in the meeting packet has been updated to include two schools that were accidentally left off. The updated resolution also has a funding update because the 20% match is not required and has been waived by MDOT. He noted the grant amount was \$220,000 per school. He stated the goal of the resolution is to indicate support for the grant application for the schools listed. He said that a representative from the Safe Routes to School program will attend the next Council meeting and he encouraged resident feedback. He stated there is an early February deadline.

Abboud asked about engineering for the project.

O’Gorman clarified that the total request amount was \$880,000 for 4 schools and that the match requirement had been removed. He asked about the timeline for the project. George stated it would be in the 2023 or 2024 cycle.

Kecskemeti stated Our Lady Queen of Martyrs has not yet confirmed if they will participate.

Abboud asked about the duration of the project. George stated that there is not a precise timeline yet, but that the grant notification period is in June/July.

Kecskemeti stated that the TAP grant has conditions that the community may not be on board with and asked if SRTS funding could be used along the main roads. George said yes, the SRTS funding could be used along main roads.

Motion by George, second by Hrydziuszko:

WHEREAS, the Village of Beverly Hills supports policies and programs that promote health and wellness and healthier community environments; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of children is of highest concern to the residents of the Village of Beverly Hills; and

WHEREAS, walking and biking can help enhance the health and overall physical activity of children, improve air quality and the environment, and reduce traffic congestion and speed in and around school zones; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to walk and bike to school; and

WHEREAS, SRTS efforts help remove barriers to walking and biking to school through improvement of infrastructure and facilities and the creation of education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation programs; and

WHEREAS, the SRTS program is a federally funded program administered in Michigan by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT); and

WHEREAS, the SRTS program provides up to \$220,000 of infrastructure funds per school; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Beverly Hills is applying for funds from the Safe Routes to School Program to construct certain infrastructure projects throughout the Village, including sidewalks, crosswalks, and signage to enable and encourage children to safely walk and bike to school. The project, also known as the Beverly Hills Safe Routes to School Connector Program, will enhance and provide safe walkable connections for the Beverly Elementary School, Greenfield Elementary School, Bingham Farms Elementary School and Berkshire Middle School by completing the sidewalk gaps impacting these educational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Beverly Hills will seek a SRTS grant of \$880,000 (or \$220,000 per school); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Beverly Hills supports the Beverly Hills Safe Routes to School Connector Program and its construction to provide safe walkable connections for the subject schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Village of Beverly Hills commits to pay engineering services required to design and supervise the construction of the path or any non-participating costs required for the realization of the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Beverly Hills Village Council authorizes the Village Manager to act as an agent/representative on behalf of the applicant agency during project development, request SRTS funding, and sign a project agreement upon receipt of a funding award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Village of Beverly Hills commits to being responsible for engineering for design and construction, permit fees, administration costs, potential cost overruns, and any non-participating items.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Village of Beverly Hills commits to owning/operating the facility constructed with SRTS funding and funding/implementing a maintenance plan/program in perpetuity or causing operations and maintenance to occur.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Christmas Tree Chipping

Comeau will be chipping Christmas trees the weeks of January 3 and January 10, 2022. Please remove all decorations and plastic bags and place trees at the curb to be chipped.

Safe Routes to School Public Input

The Council will be asking for additional resident feedback on the Safe Routes to School program application at their January 18, 2022 regularly scheduled meeting. Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting in person or via Zoom to share their comments. Written comments may also be submitted to the Village Clerk (krutkowski@villagebeverlyhills.com or 18500 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025) by 4:30 p.m. on January 18th.

Upcoming Strategy Session

The annual Council Strategy Session will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Village Council Chambers.

Joint Council/Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

The joint Council/Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers.

Holiday Office Closures

The Village Office will be closed on Monday, January 17, 2022 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Trash collection will not be interrupted.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Keckskemeti stated that January is National Radon Awareness Month. She stated that one in four homes may be impacted by the presence of radon. She said it is very important to test homes for radon every few years. Oakland County has test kits available for residents.

Abboud reported that Orion Township Supervisor Chris Barnett has been selected to serve as the SEMCOG Chairperson. He stated SEMCOG is hosting a webinar about floodplains and January 11th and encouraged everyone to attend. The meeting information is on their website. He asked for an estimate for partitions to be placed on the Council desk in the Chambers. He is looking forward to Saturday’s strategy session where he would like to discuss short term rentals and infrastructure.

Mooney said Happy New Year. He wished the best for the Village this coming year.

Hrydziuszko thanked residents who submitted name suggestions for Park #5.

George reported that the Village Manager application deadline has been extended to January 14, 2022. He stated that the Council should either hold a special meeting or set time aside at the February 1st meeting to discuss the applicant pool. He asked Council members to please bring their ideas for the strategy session on Saturday. He said if there is a project that they would like to see complete to take ownership of it. He said there would be a finance update at Saturday’s meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk