

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

Absent: None

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

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 Hrydziuszko, 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 6, 2022.
2. Review and consider approval of minutes of a Closed Session meeting held December 6, 2022.
3. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, November 21 and Monday, December 19, 2022.
4. Review and consider authorizing Administration to publish request for proposals (RFP) for cyber security services.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Torongeau provided an overview of the request. The Public Safety Department is respectfully requesting to replace one unmarked Detective Bureau car with funds from the 2023 budget. The purchase would be for one 2023 Chevy Malibu LT bought from Berger Chevrolet in Grand Rapids Michigan. Berger has been selected as both the state of Michigan and Oakland County cooperative purchase bids provider. The Village has purchased previously from Berger with very positive results. The total cost of purchasing this vehicle is \$22,082.00.

The car to be replaced is a 2007 Dodge Charger with over 81,000 miles. This decommissioned car would then be offered for sale via a website used for car selling and purchasing that the department is currently utilizing. Resulting revenues would be deposited into the vehicle fleet account for future vehicle purchases.

Funds are available from the Capital Expenditures Account 205-900-980.02 for Police Vehicle Purchase.

Motion by Abboud, second by Mooney, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the purchase of a 2023 Chevy Malibu LT from Berger Chevrolet in Grand Rapids, Michigan in the amount of \$22,082.00 for the Public Safety Department. Funds are available in Account #205-900-980.02.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

SECOND ANNOUCEMENT OF A VACANCY ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Campbell made the second announcement of a vacancy on the Planning Commission. There is a vacancy on the Planning Commission for a partial term ending June 30, 2025.

The Planning Commission generally meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The Planning Commission advises Council regarding the proper physical development of Beverly Hills. The Commission recommends ordinances or amendments to existing ordinances. It also makes recommendations on zoning changes, site plan developments, and special approval uses.

All interested and eligible residents of Beverly Hills are encouraged to apply to become a member of the Planning Commission. Applications are available on the Village website or by emailing the Village Clerk at krutkowski@villagebeverlyhills.com. Applications may be submitted to the Clerk's office via email, regular mail, in person, or using the drop box located outside the Village office (18500 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025). Applications are due Tuesday, December 27, 2022.

SET 2023 STRATEGY SESSION MEETING DATE

George provided an overview. Each year in January the Village Council and Administration hold a special strategy meeting to discuss goals and priorities for the upcoming calendar year. This item was before Council to set the meeting date. Administration recommended setting the strategy session for Saturday, January 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, the Beverly Hills Village Council sets a special meeting date for Saturday, January 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025 for the purpose of holding the annual strategy session.

Motion passed.

DISCUSS LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

George provided an overview of the Council Liaison assignments for the 2022-2024 term. Members of Council were appointed as liaisons and alternates to various Boards, Commissions, and subcommittees.

Mooney asked Administration who would be on the Council subcommittee for the upcoming Planning Commission appointment. Rutkowski stated that O’Gorman (chair), Abboud, and George would serve on the subcommittee. Traditionally, the liaison serves as the chair and the other two members are appointed alphabetically.

UPDATE ON THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ACQUISITION GRANT APPLICATION

George provided an update on the Village’s Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Acquisition Grant application. Members of Council and Administration attended the MNRTF meeting on December 14, 2022 where the Board recommended awarding the Village of Beverly Hills \$1,000,000 for the acquisition of the property located at 30815 Wendbrook Lane. He spoke about the difference between development and acquisition grants and that the Board focused more on acquisition grants this year since there is development funding available through the Michigan Spark Grant. He talked more about the meeting and the financial update that was provided which was based on September 30, 2022 figures. He discussed the Board’s gains and losses, which may have accounted for the Village not receiving the full amount requested, which was \$1.5 million. Nonetheless, he noted local governments received about \$4 million total, of which the Village received \$1 million. He said the Village is not precluded from applying for the remaining balance next year. He said the plan is to meet with Six Rivers Land Conservancy, who helped with the grant application, to discuss the options going forward. The Village will look for additional funding sources. He talked about an estimated timeline and said he believes the Village would have until 2024 to complete the acquisition. He said the project is now 75% funded and this is a great and rare opportunity.

Hrydziusko, who was also at the MNRTF Board meeting, stated that there were several local communities who had multiple grant applications in for one jurisdiction and that they were approved. She was hopeful for the Village moving forward.

O’Gorman clarified that it would be 4 to 6 months before the Legislature even appropriates the funding for the grant and the Project Agreement does not need to be approved until mid-2024, so there is time to vet the options and better understand the alternatives.

Keckskemeti clarified that the Board would allow the Village to apply again next year. She stated that the Council is not obligated to accept the grant.

White noted that he is the owner of the subject property, which is why he has been silent during the discussion. He asked to be recused from any further discussion on this matter.

Motion by Mooney, second by O’Gorman, the Beverly Hills Village Council recuses Council member White from any discussion or action regarding the MNRTF grant and/or the acquisition of the property located at 30815 Wendbrook Lane.

Motion passed.

Mooney stated that the Village is 4 square miles and home to 5 parks, 3 of which are on the Rouge River. He said he does not think the Village needs to acquire more park land. He said not developing this land would mean the Village is missing out on tax dollars. He was concerned where the remaining \$500,000 would come from for the acquisition. He stated the rehabilitation and development of a park at this location would cost even more money. He said the Council should focus on the development of east side parks instead of trying to acquire this land. He was further concerned because Council member White owns the subject property and said the Village cannot purchase land from a Council member. He was concerned about any legal ramifications.

George said that he appreciated Mooney's thoughts. He said there are other options available to acquire the property. He referred back to the February 1, 2022 Council meeting and said it appears that everyone is acting in good faith. He said the challenge going forward is to fill the funding gap. He looks at this as an opportunity to problem solve. He said he is happy to lead the team to get this accomplished and said the Village is fortunate to receive \$1 million.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Tobaben, Orchard Way, wished Beverly Park a happy 100th birthday. He said maintenance at Beverly Park seems to be an ongoing problem. He commented on the Parks budget. He said the Village should take care of what it has before adding more.

Karen Daykin, Buckingham, said she has watched the changes in the community over the last several years. She said the buckthorn removal project has been a big step and has beautified the parks. She said she is thrilled about the sidewalk program. She said the acquisition of property on the Rouge River would be great. She thanked Council for their vision and persistence.

Dale Wolicki, Amherst, agreed with Mooney's comments regarding the development of taxable property. He said that he did not think there was mention in the Village Master Plan about acquiring the property to turn it into a park. He said the Village should focus on maintenance.

Roger Meyers, Hampton, via Zoom, regarding the MNRTF grant, said the Village is partly along in the race and has hit a big milestone. He said a decision does not need to be made at this point in time and that there are opportunities available to bridge the gap. He said it is difficult to see the downside of the acquisition, especially during hard financial times.

MANAGER'S REPORT

14 Mile Construction Update - Administrative staff met with HRC and the contractor, ASI, on December 14, 2022. Weather permitting, ASI was scheduled to finish the grading and landscape blanket on Friday, December 16. Additional repairs to the approaches and other issues will be completed over the winter months. The road is open and striped. Additional work may require a flagger and will be done as time and weather allows.

Holiday Trash Pickup - Trash pickup will not be interrupted during the holidays. Trash will be picked up on normal days the week of December 26th and January 2nd.

Christmas Tree Chipping - Comeau will be chipping Christmas trees the weeks of January 2 and January 9, 2023. Please remove all decorations and plastic bags and place trees at the curb to be chipped.

Winter Storm – A snowstorm may occur in the area this Thursday night or Friday morning. Please look out for snow emergency notices on the Village website, Facebook page, and email blast.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

White stated that sidewalks are important for the community. He said people will enjoy them and they will last a long time. He noted that the Michigan Spark Grant was made possible by ARPA funding and so far, there were 600 open applications. He said he was not sure how many of those would be funded. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Keckskemeti said she appreciated tonight's robust discussion. She agreed with Mr. Meyer's comments. She said the potential acquisition of the property was not planned, but it is a once in a generation opportunity. She said the Council is not making a decision at this moment. She thanked Council and Administration for their work so far. She said she was working with Administration and HRC on updates to Chapter 30 of the Municipal Code.

O'Gorman wished everyone great and safe holidays. He congratulated those who worked on the MNRTF grant for being offered \$1 million. He said \$1 million is no small amount and is a great start. He said we could have the opportunity to enjoy nature in our own backyard.

Abboud provided an update on SEMCOG's green task force initiative. He encouraged Council to attend MML's weekender courses, which they can earn credits for. He gave an update on the Senior Advisory Council. There is ARPA funding available for Senior Centers. He stated that there are a few reported cases of polio in the County. He referred to a seminar called Beyond Driving with Dignity which is about how to effectively talk to older loved ones about driving. He said Next serves 600 Beverly Hills members. Abboud is involved in the Seniors to Seniors program with Next and Seaholm. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and encouraged people to be good Samaritans. He thanked all of his Zoom followers.

Mooney wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

Hrydziuszko thanked residents who attend meetings and who stay informed and engaged. She stated that people have different opinions of different pieces of land. She said "special" means something different to everyone. She said finding 8 acres of undeveloped land in this area is few and far between. She thanked the representative from Highland who attended the MNRTF meeting for speaking to the Village's request and telling the Board more about the area. She said the discussions are what make the Village so great.

George said the Council had a great discussion tonight. The discussion is not done. He said there are a lot of projects that they are trying to accomplish. He said he is trying to advance projects and make for a good hand off in the future. He said Beverly Park evolved over time and so can other parks. He said the Village has a great opportunity before it. He talked about legacy giving. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk