

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

Absent: None

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

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 Abboud, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

State Senator Jeremy Moss and State Representative Natalie Price were in attendance to provide legislative updates.

Moss stated that the district lines have changed, splitting the Village, so now Beverly Hills has two senators and two representatives. He said the Senate is working to set priorities which include restoring personal freedoms, workers’ rights, tax relief, gun safety bills, and election laws. He said the state recently passed a historic budget.

Price introduced herself and said that since she has a background with municipalities, she takes the municipal view into consideration in her current role. She talked about the historic and equitable investments that are being made in Michigan’s public schools, such as raising per pupil funding, providing universal breakfast and lunch, and expanding access to preschool. She also talked about medical debt and clean infrastructure initiatives. She said it was exciting to see the state invest in a metro/suburban area through Beverly Hills’ Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant for the Wendbrook property along the Rouge River.

The Council thanked Senator Moss and Representative Price for attending the meeting.

Mooney said he was proud to see Groves High School graduate, Moss. He thanked Moss and Price for coming to the meeting in an odd year.

George thanked Moss and Price for doing meaningful work and for providing an update. He said he would like to set up a meeting with them in the near future.

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 July 5, 2023.
2. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, July 17, 2023.
3. Refer special land use request and site plans for 19400 13 Mile Road to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER LANDSCAPING PROPOSAL FOR VILLAGE HALL AND THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Campbell provided an overview. The landscapes at the Beverly Hills Village Hall and Public Safety buildings need updating. Jason’s Outdoor Services has provided proposals for both locations. Their proposal for Village Hall is to replace the overgrown and weed prone landscape with a modern landscape design, and their proposal for Public Safety will do the same with the addition of taking care of some problematic drainage issues and cleaning up the overgrowth around the property lines. It is the recommendation of Village staff to approve these proposals, redacting the items around the Village Hall sign until further notice, for a total cost of \$39,333 to update the landscape at the Village Hall and Public Safety buildings.

Motion by White, second by Hrydziuszko, be it resolved that the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the proposals submitted by Jason’s Outdoor Services to update the landscapes at Beverly Hills Village Hall and Beverly Hills Public Safety for the amount totaling \$39,333.00. Funds are available in accounts 101-900-974.07 and 205-900-974.20.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT WITH DTE TO CONVERT EXISTING MERCURY VAPOR STREETLIGHTS TO LED STREETLIGHTS

DTE Energy has a program incentivizing the installation of LED streetlights. The Village of Beverly Hills currently has 30 Mercury Vapor (MV) streetlights. MV lights become very dim over time and use about double the watts that LED lights utilize.

The Village is currently invoiced \$10,084.08 per year for the MV streetlights. If the village decides to purchase the LED streetlights the future invoice would be \$6,476.04, an annual savings of \$3,608.04.

DTE will install the new LED streetlight fixtures at no cost to the village. The fixtures themselves will however cost the village \$7,530.00 upfront, and after a rebate of \$1,059.00, will have a total cost of \$6,471.00. Taking into consideration the annual savings on energy costs, the Administration recommends replacing the current MV streetlights with LED streetlights, this project essentially paying itself off in less than two years.

Kecskemeti asked about the lifespan of the new streetlights. Campbell said they can last 10 to 15 years, which is much longer than what is currently in place.

Hrydziuszko said that this would be great for saving energy. She said she would prefer a warmer color bulb so there is not a stark contrast to what is already there.

Motion by O’Gorman, second by Kecskemeti, be it resolved that the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the proposal submitted by DTE Energy to update the current Mercury Vapor streetlights within the Village of Beverly Hills with LED streetlights for the amount totaling \$6,471.00. Funds are available in account 202-900-977.04

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER RENEWING THE VILLAGE’S CONTRACT WITH HYDROCORP TO ADMINISTER THE VILLAGE’S CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Campbell provided an overview. HydroCorp just informed the Village that its Agreement to administer the Village’ Cross Connection Program expired on June 30, 2023. This project is a part of a continued effort for an ongoing Cross-Connection Control Program and will provide the Village of Beverly Hills with the necessary data and information to maintain compliance with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Water Bureau Cross Connection Control Regulations. The scope of the work is set forth in the attached Agreement. For reference, a cross-connection is a point in a plumbing system where it is possible for a non-potable substance to come into contact with the potable drinking water supply. On behalf of the Village, HydroCorp performs 30 annual inspections, answers questions, and submits various reports. HydroCorp is utilized by almost every community in southeast Michigan. The term of the contract is for two (2) years at a total cost of \$8,304.00, or \$4,152.00 annually. The Administration recommends continuing our relationship with HydroCorp. This Program only applies to non-residential cross-connections.

Kecskemeti clarified that this program was for commercial facilities. Johnston confirmed and said it was for inspection of backflow devices on commercial properties.

George noted that this program helps keep the Village compliant with EGLE requirements.

Motion by Kecskemeti, second by Hrydziuszko, be it resolved that the Beverly Hills Village Council authorizes the Village Administration to enter into an Agreement with HydroCorp to manage and administer the Village’s ongoing Cross-Connection Control Program. Funding is available in account no. 592-536-918.15

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

**DISCUSSION ITEMS
PILOT PROGRAM TO INSTALL TRIAL SPEED HUMPS IN THE VILLAGE OF BEVERLY HILLS**

Campbell gave an overview. Speeding and reckless driving are a huge public health and safety concern. Speed humps are a popular and effective in reducing speeds in residential neighborhoods. The Village is considering a pilot program to install speed humps on residential roads. Traffic calming measures such as speed humps can address:

- Speeding
- Pedestrian Safety
- Cut Through Traffic
- Sight distance
- Collisions

The pilot program will determine whether the proposed speed humps can combat speeding and reckless driving in residential neighborhoods. After doing extensive research, the Administration is recommending a trial program to install rubber speed humps on two streets that are known for frequent traffic. The rubber material is being recommended based on cost and ease of installation and removal. The pilot humps will be removed in the winter to ensure that neither the snow plows nor the humps will be damaged when the roads are plowed. The pilot will allow for a period of time to gather data and feedback about the use of speed humps in the Village. Feedback will come from residents and various Village departments. A picture of the type of hump utilized was provided for reference.

Specs for Speed Humps

Each speed hump assembly will be comprised of ten-speed hump middle sections and two end caps. The heavy-duty rubber speed humps and end caps weigh 36 pounds each, are 2.1” Tall x 35.5” Long x 19.5” Wide, and fastened to the road surface with 12” galvanized steel spikes.

Locations and Length of Pilot

For the pilot program, the Administration is proposing to place the speed humps on both sides of Saxon, west of Balmoral and east of Wentworth. In addition, the Administration is also proposing placing speed humps on Riverside Drive east of Drury Lane and west of Inglewood Drive. Residents on these two streets have requested street humps continuously over the last year. If approved by Council, the initial pilot period would be from the time we receive the humps to November 17, 2023.

Cost

According to the Public Services Department, the total cost for 20 Heavy Duty Rubber Speed Hump Middle Sections, 2 Heavy Duty Rubber Speed Hump End Kits, and 4 ‘Speed Humps Ahead’ Signs is \$4,305.42.

Liability

Administration has reached out to our insurer, MMRMA, and others to comment on liability concerns related to the installation of speed humps. That information will be provided prior to the meeting.

Potential Future Criteria

Speed humps are designed to make it less comfortable for motorists to speed. Proper engineering analysis and judgment must be included prior to installation of any speed humps. Future criteria to be considered in the installation of speed humps may include:

- Residential streets with a speed limit of 25 mph that is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Village of Beverly Hills.
- Streets used as known cut throughs to or from a major arterial road in the Village.
- Streets adjacent to schools and parks
- 85th percentile speeds of 30 mph or greater.
- Topography (i.e. hills and curves)
- Resident support (75% support from residents on the segment of roadway being considered is required, through petitions).

Other Jurisdictions

There are numerous neighboring local jurisdictions utilizing speed humps. The City of Dearborn is engaged in a similar pilot program. The City of Detroit has installed over 10,000 speed humps since 2016. The City of Ferndale has a speed hump program, as do Royal Oak and Farmington Hills. The Road Commission of Oakland County will also install speed humps on County roads if certain criterion is met.

Keckskemeti thanked Administration for putting this together and noted that she has received some positive feedback from residents about it. She asked how the Village would measure effectiveness and resident support.

Campbell stated that the Village would like resident buy in. He said he would have to look into the cost of data analysis.

Keckskemeti suggested that perhaps effectiveness is demonstrated by other municipalities that already have these programs in place.

Hrydziuszko said that she thinks speed humps are a fantastic idea and noted her experience with them in another city. She said they are very effective and a relatively simple way to reduce speeding. She said she hopes it is a success in Beverly Hills.

O’Gorman asked if there was an agency to identify effective features, such as width and distance between humps, so that they are properly installed.

Campbell stated that HRC has a traffic engineer on staff that the Village can consult with.

Johnston stated that the holes can be sealed annually to prevent infiltration.

Administration will look into any unintended consequences brought on by speed humps. Administration will come back with a more concrete and detailed proposal at an upcoming meeting.

UPDATE FROM WENDBROOK FORUM SUBCOMMITTEE

O’Gorman stated that the subcommittee consisting of members George, Keckskemeti, and O’Gorman has been working on a draft of answers to Frequently Asked Questions. He said the intent is to get the proposed answers to Council for review at the next meeting and then have it published for the community.

George stated that the goal is to include the item in the next Council meeting packet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Matthew Curis, Amherst, said that he loves the area and Beverly Hills seems very family oriented. He asked that the Council amend section 42.12 of the Municipal Code regarding Games in Streets. He said he does not want to be written up for playing basketball with his children and thinks the ordinance should be updated.

Mark Thomas, Nottingham, said he would be happy to have speed humps on Nottingham. He said there is a safety concern near the bus stop because there is a blind spot. He said he has talked to his HOA and they would also be in support of a speed hump on Robinhood. He thanked the Public Safety Department for showing up when called. He thanked administration for putting the speed hump item together.

Dillon Brown, Warwick, asked how importance was being categorized when selecting streets for speed humps. He said Weston is becoming a cut through. He asked if there are other options to reduce cut throughs and speeding beyond speed humps.

Jeff Dobski, Weston, said Weston is a high traffic cut through. He said there are lots of children present and it is a sloped street. He recommended obtaining data during the school year and while school is out.

Peter Webster, Barmoral, thanked the Village for taking on speed humps. He noted that there was recently a collision at Norchester and Saxon. He asked that the Village consider a speed table and demarcation for pedestrians. He suggested reaching out to TIA to obtain data. He said he appreciates the effort for a pilot program. He asked that Administration engage with the neighbors on Saxon if there are plans for road improvements.

Vince Borowski, Chelton, said he does not like speed bumps, but they work. He said enforcement also works, but officers cannot be on site all the time. He said he was disappointed that the Wendbrook report was not finished yet. He is in favor of having a new park. He said he does not think the Village ultimately knows how much it will cost. He said Next will probably be asking for more money in the future, so Council should consider that. He thinks the house on Wendbrook should be scrapped because it will be too costly to renovate it properly. He said he was pleased to see Moss and Price attend the meeting.

Aaron King, Warwick, supports speed humps on Weston. He said he lives in the neighborhood and sees speeding vehicles often.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Residential Water Testing - The Village will be conducting our annual round of water testing for EGLE lead and copper testing in late July. We will be conducting a minimum of thirty (30) tests. The Village has a list of residences that have previously been tested and approved by EGLE for inclusion in our sampling list. We are in the process of reaching out to those residences in this round of testing. As we have done in previous years, we will offer testing to any resident who requests it and will provide them with the results. If anyone is interested in being included in this round of testing, please contact the Village office at 248-646-6404.

Pilot Trip Hazard Mitigation Program - The Trip Hazard Mitigation Program will be conducted on Rutland Avenue and the surrounding streets from July 20, 2023 to July 28, 2023. The Village's hired contractor, Precision Concrete Cutting, will be eliminating the trip hazards by cutting the concrete, creating a smooth, aesthetically pleasing look compared to sidewalk grinding. Precision Concrete Cutting (PCC) will deploy a well-marked light-duty pickup truck, van, and/or full logo trailer used to mobilize up to three (3) full sets of cutting equipment and operators. Safety cones are placed wherever the truck/van and trailer park and on the sidewalks in front and behind the operator area to assure pedestrian safety during cutting. All PCC staff (including project manager) wears high-visibility safety vests whenever they are outside their vehicle. Precision Concrete will also provide a survey of the area, recommending when a slab will require complete replacement.

Buckthorn Treatment at Riverside Park - Oakland County Parks field staff were at Riverside Park on Tuesday, July 18 to treat invasive buckthorn on the peninsula area. Residents are asked to stay off the treated area for 24 hours. Oakland County Parks staff will come back in the fall to plant native plants at the park. This project is funded by an OC CISMA/OC Parks grant that the Village was awarded earlier this year.

Mooney asked about HRC's meeting with the Public Services subcommittee. Campbell stated that they are to do a walk through for sidewalks soon.

Kecskemeti asked about the status of Municode. Campbell stated that Administration met with Municode last week for the legal review. The Ordinance clean up and updates will be presented to Council in the future.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

White gave an update on Baldwin Public Library, noting that they are in phase 3 of construction and that the library remains open.

Kecskemeti said it is great when people attend meetings and share opinions. She said attendees were able to hear about a lot of great work that is going on in the Village. He said she is hoping the Wendbrook subcommittee will produce a document that is digestible for everyone.

O'Gorman said the Wendbrook FAQ response probably will not answer every question in the first round. He said the cycling community should be considered with regard to traffic and safety. He agreed with the residents who made remarks about speeding on Weston.

Abboud thanked Moss and Price for their work and for attending the meeting. He thanked the residents who attended this meeting. He said the Senior Advisory Council is updating their bylaws, changing terms from 2 years to 4 years. He said the Next center is in full operation and has a commitment at Midvale until they move to the YMCA. He said the Village branding and welcome signage subcommittee is working on updates.

Hrydziuszko thanked everyone who attended the Concert in the Park on Friday. She thanked residents who attended the meeting and provided opinions. She commented on natural gardening and said she would like to work on having more natural lawns, noting the difference between intentionally natural lawns and neglect.

George commented on intentional natural lawns and “No Mow May.” He thanked Moss and Price for attending the meeting. He said the Concert in the Park was well attended. He said Municode is reviewing the code in its entirety and updates will be made based on state and federal statutes and then hosted online. He said Java & Jazz on the third Sunday of the month is always a good time. Regarding sidewalks, he said HRC is working on figuring out the best way and locations to install them. He thanked residents for their comments on speed humps. Regarding Wendbrook, he thinks a legal opinion of the charter should be provided for clarification and to help lead Council forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk