

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

Absent: Drummond, Mooney

Also Present: Village Manager, Campbell
Village Clerk/Assistant Manager, Rutkowski
Finance Director, McCarthy
Public Safety Director, Torongeau
Public Services Director, Johnston
Planning and Zoning Administrator, Stec
Public Services Consultant, Trice

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President George called the Special Village Council Strategy Session to order at 9:07 a.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 Abboud, second by O’Gorman to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Nunez, Marguerite, thanked the Council for their service to the community. He commented on the parks. He said Beverly Green should have trees and show nature, not concrete. He said the gravel piled next to a tree at Beverly Green should be removed. He said the Village ought to be more careful with the care of its trees.

BUSINESS AGENDA

Infrastructure

The Council and Administration discussed major projects in the coming year such as Riverside Bridge, Road Resurfacing of Pierce, and Pump Station Upgrades. They also discussed water projects including Pump Station Upgrades, Sewer Lining, Water Line Verification, and Catch Basin Cleaning.

Brad Shepler, Hubbell, Roth, and Clark, Inc. was present. He talked about the Water Resources Commission services and water rates. He commented on grants and said that the Village is almost complete with the water service line verification project.

The Council and Administration discussed water lines on the east side of the Village. They talked about moving the lines from the back of the homes to the front. They discussed a potential proposal where the Village would retire the old lines in X number of years and then the resident would be responsible for tapping into the new lines.

There was discussion about flooding and providing more education to residents about the water and sewer system.

The Council and Administration discussed surveying sidewalks and making necessary repairs. They also discussed the TAP and SRTS grants. Administration said there was a need for more equipment to perform routine maintenance.

Administration noted that the Village has been awarded a grant to be used for a tree survey and inventory.

Finance

McCarthy provided an overview of anticipated capital expenses for the year.

Administration and Council discussed an investment policy for the future and potentially hiring a firm to manage those investments.

Clerk

Rutkowski stated that the recodification of the Municipal Code is under way and the updated Code should be available online later this year through Municode.

Parks

The Council and Administration talked about adding a berm at Beverly Green, as discussed at the January 18th joint Council/Parks & Recreation Board meeting.

Campbell said that PM Environmental is currently working on the Phase 1 Environmental review for Wendbrook. The next step after that for the acquisition would be to get an appraisal and find out closing costs.

A Beverly Park 2050 Vision Plan joint subcommittee consisting of members George, Hrydziuszko, Kecskemeti, Bayless, Goodrich and Ross has been formed and will begin meeting soon.

Rutkowski is working on obtaining quotes for online pavilion reservations.

The Council and Administration talked about potential electronic park donations and all of the requirements on the Finance Department's end to set that up.

The Council and Administration discussed park maintenance and the need for a bobcat or similar equipment.

Council talked about Riverside Pond and the dam. They said it may be worthwhile to have a history/education session about Riverside Park, the pond, and the dam.

Public Safety

Torongeau said the Public Safety Department does a lot of good work and he thanked Council for their continued support. He said recruitment and retention remain to be a challenge statewide. He said the MACP certification will take a couple of years.

The Council talked about bringing in a consultant to review Public Safety's policy and procedures.

Planning, Zoning and Building

Stec noted a major goal for 2024 is to establish business licensing and re-occupancy standards. The Village will continue to work on Short Term Rental regulations, fence regulations, and new signage with various subcommittees. More discussion on these items will be had at the upcoming joint Planning Commission/Village Council meeting in February.

Campbell noted that Administration is finalizing informational development guides and Ordinance changes for planning, zoning, and building processes to meet best practices.

VII. Economic Development

Campbell provided an update on marketing and attraction to the business district. He said Economic Development Associate Brown is working on getting benches along Southfield Road. The Village is working on establishing programming that retains current business and attracts new ones. Redevelopment Ready Communities efforts are ongoing. There will be a greater effort going forward to create a cohesive business community and events.

VIII. Other/Staff Personnel

Campbell said the Village continues to work on its communications efforts. A complete cybersecurity assessment was performed, and the Village will be implementing necessary IT updates, programs, and staff trainings as recommended by the contractor.

Campbell said the Village will be implementing electronic payroll and timekeeping through BS&A because its current method is outdated. The HR department is also working on obtaining certifications.

The Council and Administration talked about bringing Comeau/DPW in house and what the preliminary costs may be, which would include buying Comeau's equipment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Tobaben, Orchard Way Court, said the Village ought to let people know what it is doing and it should be more up front with what projects are being done in the Village.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Aboud commented on reaching out to the business community and potentially forming an ad-hoc committee that includes business leaders. He said there should be consistency in the business district. He said the Village should invite legislative representatives to provide updates and talk to neighboring communities more often.

The Council and those in attendance sang Happy Birthday to Clerk Rutkowski.

O'Gorman said he appreciates everything Administration does. He said communications can be improved and the Village should have a brag sheet or list of accomplishments to share.

Kecskemeti said the Village has a great team and is impressed with their work. She said she would like to work on public education for water and sewer infrastructure this year.

George stated he appreciates Administration and the professional staff at the Village. He said he would like to address local roads more going forward. He wants all of Council and Administration to make their time here count.

Hrydziuszko appreciates having a clearer plan of what the Village will be doing this year. She said she is excited for park planning, the Wendbrook acquisition, sidewalks, and the upcoming fence conversation. She thanked everyone for their work.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk