

Present: Council President Stearn; Members: Berndt, Koss, Oen, Peddie, Pfeifer and Woodrow

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Spallasso
Assistant Manager/Clerk, Marshall
Director of Public Safety, Woodard
Village Attorney, Ryan
Building Official, Byrwa

President Stearn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Oen, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion carried (7 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathleen Berwick of 31381 Kennoway Ct. asked that Council meetings be conducted with the highest accord and respect for all villagers.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Koss, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Review and consider minutes of a regular Council meeting held on December 5, 2006.
- b. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, December 11, 2006.

Motion carried (7 - 0).

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER SUBCOMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO FILL THREE VACANCIES ON THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Peddie reported that a subcommittee of Berndt, Koss and herself met earlier this evening to review seven applications for three vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals. It was recommended that Michael Farris be appointed to fill a vacancy with a term expiring June 30, 2007, Maureen Francis to fill a vacancy for a term expiring June 30, 2007 and Michele Tillman to fill a vacancy expiring June 30, 2008. Tillman will serve on both the Planning Board and Zoning Board to meet the requirements of the new Zoning Enabling Act.

Motion by Peddie, second by Koss, to appoint Michele Tillman to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on June 30, 2008. She will serve in a joint capacity as a

member of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board to fulfill the requirements of the Zoning Enabling Act.

Roll call vote:
Motion carried (7-0)

Motion by Peddie, second by Koss, to appoint Michael Farris and Maureen Francis to the Zoning Board of Appeals with terms ending June 30, 2007 for both positions.

Stearn thanked everyone for applying and mentioned that their applications will be kept on file for consideration when there are future vacancies. Applications for positions on boards and committees are available on the Village website at www.villagebeverlyhills.com or at the Village Office.

Roll call vote:
Motion carried (7 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER TELEVISIONING JOINT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Stearn reviewed that the prior Council determined that joint meetings of Council should be televised. He did not agree and asked for a discussion this evening. Oen expressed the view that it is important that all boards and committees be heard by the public, but was concerned that board members might be reserved in their comments when meetings are televised.

Stearn advised that all board and committee meetings are open to the public and meeting minutes are available for public review.

Woodrow suggested not televising the joint meetings, but televising one meeting of each board annually. He recommended televising a meeting of each board subsequent to its annual joint meeting with Council. Koss and Peddie agreed with Woodrow's suggestion.

Berndt made the point that it is difficult to arrange seating for everyone at a joint meeting to be seen on camera when a meeting is videotaped. He thought that openness in government is very important and did not want to give the impression that Council is trying to hide information. He agreed that televising one meeting per year of each board is an excellent alternative.

Pfeifer asked if any discussions had taken place with the boards before revisiting the topic of televising joint meetings and was informed that there had not. She reiterated that all meetings are open to the public. Pfeifer preferred to stay with the schedule of televising the joint meetings in 2007. If Council decides not to televise the joint meetings, she requested that the boards and committees be contacted for their input.

Woodrow suggested postponing discussion on this topic in order to communicate with the various boards and committees.

Motion by Woodrow, second by Koss, to postpone this item to January 2, 2007.

Motion carried (6-1).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER EXTENSION OF AUDITING SERVICES CONTRACT

Before Council for consideration is a proposal from Plante & Moran to extend its auditing services agreement for one year and to perform the Village audit for the year ending June 30, 2007. The fee to perform the auditing services for the current fiscal year would increase 3.7% to \$33,260. Village administration recommends extending the auditing services agreement with Plante & Moran for the year ending June 30, 2007.

Pfeifer reviewed background information with respect to bids solicited for auditing services in 1999, at which time the proposal from Plante & Moran for a three-year contract was accepted by Council. She indicated that Plante & Moran has provided supplemental services to the Village at no additional costs.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Koss, to extend the auditing services agreement with Plante & Moran, PLLC for the year ending June 30, 2007 with a 3.7% increase over FY 2005/06 in the amount of \$33,260 for a single audit.

Stearn believed that Plante & Moran has done a good job. He suggested going out for bids for auditing services next year (FY 2007/08).

Roll Call Vote:
Motion carried (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Tischler, 21415 Virmar Ct., expressed concern regarding Council's reservation to televise joint Council meetings.

REPORTS

LIAISON

Peddie reported that she attended the Baldwin Library Board meeting. The library is updating its website to make it more accessible for people to access information.

Oen reported that the Southfield Township Board met last week. The October paper shredding date was successful and will be offered again at a date to be determined. The Parks & Recreation Board meeting for December was canceled. The Board of Review is coming up in March. Property owners are encouraged to apply and state their case before the Board.

Woodrow commented that the Public Services Department and Public Safety Department continue to operate well.

Berndt reported that the Planning Board met on December 13, 2006 and will not be meeting on December 27, 2006 as stated in the Village calendar. One of the topics on the December agenda was to establish items that will be discussed at the joint meeting with Council on February 14, 2007. The Planning Board is concluding its work on updating the Village Master Plan with the next steps being public hearings and the adoption process.

Pfeifer reported that the December Finance Committee meeting was canceled. She has souvenir cards available from the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council. The Cable Board will meet at 7:45 a.m. tomorrow morning, December 20. Telecommunication legislation has been signed in Lansing. The impact of this legislation on the Village and the cable consortium communities is uncertain. Stearn requested that the attorney for the Cable Board attend a Council meeting and report on the specifics of the new legislation when more information is available.

MANAGER

Spallasso announced that Building Clerk, Barbara Fix, is retiring after almost 30 years of employment with the Village and he thanked her for many years of dedicated service. The new Building Clerk, Lynn Talbert, will begin working on January 2, 2007. The Administrative Assistant position has been filled by Erin Saur, who will start work on Tuesday, December 26, 2006.

The 2007 Village calendars will be going out in the mail next week. Residents should expect to see them arrive in their mailboxes soon.

Koss thanked Spallasso for holding the recent neighborhood meeting for Kinross residents regarding the upcoming Acacia construction on their street.

COUNCIL

Berndt thanked Barb Fix for being an integral part of the building department in Beverly Hills. Beverly Hills has an impressive turnaround time for issuing permits, and Barb has been instrumental in making that happen.

Koss reported that the Village Offices will be closed this Friday, December 22nd, and trash collection will be delayed one day the week of December 25, 2006. Council has a study session scheduled for Saturday, January 13, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber. She thanked everyone who applied for the vacancies on the Zoning Board, noting that all of the candidates were very qualified. She encouraged residents to continue to apply for positions on various boards and committees.

The Birmingham School Board held a public hearing tonight regarding the date they will hold school elections. The School Board is considering changing the time of their meetings from 7:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Pfeifer, Peddie and Oen congratulated Barb Fix on her retirement and remarked that she will be sorely missed.

All Council members wished everyone a happy holiday season.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Koss, to go into closed session at 8:17 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7 – 0).

The meeting returned to open session at 9:16 p.m.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Koss, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Todd Stearn
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk