

Present: President Stearn; President Pro-Tem Pfeifer, Members: Berndt, Koss, Oen, Peddie and Woodrow

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Spallasso

President Stearn called the special Council meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road. This meeting is a continuation of the study session held on January 13, 2007 to discuss items Council would like to accomplish in the next year with the understanding that priorities are contingent on budget considerations. Priority items established by members of administration were part of the discussion.

Council reviewed the initiatives agreed upon at the last session and designated timelines for either compiling information or scheduling an item on a Council meeting agenda.

Village v. City

Council is in receipt of a memo from Pfeifer providing background and a recommendation on this topic. Pfeifer suggested that a committee be formed to conduct a feasibility study and investigate factors involved in becoming a city without offering a recommendation. Their task would be to assemble information and prepare a report. Council would consider the pros and cons and decide whether there is merit in going forward with a referendum. Pfeifer proposed that the committee consist of a member from Council, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Administration and one member-at-large.

Council agreed to schedule a discussion on creating a village versus city task force for the **March 6** Council meeting as a business item.

Stearn asked that a discussion item be placed on the **March 6** Council meeting agenda to discuss budget assumptions and provide direction to administration.

Charter

Charter amendments were postponed until resolution of the village v. city topic.

Planning

The following items will be discussed at the joint meeting with the Planning Board on February 14, 2007:

- Revisit Southfield Road redevelopment
- Rezoning east side (*ongoing study*)
- Consider overlay districts
- Info on home improvement loans- *Administration*

Park

Several items were raised at the January 18, 2007 joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Board. Council directed the Board to begin drafting a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.

Council asked that the administrative liaison to Parks and Recreation request that the Board prepare information on the remaining items for the **May 1** Council meeting.

- Develop Five-Year Park Plan
- Grants
- Additional equipment
- Heating pavilion restrooms for year-round use
- Irrigation system
- Soccer field
- Accessibility to nature preserves

Public Safety

A comprehensive discussion on public safety items was deferred.

- Finalize contracts/*ongoing/Administration*
- Implement portions of Department Organization Study/*ongoing*
- Grants/*ongoing/Woodard*
- Drug Enforcement Task Force *Director Woodard was asked to provide additional information to Council at the April 3 Council meeting.*
- Breakfast Open House *Woodard*
- Additional Services *Woodard*
Council agreed to hold off on compiling ideas for services that could be provided to residents for a fee.
- Neighborhood Watch – *Council will talk to residents and homeowner presidents about this topic at Town Hall meetings. A neighborhood awareness program could be implemented in the newsletter and web site.*

Infrastructure

- Five-Year Infrastructure Plan/ *Meszler*
Update annually
- Road repair & replacement – Major and Local
Review allocation at budget time
- Sidewalks – revisit funding of repairs/fill in gaps on major roads
 - a) *Administration will provide a determination on whether Metro Act funds can only be used on existing facilities at the April 3 Council meeting.*
 - b) *There was agreement that the Village is due to move forward with a comprehensive inventory of sidewalk conditions. Spallasso will proceed with this project.*
- Leaf vacuuming *Administration*
Information requested for the April 3 Council meeting.
- Cul-de-sac maintenance/*Administration*
Consider removing this from budget. Some cul-de-sacs are maintained by neighborhood volunteers; some associations pay to have it done. Oversight of volunteers was viewed as a problem. Information requested from administration.

Revenue

Items to be addressed during budget review.

- New sources
- Grants
- Fees/Byrwa

*Information on updates to the building department fee schedule was requested for the **March 6** Council meeting or soon after.*

- Loss of state revenue sharing/ongoing
- Consider providing dispatch service for other communities
Spallasso reported that Bingham Farms and Franklin were contacted and were not interested. At Council's direction, he will pursue this topic with other area municipalities.

Spending

Discuss during budget deliberations:

- Cut/Raise
- Shared services

Role of Finance Committee

*Council requests a report on these items at its **May 1** meeting excluding the Five-Year Plan.*

- Five-Year Plan
- Alternative Revenue Sources
- Grant Research
- Alternative Financing
- Funding Fire truck

Communication with Residents

Council discussed the idea of holding Town Hall meetings in the Village. It was envisioned that these would be gatherings in various districts in the community where residents could tell Council what they think about things. There was agreement that there should be some structure to the meetings in terms providing of a list of initial topics on which to comment. The idea is to reach out to residents and find out what they are thinking.

Council agreed to conduct a Business Town Hall meeting as a way to seek more community involvement from area businesses. A letter will be mailed to homeowner association presidents advising them that a Business Town Hall meeting will be held prior to scheduling Resident Town Hall meetings. The Business Town Hall meeting was tentatively set for Thursday, May 17. Resident Town Hall meetings will be scheduled following the business meeting, probably during the second week in June.

- Town Hall meetings/*Koss* (with residents and Homeowner Association presidents)
- Business Town Hall meetings/*Koss*
- Web streaming Council meetings/*Administration*. *Council requested information on web streaming before the **end of the year**.*

Other Ideas

- Landlord-Tenant statute/*Peddie*
*The Village previously drafted and held a first reading on a Landlord/Tenant ordinance before action was suspended. That draft ordinance will be placed on the Council agenda for discussion in **June** before becoming a business agenda item.*
- Acacia Park Cemetery (in receivership) *Council will hold off on this item.*
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
Council agreed to budget for next year's volunteer dinner to be held at a restaurant or club.
- Business/Community involvement in sponsoring park events
This item is covered as part of the Business Town Hall meeting discussion.
- Implement Strategic Plan
Administration will provide a copy of the Strategic Plan to all Council members for review.

Beautification Committee

Council discussed the status of the Beautification Committee. Spallasso mentioned that staff is having a difficult time scheduling meetings and advancing the selection and award process. Volunteer and community interest in the program appears to be low, which suggests that it may be time to take a break from this activity. The suggestion was made that beautification awards be a biennial event. Stearn proposed talking to committee members before making a decision. Oen volunteered to be Council liaison to the Beautification Committee and will consult with the members before or at their next meeting.

Administration Priorities

Council reviewed the status of administration's priority items. No changes were proposed from discussion that occurred at the previous study session.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Peddie, to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Todd Stearn
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary