

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

Absent: Woodrow

Also Present: Manager, Spallasso
Assistant Manager, Marshall
Director of Public Safety, Woodard
Village Attorney, Ryan

President Pro-Tem Koss called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Scouts from Troop 1029 introduced themselves and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Oen, second by Pfeifer, that the agenda be approved as published.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Karl Woodard introduced Public Safety Officers who were promoted in December. Lt. Michael Vargas is in his fifteenth year with the Department was promoted from sergeant to the rank of lieutenant. Vargas is in charge of a night shift. He is coordinating a rejuvenation of the Neighborhood Watch Program and will be meeting with neighborhood associations in April.

Howard Shock is in his ninth year with the Department and has been promoted to sergeant. Sgt. Shock is one of the Department's two representatives in the Troy Special Response Unit, a multi-agency organization that provides hazardous materials coverage for the Village. Howard is also the command representative on the Pension Board. The third promoted officer, Sgt. Barch, will come before Council at another time.

Marcia Gershenson, Oakland County Commissioner, stated that March is Women's History Month. The American Association of University Women has a display that will be hosted at Groves High School, Bloomfield Township Library, and Franklin Historical Museum.

There is new legislation in Lansing regarding funding of the Detroit Zoo. If it is approved in the Legislature, Oakland County will form its own Zoo Authority and propose a ballot question in August whereby County residents will vote on whether or not they want to have a dedicated millage to support the zoo. The cost translates to about \$5 per \$100,000 home. Gershenson related that this is a common way to fund zoos, and it is one of the last options for the Detroit Zoo. The State stepped in to fund the zoo on an emergency basis, which will not continue.

Gershenson announced that a financial service company will be investing \$25 million in a new facility in Troy that will bring 15,000 new jobs to Oakland County. The owner of the company is Mark Gardner, whose parents are long-time Beverly Hills residents.

Gershenson invited Council or interested members of the public to attend the 23rd Annual Oakland County Economic Outlook Lunch on Thursday, April 17 at Rock Financial. The guest

speakers are two analysts from University of Michigan. Gershenson understood that Beverly Hills is studying the idea of becoming a city. She reminded Council that Oakland County has offered funding for a feasibility study to communities that are looking to partner with other communities.

Norman Rubin of 31020 Rivers Edge Court requested that a member of administration provide a brief overview at the next Council meeting of all Village pension funds and how they are invested.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Review/consider approval of minutes of special Council meeting held March 1, 2008.
- b. Review/consider approval of minutes of regular Council meeting held March 4, 2008.
- c. Review and file bills recapped as of March 17, 2008.
- d. Review and consider approval of work completed by JH Hart for tree removal services reimbursable through Metro Act Funds administered by Southfield Township.
- e. Review and consider contract with MiDeal for 2008/09 annual road salt needs.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

BUSINESS AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE UPDATED FIVE YEAR COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN & CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE PLAN

Stearn stated that the Parks and Recreation Board has prepared a Five-Year Community Recreation Plan that will outline what the Village envisions the park to look like over the next five years. It is a comprehensive plan designating what is existing in the park and what the Village hopes to add over the coming years. This is the first step in arriving at a capital budget for park improvements and for maintaining existing facilities. In addition, eligibility for many state funded recreation grants requires a Five-Year plan on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Parks and Recreation Board unanimously recommended approval of the Five-Year plan at its last meeting.

Council received a draft of the Community Recreation Plan at the March 4, 2008 Council meeting, and a public hearing was set for tonight to receive public comments on the draft plan prior to adoption. The Five-Year Plan has been on display for public review at the Village office and on the Beverly Hills website since February 15, 2008.

Motion by Stearn, second by Oen, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council adopt the Five-Year Community Recreation Plan and direct administration to file the plan with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Upon approval of the plan by the DNR, the Village will be eligible to apply for state funded grants.

VILLAGE OF BEVERLY HILLS RECREATION PLAN
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

WHEREAS, the Village of Beverly Hills has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2008 and 2013, and

WHEREAS, a public comment session was held March 18, 2008 at the Village Municipal Building, 18500 West Thirteen Mile Road to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Beverly Hills has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the Village Council voted to adopt said Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Village of Beverly Hills Council hereby adopts the Village of Beverly Hills Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Village of Beverly Hills.

Peddie entered the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Koss opened the public hearing on the Community Recreation Plan at 7:47 p.m. There were no comments from the audience. The public hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m.

Jim O'Reilly, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board, came forward to address questions and comments from Council. Pfeifer referred to language on page 9, paragraph 5, and requested that the gazebo be included in the description of the wooded area of the park. On page 10, there is a discrepancy in the size of Riverside Park compared with the park size indicated on the map in appendix C.

On page 14, there is a table that lists activities/facilities available, compares them with National Recreation and Park Association guidelines, and provides an evaluation of need based on community makeup and input from residents. Pfeifer noted that there is no reference made to other facilities available throughout the community such as baseball fields and basketball courts at schools. O'Reilly responded that the Board did not think that school facilities should be considered in this plan because the document will be used to seek funding from the state and county; school recreational facilities would not be eligible to receive grant funds.

In answer to an inquiry, O'Reilly stated that the Community Recreation Plan required a survey in order to be eligible for State funding. He indicated that approximately 140 surveys were returned. Pfeifer proposed that the section listing written comments from the survey be condensed and titled "public comments" rather than "improvements". O'Reilly stated that the survey was required to solicit written comments and/or suggestions from the public and include them in the plan.

O'Reilly commended Erin Saur for editing and compiling the Community Recreation Plan.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (6 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER RESOLUTION APPROVING BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR THE AUGUST 2008 PRIMARY CREATING FOUR YEAR STAGGERED COUNCIL TERMS

Pfeifer stated that Council received notice that the ballot language is not ready for action this evening. She questioned the highlighted wording on the copy of the ballot language. Ryan related that the Assistant Attorney General stated that the language must indicate a specific day when a term expires rather than an indefinite term commencing at “the next regular meeting”. Ryan recommended that the wording remain as the “Tuesday next following the election” rather than reworking and resubmitting the amendment. Ryan will discuss and finalize the ballot language with the Assistant Attorney General this week. The corrected language will come before Council for approval at the April 1 Council meeting.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Oen, to table review and consideration of a Resolution approving ballot language for the August 2008 Primary creating four-year staggered Council terms.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PURCHASING VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The 2007/08 budget contains funding for the purchase of patrol vehicles to replace vehicles with over 70,000 miles. Vehicle #130 (2003 Ford Expedition SUV) currently has 63,000+ miles and will likely reach 70,000 by the time a replacement vehicle is delivered.

Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing has been awarded the Oakland County Cooperative Bid for 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe police package SUVs. The new 2008 Tahoe SUV equipped per department specifications is priced at \$29,973.40. Costs in the amount of \$2,500 have been budgeted to transfer specialized equipment from the old to the new vehicle. There are funds available in the current capital budget (\$35,323) to acquire and equip this new patrol SUV.

Motion by Peddie, second by Pfeifer, that the Village of Beverly Hills award the purchase of one 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe patrol SUV in the amount of \$29,973.40 to Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing. Funds for this purchase are available in Account #101-900-979 Capital Purchases – Vehicle Purchases. Village Council further approves the expenditure of up to \$2,500 for vehicle changeover expenses with the preferred vendor to be selected by competitive bid process; funds are available in Account #101-345-852: Radio Maintenance.

Woodard explained the need for a four-wheel drive SUV patrol vehicle, especially in the winter. There are currently two SUVs in service and one is being replaced.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (6 – 0).

STATUS UPDATE – PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL STUDY

Council is in receipt of a report dated January 31, 2008 from Director Woodard entitled Public Safety Organizational Study Update. Woodard reviewed that Council commissioned the Mercer Group, Inc. to conduct an Organizational/Staffing Study of the Public Safety Department, which was completed in six months and forwarded to Council in December of 2007. The document was substantial with over 100 pages of writing, exhibits, and recommendations. The summary pages highlight 20 issues and a three-page chart.

The Director's report listed the 20 issues with a priority rating and a timeline for completion supplied by Mr. Stephen Egan, Mercer Group consultant. Woodard outlined the issues and provided a comprehensive account of how he proposed to address the items along with the status of each undertaking.

- 1) Improve Labor-Management Relations
- 2) Enhance DPS Management Practices
- 3) Apply Lessons from Comparable Communities
- 4) Improve the Village's Strategic Planning Process
- 5) Improve the DPS Strategic Planning Process
- 6) Expand Contract Dispatch Services
- 7) Balance Regional Relationships
- 8) Restructure Roles of Command Team Members (Director, Captain, Lieutenant, and Sergeant)
- 9) Add One Position to the Detective Bureau
- 10) Additional Administrative Support Position
- 11) Improve DPS Operations Management Practices
- 12) Maintain the 12-hour Shift Schedule
- 13) Expand Budgetary Information
- 14) Enhance Accounting and Review Fees
- 15) Fully Fund Capital Needs
- 16) Fully Fund Equipment Maintenance
- 17) Address Facility Maintenance Issues
- 18) Update Job Descriptions and General Orders
- 19) Performance Evaluation/Formalized Training Plan
- 20) Fine-tune the Promotion Process

In answer to an inquiry, Woodard outlined the Department's continued efforts to pursue grant funding. The Department is currently seeking a grant for fire apparatus.

Council suggested that Director Woodard retain the template for the implementation plan and major recommendations in order to revisit and evaluate the items every year or six months and update Council on their status. Stearn mentioned that introducing Public Safety Officers at a Council meeting for recognition or awards is helpful for Council and the public.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Oen, to accept and file the January 31, 2008 Public Safety Organizational Study Update submitted by Public Safety Director Karl Woodard.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

REPORTS – MANAGER

Spallasso reported that the 2008/09 draft budget will be presented to Council at the April 1 Council meeting. He reminded Council of the joint meeting with the Finance Committee to review the budget on Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

Pfeifer referred to a memo from Erin Saur regarding Council meeting web streaming statistics. If Council decides not to continue with live web streaming, Pfeifer asked if it is possible to archive more than the most recent Council meeting.

Spallasso responded that staff is attempting to improve live web streaming after experiencing technical difficulties and receiving questionable results in the past months due to restricted bandwidth availability. The report on web streaming statistics was an effort to determine the interest in live web streaming as opposed to access to the on-demand link.

REPORTS - COUNCIL

Peddie reported on the Council study session held on Saturday, March 15 to discuss the Village's 50th Anniversary Celebration. There was a constructive exchange of ideas between Council and the committee formed to organize the celebration. Progress was made on the plan for a day-long event. Peddie thanked Pat Greening and Rita Battocletti for spearheading this effort.

Berndt reported on the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting held on Monday, March 10. Two cases were decided. There was an extensive presentation and discussion of the Detroit Country Day School case involving a request for interpretation and, if applicable, a variance from requirements of the Ordinance regarding construction of new sidewalks. The applicant requested that the case be tabled in order to have a more full complement of Board members present. Country Day is scheduled to appear before the Zoning Board of Appeals at the May 12, 2008 meeting.

Berndt mentioned that he has subscribed to AT&T Internet service for the last five months and it has been reliable.

Oen announced that the next Planning Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. He commended Comeau Equipment Company on their snow removal efforts this winter.

Stearn mentioned that the Cable Board has offered to broadcast Southfield Township Board meetings if a request is made by the Township.

Stearn reported on the March 11 Finance Committee meeting. The Finance Committee discussed the assignment from Council to look at the five year financial forecast based on the assumption that the Village will continue as it is without any changes to the millage or significant cost cuts. It was mentioned at the meeting that the Committee was about to undergo a comparison of the Village's present situation with similar surrounding communities as part of its work plan for the five year financial forecast. They were asked to discontinue this effort at a joint meeting with Council. Stearn requested that Council reconsider and allow the Finance Committee to undertake that project on the basis that it would benefit the community. Koss suggested that this be an agenda item for the April 8 joint meeting with the Finance Committee.

The Parks and Recreation Board will meet on Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Pfeifer mentioned that the Birmingham Area Cable Board will meet tomorrow, Wednesday, March 19 at 7:45 a.m.

Koss commented that several residents have contacted her indicating that they called AT&T and were told that the U-verse product was not available in their service area as yet. She indicated that more reliable information is available from AT&T staff at the Royal Oak office. Koss reiterated that she was impressed with her AT&T service.

A presentation was made at the last Council meeting on the findings of the ad hoc City Study Committee. That committee researched how becoming a city might impact the Village of Beverly Hills. Koss remarked that she voted against the motion made at the last Council meeting for the reason that she has questions on the topic that need to be answered. Pfeifer reported that letters and a copy of the ad hoc committee report have been forwarded to the Villages of Bingham Farms and Franklin and to the Township of Southfield. The letter requests a response by April 1, 2008 as to their interest in meeting jointly with Beverly Hills to discuss the this issue.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Peddie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

Rosanne Koss
President Pro-Tem

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary