

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

Absent: None

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

President Stearn called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road. Fourth grader Paige Stearn led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion passed (7 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

County Commissioner Marcia Gershenson reported on County and community programs. A free financial planning clinic will be held this Saturday at the Westin Hotel sponsored by United Way and the Women's Commission for Oakland County. The Michigan Council of Women in Technology will sponsor a Career Summit on September 26 at the Ramada Plaza in Troy; it will focus on jobs, networking, and professional development.

Oakland County received \$4.4 million for weatherization assistance. These funds can be used to install energy efficient appliances for families that qualify. Individuals should contact OLHSA (Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency) or Gershenson if they think they are a candidate. There is also financial help available for adults over 60 through the Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors to learn about programs that can help with tax assistance, food, drug and utility payments. Gershenson provided an update of the H1N1 vaccine, which is expected in October.

Teri Stearn of 31161 Old Stage said that she will not be asking Council to vote tonight to authorize the expenditure of the \$2,500 budgeted towards the Halloween Hoot. The event is extremely under funded this year with regular contributors withdrawing or reducing their donations. She understands that people are experiencing difficulties. The organizers are about \$2,500 short of being able to afford to assemble the Halloween Hoot. Stearn has the event planned but has not placed deposits on pumpkins, food or lighting rental. As of now, she does not have the funding to go forward with the event.

Stearn related that she was approached by a resident who asked how she could help. Residents and business owners can contact Teri Stearn or Ellen Marshall if they wish to add their support to the Halloween Hoot.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Review/consider approval of minutes of regular Council meeting held Sept. 1, 2009.
- b. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, September 14, 2009.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF GIBBS PLANNING GROUP TO PROVIDE PLANNING CONSULTING SERVICES FOR SOUTHFIELD ROAD

The Planning Board has begun work with Mr. Robert Gibbs on a master planning study for the Southfield Road corridor. Mr. Gibbs has proposed a contract for professional consulting services to assist the Planning Board in this endeavor. Money for this purpose has been budgeted in the FY 2009/2010 budget.

Motion by Oen, second by Mooney, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council approve the contract with Gibbs Planning Group for professional planning and consulting services at the hourly rate of \$100 per hour not to exceed a total of \$5,000, with \$2,500 to be paid in advance.

Stearn reviewed that the Village Planning Board began working with urban planner Robert Gibbs to explore the planning options, the zoning code and market potential for the Southfield Road corridor. Gibbs is advocating that the Village consider writing an optional zoning code called an overlay zoning district, which would allow the private sector to take underutilized property and invest its own money to develop segments of a walkable town center. Stearn encouraged people to view the presentation prepared by Bob Gibbs on a proposal for a future village town center.

The study is in its beginning stages in terms of initial plans and drawings. Council is being requested to approve the contract with Mr. Gibbs so he and the Planning Board can move forward with the program. Council members commented enthusiastically on the proposal being developed for the Southfield Road business corridor. It was understood that the completed plan would be brought to Council for review and consideration.

Kathleen Berwick of 31381 Kennoway Court stated that she contacted Oakland County and was told that there would be no changes to Southfield Road in the next ten years.

Marcia Gershenson reminded the Village that the Oakland County Department of Economic Development has a team that would come in and work with the planner at no charge.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER AWARDED BID FOR WOOD CHIPS AT BEVERLY PARK

The Village received one bid for sterilized wood chips for the playground area in Beverly Park in the amount of \$1,964.00 from Miracle of Michigan. The Village purchased the wood chips from the same vendor in 2006 at a slightly lower cost. Administration recommended that Council accepted this bid.

Motion by Mooney, second by Oen, to accept the bid from Miracle of Michigan in the amount of \$1,964.00 for sterilized wood chips to be placed in the playground area of Beverly Park. The expenditure will come from account #101-440-933 Contracted R&M – Park.

Bill Kondak of 31267 Churchill, Parks and Recreation Board member, concurred that funding for this expenditure should come from the maintenance account rather than the capital improvement account. He thought that it was important for the Village to maintain capital improvement funds for expenditures on necessary park improvements.

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDER AWARDING BID FOR SEAL COATING AND PAINTING BEVERLY PARK PARKING LOT

Seven companies submitted bids for seal coating and painting of the parking lot at Beverly Park. The low bid of \$3,038.60 was from T&M Asphalt. Funding for this work is available in account #401-905-985.00. Administration recommended that Council accept the low bid from T&M Asphalt.

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, to award the bid for seal coating and striping of the parking lot at Beverly Park to T&M Asphalt for \$3,038.60 with funds coming out of Account #101-440-933 Contracted R&M –Park.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

REPORTS - MANAGER

Assistant Manager Marshall presented Chris Wilson's report in his absence. The Retirement Board has recommended that Council adopt a Retiree Health Care Fund Ordinance. The Board thought it would be appropriate to have an ordinance defining its responsibilities since the Retirement Board has been charged with overseeing the investments of the Retiree Health Care Fund. The Village has an ordinance regarding the Retiree Health Care Fund, but it makes no mention of the Retirement Board. It was the sense of Council to direct Administration to forward the existing ordinance to Attorney Tom Ryan for revisions.

The presentation from the Baldwin Library Board originally scheduled for today's meeting has been rescheduled to the October 6 Council meeting at the request of the Library Board. Village auditing firm Plante & Moran will be in attendance at the October 20 meeting to present the 2008/09 audit report.

Marshall pointed out a typographical error in the Villager Newsletter mailed last Friday. It should have read that that Planning Board Public Hearing on the west side rezoning proposal would be held on Wednesday, October 28. The public hearing date will be posted on the Village

website. It was suggested that Marshall include the Planning Board public hearing date on the Nixle notification message.

The Parks and Recreation Board has moved its meeting time to 6:30 p.m. for this month's meeting in Beverly Park. Marshall sent best wishes to resident Bob Borgon, who experienced a medical situation over the weekend and is now at home recuperating. She wished him a speedy recovery on behalf of the Village.

Stearn reminded people that the Nixle informational website is available to all residents who want to voluntarily sign up to receive public safety and community updates and notifications by email, cell phone text messages, or web access. It is free of charge.

In answer to an inquiry, Director Woodard reported that approximately 445 people have signed up since August 1, 2009 to receive Nixle messages, which is 10% of the public. People can register and learn more at www.nixle.com.

Stearn congratulated Ms. Marshall on another fine Villager Newsletter.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mooney said that it has been suggested that Council hold informational meetings throughout the community in the months ahead. He encouraged Council and administration to discuss this and plan for town hall meetings in every neighborhood so that people will understand what is going on in their community.

Mooney asked that the Halloween Hoot be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting. The organizers need enough money to make the Halloween Hoot happen this year; it is important to the character of the Village.

Berndt commented that the Village is struggling through difficult economic times, but it is important to preserve the character of the community. The Halloween Hoot is an annual event that brings the community together.

Briggs reminded people that the Parks and Recreation Board will meet on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Beverly Park. The Birmingham Area Cable Board will meet tomorrow morning, September 16 at 7:45 a.m. in the Council Chamber. Briggs urged Comcast and AT&T customers to contact the Cable Board to register a complaint if they are having difficulty resolving technical or service problems with their subscriber.

Briggs reported on the quarterly Retirement Board meeting of August 25, 2009. He noted that the value of the Public Safety Retirement Fund increased during the second quarter of 2009.

Koss suggested that people consider contracting with AT&T for television or other services as an alternative to Comcast. Koss mentioned that she is still waiting to receive government and educational stations on the AT&T service.

Peddie affirmed that there will be a comprehensive presentation by the Baldwin Library Board at the first Council meeting in October. She encouraged residents to attend or watch the meeting.

Oen commented favorably on the Nixle community information service utilized by the Public Safety Department and Village office.

Stearn thought it was a good idea to talk about the future of the Halloween Hoot at the next Council meeting. He suggested that administration post a notice on the Nixle website informing the public that the event is in jeopardy due to lack of funding. It may be possible to generate donations from the community.

Motion by Koss, second by Oen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Todd Stearn
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary