

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

Absent: Stearn

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

President Pro-Tem Koss 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Oen, to amend the agenda to add item ‘c’ to the business agenda, “Discuss Communication of Village Finances”.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

Motion by Oen, second by Peddie, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bethany Mindlin from Congressman Peters office reminded everyone that standard processing time for passports is 4-6 weeks or 2-3 weeks for an expedited passport. The Village office provides passport service; there is also a new passport agency located in downtown Detroit. Current travel advisories for foreign countries are available at www.travel.state.gov.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Review/consider approval of minutes of regular Council meeting held Jan. 19, 2010.
- b. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, February 1, 2010.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM KENSINGTON BIRMINGHAM CHURCH TO HOLD AN EASTER EGG HUNT AT BEVERLY PARK ON SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010

Rex Curtis representing Kensington Birmingham Church stated that Kensington has sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt in Beverly Park for four years, and they have been a huge success. The event is open to all members of the community. Kensington is requesting to host the annual Easter Egg Hunt in Beverly Park on Saturday, March 27. They would like use of the park from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Mooney, second by Oen, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council approve the request of Kensington Birmingham Church to conduct an Easter Egg Hunt in Beverly Park on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Pavilion rental fees are waived, and the Village will provide four portable toilets for the event.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (6 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER RENEWAL OF PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER CONSULTANT SERVICES WITH ENTERPRISE COMPUTER

Enterprise Computer Solutions, Inc. has submitted a professional services proposal in the amount of \$2,400 to renew a 30-hour pre-paid computer services contract with the Village. Wilson related that the Village has used Enterprise Computer Solutions for technology consulting services for some time, and they have performed well. The contract has been reviewed and recommended for approval by Bob Wiszowaty and Chris Wilson.

Briggs noted that this proposal continues the service at the same price as last year.

Motion by Mooney, second by Oen, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council award the purchase of a pre-paid service contract from Enterprise Computer Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$2,400. Funds are available for this purchase in Account #100-900-976.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (6 – 0).

DISCUSS COMMUNICATION OF VILLAGE FINANCES

Mooney conveyed the need for Council to expedite a plan to communicate the state of Village finances to the community. A recent letter to the editor published in the Eccentric newspaper raised the concern that there is confusion regarding what Council is trying to do to retain the essential services that residents have come to depend upon. The Village is in dire financial straits along with many surrounding municipalities. Continued reductions in federal and state revenue sharing coupled with decreased revenue resulting from declining property values has led to a dramatic reduction in revenue to provide the current level of services. The Village is faced with the prospect of losing important services including 20-30% of its police and fire protection and its contract with Baldwin Library. Council needs to develop a plan for how it will reach out to the community and do a better job of explaining the financial crisis facing Beverly Hills.

Mooney proposed that a plan involve reaching out to former council members, Village Board members, homeowner associations, and other interest groups in the community such as the Little League, Parent-Teacher Associations, soccer clubs, the Lions Club, BASCC, and the Women's Club. There is a need for a clear manner of presenting information to the public so that people understand the Village's financial situation and what it means to them. Mooney suggested that an attempt be made to seek volunteers who are public relations people and ask that they assist Council with communicating to residents.

Council members voiced their agreement with the need to explain the Village's dire financial situation to the community. Berndt used the dry erase board to work out calculations and provide examples of obstacles that Council is facing in terms of communicating an understanding of the millage proposal's impact on individual property taxes. It will be necessary to define and clarify the message and explain a complicated issue in a more clear and concise manner.

Koss proposed that Council establish subcommittees to undertake various aspects of communicating with people about the millage proposal. She suggested presenting a subcommittee report at every Council meeting until November.

Mooney requested that an item on the next Council meeting agenda consist of appointing subcommittees to set forth a plan on how to communicate with various groups in the Village about the millage proposal and to make decisions on seeking volunteers to help present these issues to the community. Mooney related that failure of this millage vote will result in a significant change in the character of Beverly Hills.

Candee Repa on Shagbark observed that a lot of people in the community do not believe that the Village is going to lose the library if the millage vote fails nor do they understand that they will not be able to use other libraries. Peddie remarked that residents will be able to go to the Baldwin Library and read a book but they will not be able to check out a book if the contract is terminated.

Robert Deneweth of Arlington Drive assumed that the misleading article published in a recent issue of the Eccentric newspaper was due to the confusion of the writer rather than an attempt to mislead people.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court related that she reviewed past Council meeting minutes from 2008 and 2009 looking for reference to a closed Council session to discuss litigation and trying to find subsequent action on a related issue in open session. She asserted that Council can discuss items regarding litigation in closed session, but decisions must be made in open session.

Candee Repa announced that the Friends of Baldwin Library will be holding a Spring used book sale on May 7-10. Donations are always needed.

REPORTS – MANAGER

Wilson announced that the Village will host a public meeting on the 2009 Sewer Rehabilitation Project on Monday, February 8. Residents in areas impacted by this project were notified and invited to attend. Village administration along with Hubbell, Roth & Clark and the contractor will explain the scope and nature of the project and inform residents as to what they can expect during construction.

The majority of this rehabilitation project will involve the lining of existing sewers to reinforce the sewer and eliminate leaks and infiltration. In areas where sewer mains are rehabilitated, existing residential leads will all need to be refurbished and reconnected to the new rehabilitated

sewer main. In such instances, the Village will be relining residential sewer leads from the sewer main to the residential property line.

The contractor has agreed to allow individual homeowners to have their sewer lead relined from the property line to their home at the same price per foot (roughly \$80 per foot) that the Village is receiving on the contract. Residents would be responsible for paying to reline their sewer lead from the property line to their house if they choose to have this work done. It is the homeowner's choice to do this. It would be beneficial to the Village if residents have this done for the reason that it would reduce infiltration to the sewer system. Wilson is working with Attorney Ryan on preparing a document whereby these residents could enter into an agreement to do this work if they choose.

At the January 27 Planning Board meeting, representatives of Detroit Country Day School presented a request for site plan and special land use approval for an expansion proposal consisting of a Field House, Thirteen Mile Road Campus Gym, and North Entrance to the facility. There are a few matters that the School is working on with LSL Planning and Village Administration. A public hearing for the purpose of taking public comments on this project is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The Planning Board also continued its review of a rezoning proposal for a portion of the Village west of Southfield Road. The Board did not reach a decision about zoning of parcels in the neighborhood in the area of Nixon, Mayfair, Southview, Inglewood, and Carlelder. This area was originally included in the study area to be rezoned to R2B in order to reduce the nonconformity from 95% to 1%. The concern has been voiced that the R2B designation would allow for side yard setbacks (5 ft.) that are less than what currently exist in the area. After a failed vote to include the area south of Beverly Road in the R2B zoning district, the matter was tabled until the next Planning Board meeting when a full contingent of the Board would be available.

Wilson noted that the Planning Board could recommend that Council rezone the area west of Southfield Road to R-2B and exclude the 94 lots south of Beverly Road. It was suggested that the Planning Board would need to conduct another public hearing for the 94 lot area if it were to recommend a zoning district other than the R-2B zoning originally proposed for the entire study area.

A joint meeting of the Council and Planning Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m.

The Winter Family Fun Day will be held this Sunday, February 7 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Beverly Park. The Beverly Hills Little League registration will be held Saturday, February 6 at the Village Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wilson informed Council of a water main break that occurred today on Hillcrest between Riverside and Beaconsfield. The repair was made.

Koss asked that outdoor patio use at business establishments on Southfield Road be placed on the agenda for discussion at the joint meeting with the Planning Board. There has been previous discussion of modifying the approval process for this request.

Director Woodard informed the public that a medical drop box will be provided at the Public Safety Department building lobby in conjunction with “Operation Medicine Cabinet” on April 22, 2010. This program will be promoted by the Department in advance of that date.

REPORTS – COUNCIL

Berndt related a problem with Comcast at his residence involving a charge for renting his cable box after it was removed and returned. He urged subscribers to document all interaction with their cable company.

Oen stated that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the Detroit Country Day School expansion project on Wednesday, February 24 at the Village Hall.

Briggs reported that he will be a judge at the Berkshire Dog Show on Sunday, February 7.

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

Rosanne Koss
President Pro-Tem

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary