

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 23, 2012

Mayor Jesse Nehez called the meeting to order at 7:33PM following the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called by Finance Director, Monica A. James, with the following Councilpersons present: Beatrice Greenlee, Karyn Selle, Mary Volny, John Schlueter, John Bolek and Linda Bowen. Law Director Brad Bryan, Police Chief Mark Wentz and Service, Building and Zoning Superintendent Jason Walters were also present.

Mayor Nehez asked for a motion to approve the May 9, 2012 council meeting minutes. A motion to the amended minutes was made by John Schlueter and seconded by John Bolek, to change the wording in the second paragraph from penalty to interest. The motion to approve the amended minutes was made by John Bolek and seconded by Karyn Selle carried with 6 ayes.

In the business of petitions, memorials and remonstrances, Summit County Councilperson Nick Kostandaras thanked Chief Wentz and Mayor Nehez about the information that they have supplied him.

Mayor Nehez reported that has been meeting with Hard Rock and Northfield Park on a regular basis and everything is going well. They are just waiting on lawsuit to go through the State and then they are ready to proceed. Mayor Nehez stated that they are going to work through the issues one by one. Mayor Nehez met with resident Debbie Braemier regarding a boy scout who is interested in building some picnic tables for the Village and donate them to the Village. Mayor Nehez stated that he is working with the YMCA on weeding and mulching at the fire department. Chief Wentz stated that they will have some kids coming through community service that could be used wherever needed. Mayor Nehez stated that he has been looking at vacant properties in town and road issues in the Village that need addressed and they are putting a priority list together. Mayor Nehez stated that Jason Walters is doing a fantastic job!

Finance Director Monica James had no report. John Bolek asked for the monthly breakdown on income from the internet cafes by the June meeting, for January, February, March, April and the three in May. John Bolek stated that his feeling is that the last 6-8 weeks there has been a major drop off of people playing at the internet cafes. John Bolek stated that he thinks the new business in town is doing well.

Brad Bryan stated that he distributed a proposal to all of Council for D. B. Hartt regarding zoning updates for Northfield Park as well as other commercial properties. May 14th Mayor Nehez, Rich Wasosky and Brad have met with D. B. Hartt, and they feel it is urgent to deal with the upcoming projects at Northfield Park and the Route 8 corridor. Brad stated this is the best way for us to be involved and have a plan. Brad stated this is a good way to move forward and not hold up Northfield Park since they are ready to go. John Bolek asked if there was a way to contact D. B. Hartt if anyone has questions. Brad stated yes. Brad asked for council to approve to retain D. B. Hartt at a retainer of \$5,000-\$6,000. John Bolek asked with what funds and Brad said that he isn't sure, but they will have to discuss it further, but it isn't specifically budgeted right now so they will have to figure this out. Jason Walters stated that he probably has some areas within his budget that he might be able to help out with funds. John Schlueter stated that we need a professional to speak with everyone and it is a good idea, because one wrong decision could make us think. John Schlueter stated that it will be good to have a professional handle everything looking out for the Village's interest. Brad stated that is the point to put regulations in place, give us all the tools that we need to handle on the track properties and other commercial areas. John Bolek agreed that is what the Village needs, a professional who has many years of regional experience. John Bolek stated that he doesn't like this was dropped on them, due to the fact that there are other people in the area that do work like this and we should have went to bid on this. John Bolek suggested that they do half of the amount and buy his services for a small period of time, and then re-visit this in 4-6 months. Karyn Selle stated that we don't have 4-6 months. Brad stated that normally he would agree, but this is a small project in the scheme of things, but this situation dictates urgency. John Schlueter asked if D. B. Hartt has a relationship with Brock Milstein, Brad stated no he does not. Brad suggested for Council to have a meeting, if Council wishes. John Bolek stated that he would feel more comfortable to have a week to look this information over. Mayor Nehez stated they are not asking Council to pass this tonight, they just wanted Council to review the information and put into a work session. Beatrice Greenlee stated they have a work session at June 6th at 6:00pm and Mayor Nehez stated they can discuss this item then.

Police Chief Mark Wentz stated that they are waiting on information for the block watch, and if anyone has information on block watch captain to turn the information into Officer Jones. Linda Bowen stated that they have turned in two and they need two. Chief Wentz said they need that information to do the background checks. John Bolek asked Linda Bowen what wards that they still needed block watch captains for, and Linda said D and C. Linda Bowen stated that they have to sign up to be a member first. Linda Bowen stated that Beatrice Greenlee got the information and Linda stated she passed the information on to Scott Selle.

Chief Wentz stated that all of the block watch information is available on the Village website. Chief Wentz stated that his department is looking at a couple suspects in regards to the break-ins on Cranbrook and Coventry, and early in the year they were on May Ave, in the Village. Chief Wentz stated over all there has been a total of 22 criminal trespasses into cars occurring between the hours of midnight and 6:00am. Chief Wentz stated that it is going to take a lot of luck and along with our residents to be involved. So they are getting out a lot of information to the residents regarding the block watch. John Bolek asked how the investigations were going on the vehicles at the Lincoln apartments. Chief Wentz stated that many communities are getting hit. Karyn Selle stated through the public safety page and the police page on the website, they will be able to access the block watch information. Chief Wentz said that it is all on the website. Chief Wentz stated that he received a \$5,000.00 grant for the juvenile diversion program. Mayor Nehez stated that many of his neighbors had their vehicles broken into, and they all said that Officer Walker was very professional.

Linda Bowen of the Block Watch Committee stated that their next meeting will be held on June 20th at 6:00pm. Linda stated that they will have a table set up with block watch information at the Concert in the Park on June 24th at the gazebo in the Plaza.

Chief Wentz thanked Chris Corradino of Classic Designs, who created the design for the new cruiser and he will be putting the logo on tomorrow. Mayor Nehez stated that many other communities have stated that we have many nice police vehicles. Chief Wentz stated that he is hoping to have the new vehicle ready for the memorial day parade on Monday.

Service, Building and Zoning Superintendent Jason Walters gave his report. (See attached) John Bolek asked how long the catch basins will last the way Jason has been doing them. Jason stated that he has had some last 2 years and some have lasted up to 12-13 years. John Bolek asked if they were brick and mortar or pour in. Jason said that they are brick and mortar. Mayor Nehez stated that when he drove the Village with Jason he noticed that all of the catch basins are in bad condition. They are hoping to pave Sunset over the next week. John Bolek asked if the street will be a little wider than it originally was, and Jason said yes. Mayor and Council stated what a great job the service department is doing with upkeep of cutting the grass/weeds on vacant village properties. John Bolek stated that the Village has an ordinance that people that work in our town have to pay 2% wages. We always receive fliers in the mail to cut the lawn and lay fertilizer. John Bolek stated that we have to try and capture everything we can, even if it is landscaping. Other suggestion is that maybe we don't charge the 2%, and we do what we do with the snow plowers and charge a flat rate. Jason stated that he doesn't disagree, but how does he catch the grass cutters. Jason stated that he doesn't know if we are getting the money. Brad said that the City of Cleveland does it for bands and athletes that comes to town, they have to pay money. Brad stated that he doesn't think that we can withhold from them at the beginning, but we can have the file a tax return with what they made. John Bolek stated so potentially there is a lot of money that we are not collecting. John Schlueter stated that we need to be mindful of this when the track gets going. Mayor Nehez stated that he had sent Jason out after the carnival that wanted to open, to make sure they filed with the Village.

Beatrice Greenlee of the Planning Commission will have a meeting on May 30th at 7:30pm.

Beatrice Greenlee of the Cemetery Board had no report.

Doris Wolf stated that the Recreation Board had a meeting today discuss the signs. The picnic tables will be done by a boy scout who volunteer to do picnic tables for the Village. The next meeting will be on June 7th at 7:30pm

Jason stated that he did purchase a new mower, a blower and a couple weed eaters and also a multi tool for the buildings/ground and parks department, which was in the budget.

Mayor Nehez stated that the Charter Review Commission has no more upcoming meetings.

Linda Bowen, of the Finance Committee asked Brad Bryan to read Ordinance 2012-32 approving payment of the bills for the month ending May 2012. A motion was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee and carried with 6 ayes. A motion was made by Linda Bowen to approve the Mayor's Court report for the month ending May 2012, and Mary Volny seconded this motion and it carried with 6 ayes.

Karyn Selle, of the Roads and Public Works Committee had no report.

Mary Volny, of the Health and Welfare Committee is working on the dental analysis along with another benefit program that the Cleveland Clinic is offering. Jason stated that he has dental information from Cigna that he will put in Mary's mailbox. Brad stated that we are supposed to have quarterly meetings to discuss benefits as a committee, with representatives from each department union, with Mayor and Law Director.

John Bolek, of the Building and Grounds Committee that they are having a meeting on June 6, 2012 at 7:00pm.

John Schlueter, of the Wages and Working Committee had no report.

Beatrice Greenlee, of the Fire and Safety Committee had no report. Beatrice Greenlee asked Chief Wentz how many cars will be in the Memorial Day parade. Chief Wentz stated at least two. John Bolek asked during the summer months, during down time if the fire department could encouraged or assigned to painting the fire hydrants. Mayor Nehez stated that he knows that the fire department will be flushing the hydrants shortly and thinks they will be doing some maintenance also, but he will check into this. Jason stated that in the Village ordinances it states the service department is in charge of painting the fire hydrants, and the service department wouldn't have a problem painting them. John Bolek stated that they want to make sure that all of the fire hydrants have the same look. Mayor Nehez asked Jason to paint one with the red, white and blue design and then let everyone see it.

John Bolek stated that he received a flier about people painting reflective number around the Village. Jason stated that one of the police officers did mention that to him, some residents were asking questions. John Bolek stated that the company stated if the resident can't afford to pay, they will do it for free.

Mayor Nehez had Brad Bryan read Resolution 2012-30, an emergency Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Summit County and other communities throughout Summit County for a job creation and retention and tax revenue sharing. A motion was made by John Schlueter and seconded by John Bolek and carried with 6 ayes.

Brad Bryan read Ordinance 2012-33 an emergency Ordinance establishing section 1266.075 of the codified ordinances relating to the parking and storage of recreational motor vehicles and equipment, trailers, and construction or landscaping vehicles equipment, on residential property. Brad recommended that Council should refer this to the Planning Commission to discuss and look over. Council agreed this will be referred to Planning Commission at their meeting on May 30th. A resident in the audience asked if boats need to be concrete also, Brad and Jason said yes. But as it reads, it can be in the backyard.

There was no old business.

In the new business, Chief Wentz thanked Mayor Nehez and Council for hiring Monica James as the finance director. She is a pleasure to work with and is an asset to the Village. Mayor Nehez asked that the recreation board look at pavilion and field rental and usage, since Council and Beatrice Greenlee have worked on this in the past, and come up with some guidelines at their next meeting.

John Bolek asked to invite Chief Vojtush to the work session due to the fact of revisions on his annual budget and he has many questions. Mayor Nehez stated yes. John Bolek stated that in the fourth revision of the fire budget has a pay raise in it. Mayor Nehez stated that there are many things that he needs to discuss with Chief Vojtush also.

Mayor Nehez reminded everyone about the patio ribbon cutting ceremony/grand opening on June 29th 5:00pm at Spennato's. John Bolek stated that the pictures should be putting in the the local papers in a more timely manner.

John Bolek stated that he would like to encourage the local paper to be more responsive to the Village's grand openings. John Bolek feels that is a huge disservice to the public to put a grand opening picture in the paper a month to a month and a half after the grand opening. John Bolek stated that it is a slap in the face to the business owner and they owe the public a better response than what they have been doing. John Bolek said that the News Leader doesn't even send someone out to take a photograph at the grand opening, other people have to take the photographs and then submit them to the News Leader. John Bolek said that maybe we should start sending the information to the Plain Dealer and the Akron Beacon Journal. Mayor Nehez asked Jeff Saunders of the News Leader in the audience if he could get someone out to the grand opening to take a picture. Jeff Saunders stated that they can try, but no one asks the paper prior to scheduling.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm. with a motion by Beatrice Greenlee and seconded by Linda Bowen and passed with 6 ayes.

Respectfully Submitted by;

Attest:

Lisa M. Rodriguez, Administrative Clerk

President of Council

Clerk of Council