

Present: President George; President Pro-Tem Hrydziuszko; Members: Abboud, Mooney, O’Gorman, and Peddie

Absent: Kecskemeti

Also Present: Village Manager, Campbell
Village Clerk/Assistant Manager, Rutkowski
Village Attorney, Ryan
Public Safety Director, Torongeau

President George called the regular Village Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Tobaben, Orchard Way, commented about Beverly Park and buckthorn. He suggested employing more Park Rangers or creating a larger volunteer organization to help maintain Beverly Park. He said it is easy to complain, but people must step up and do something to resolve issues. He and his wife volunteered to clean up the flower bed near Beverly Road and he said he would attend the next Parks & Recreation Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, be it resolved, the consent agenda is approved.

1. Review and consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held August 3, 2022.
2. Review and consider approval of minutes of a Closed Session Council meeting held August 3, 2022.
3. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, August 15, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (6-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BIRMINGHAM YOUTH ASSISTANCE’S VOLUNTEERS FOR FY 2022-2023

Campbell provided an overview. The Birmingham Youth Assistance forwarded a letter to the Council President and the Administration requesting approval from the Council for the list of 2022-2023 Youth Assistance Volunteers. The Council's approval is required to adhere to County Protocol.

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Mooney, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council has no objections and approves the individuals listed in the Birmingham Youth

Assistance's letter to the Council President dated July 1, 2022 to serve as volunteers for Birmingham Youth Assistance in fiscal year 2022-2023.

Motion passed.

DISCUSS BIRMINGHAM COUNTRY CLUB'S PROPOSED EXPANSION OF PICKLEBALL COURTS ALONG SAXON DRIVE

George provided an overview and stated that a resolution had been prepared by a resident this week, but there was not adequate timing for Council to digest the content prior to this meeting, so he thought a discussion item would be more appropriate. He also noted that there is enough time before the next Bloomfield Township meeting, should the Village Council wish to act.

Campbell provided an overview and context regarding a proposed pickleball court expansion at the Birmingham Country Club. He gave background information from the original expansion in 2016. Several Beverly Hills residents on Saxon Drive and the surrounding area have reported that the Club has not lived up to their word from the first expansion and they are not in favor of another expansion. There have been complaints about noise and parking. He recapped the Bloomfield Township June Planning Commission meeting which he and several residents attended. He noted the expansion would require a variance.

Abboud asked if there was another area at the Country Club where the courts could be placed.

The Council discussed parking and traffic concerns.

Council discussed how a resolution would be received by Bloomfield Township.

Mooney noted that passing a resolution could have unintended consequences, but there are options within the Village of Beverly Hills' jurisdiction that could remedy some of the residents' concerns. He suggested posting "no parking" signs or creating permitted parking in the area.

Peddie stated that she would support a resolution that supports Village residents. She is concerned about the neighbors' quality of life.

Peter Webster, Balmoral, stated that he understands there must be respectfulness in communication between the municipalities. He believes the Club is going against their previous promises. He would like them to deliver studies on noise modeling, traffic, drainage, and parking as they said they would do. He noted that the City of Birmingham would have a similar item on their upcoming agenda. He voiced concerns about speeding and noise and said that 100 people have signed the petition against the expansion.

Chris Sarver, Saxon, said she lives across from the tennis/pickleball courts and can hear it all day and night. She said the warming hut is used for parties and people park on her lawn. She said she plays pickleball and is not against the sport, but she is against the expansion.

Molly Drake, Riverside, agreed with the two previous speakers and appreciates the Beverly Hills Village Council taking this item into consideration. She liked the parking restrictions suggestion. She was concerned about Board change over and institutional knowledge that is lost. She is looking to the Council to support the Village residents' best interests.

Susan Randall, Saxon, Birmingham, thanked Council for their support. She noted a similar item will be on the City of Birmingham’s August 29 meeting agenda. She expressed concern about constant noise and increased traffic. She said it is becoming a nuisance for the neighborhood.

Teresa Dooley, Wentworth, inquired about the Club’s forecast on pickleball participation. She said it is the fastest growing sport and does not think the Club has an adequate plan.

George stated that the Council should draft a formal statement, but acknowledged that it may not have an impact on the Township Board’s decision. He agreed that alternative parking options should be considered.

Both Hrydziusko and Abboud commented that they, too, live near athletic courts and can sympathize with the residents regarding noise complaints. They were both in support of the residents and encouraged them to keep moving forward.

George stated that it was the sense of Council to ask Administration to investigate the Village right of way and parking options on Saxon. Additionally, Council is to consider its tone and how to socialize this item with the Township and the Club.

O’Gorman commented that he has heard three consistent complaints about this issue: parking, traffic/speeding, and sound/noise. He said there is a range of methods to address sound reduction. He thanked the residents for coming out to voice their concerns.

George stated that the Council is to provide feedback on the proposed resolution. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Staff Updating – On August 11, 2022, the Village hired a new, permanent Public Works Director, Neil Johnston. Mr. Johnston has over 13 years of experience of public works experience in the City of Clawson and City of Grosse Pointe. More specifically, for two plus years, Mr. Johnston has been the Public Service Supervisor in Grosse Pointe, overseeing the Water and Sewer System as well as the Parks and Recreation Department. He is a certified arborist and S-2 Waterworks System Operator. He also serves as a Captain for Clawson’s Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Johnston will start working with the Village in mid-September. The Planning and Zoning Administrator position will be posted next week.

Safest City Award - The Village has been notified by the organization Safewise that Beverly Hills ranks as the 31st safest community in Michigan. This ranking is up from 36th last year. Beverly Hills has also received the following recognitions:

- #7 Best Place to Raise a Family - Niche
- #7 Best Suburb to Buy a House in Michigan – Niche
- Top 5 Safest Cities in Michigan (#4) – alarm.com

Office Closed/Trash Schedule – Village offices will be closed on Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day. Trash collection will be moved back one day for that week.

Movie Night in Beverly Park – The annual movie night in the Park will be on Thursday, August 18th. The movie will be *Sing 2*. Residents are encouraged to bring their own blankets and chairs. The Village would like to thank Birmingham Public Schools Early Learning for providing refreshments for the event. The show will start at dusk.

ARPA – EGLE approved the proposed Marguerite and Hummel ARPA project.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

O’Gorman stated that he has been a soccer coach for 20 years and one of his player’s parents was a recent victim of gun violence. He inquired what the Council can do to address gun violence. He said this recent act has affected him in a way he did not anticipate and explained that is why he missed the last Council meeting.

Abboud stated the SEMCOG’s regional review committee meeting is August 31. He mentioned criteria for a Carbon Reduction Program. The Elected Officials Academy Board of Directors will be discussing the bylaws at an upcoming meeting. He requested to revisit a memorial tree for Jonathan Aylward and encouraged everyone to look into the Edible Trails Project.

Mooney thanked residents for coming to this meeting. He stated the garden that Tobaben was referring to at Beverly Park during Public Comment was originally placed there by the Garden Club. He appreciates the Tobabens volunteering to help. He suggested digging a ditch along Saxon. He expressed condolences to O’Gorman.

Hrydziuszko stated that the next Java & Jazz event is on Sunday, August 21st. She said the Parks & Recreation Board and Administration are working on the 5-Year Recreation Plan. She noted that the pandemic and buckthorn eradication has slowed down the progress of reforestation at Beverly Park. She said she took the position on Council to do what she can to serve the residents and can feel helpless when it comes to major issues such as gun violence. She said if there is an opportunity for Council to do something about it, then they should, even if it is just being a squeaky wheel.

George stated that the Java & Jazz event makes for a delightful atmosphere at Beverly Park. He noted the 5 Year Parks & Recreation Plan is under review and this is a good time for residents to talk to the Parks & Recreation Board. He hopes that the new Public Services Director has some experience with speed control since the concern has come up several times. He reminded everyone that 14 Mile Road is closed traveling westbound and asked people to please pay attention to the traffic signs. He suggested increasing signage and Public Safety presence around 14 Mile Road. He announced that the Village received the Oakland County Infrastructure Planning Grant and more information will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk