

VILLAGE OF BOSTON HEIGHTS

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, December 19, 2023

7:00 PM

(Finance Committee meeting to follow)

CALL TO ORDER - BILL GONCY, MAYOR

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

- Mayor Bill Gony
- Fiscal Officer Scott Varney
- Solicitor (Associate) Kathryn Vadas
- Engineer (O.H.M.) Brian Gorog

R.Antal X - B.Bartko X - J.Miller **absent** - R.Fenn X - R. Dick X - D. Maccarone X

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to adopt agenda as presented to Council - **APPROVED AND ADOPTED**

OPEN FORUM

Ohio House Representative Bill Roemer made a few remarks in appreciation of outgoing Mayor Bill Gony's long and dedicated service to the Village, and noting the many positive changes in the Village due to his efforts. After a round of applause, Mr. Gony made a few remarks in that same vein.

Mr. Roemer then administered the oath of office to Mayor-Elect Ron Antal, whose term begins January 1, 2024. Mr. Antal then made some appreciative remarks concerning Mr. Gony, as well.

Mr. Antal, who is presently President Pro Tempore of Council, then administered the oath to both incoming Council members: David Maccarone and Richard Lyon. Mr. Maccarone had previously been filling a vacated Council seat by appointment. (Note that Mr. Antal's seat on Council will then become vacant in January.)

Mr. Antal presented Mayor Gony with a plaque and proclamation of thanks from Village Council. The Fairview Cemetery Association did likewise.

This was all followed by an interlude for cake and refreshments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the November 14th and November 28th 2023 meetings were approved and adopted.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 2023-12-24
(First Reading)

ADOPTED
Ord 2023-12-24

AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BOSTON HEIGHTS IMPOSING A MORATORIUM FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR (365 DAYS) ON THE GRANTING OF ANY PERMITS FOR ALLOWING RETAIL DISPENSERIES, CULTIVATORS, OR PROCESSORS OF MEDICAL AND RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF BOSTON HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ed. Note: This is in reference to the recently-passed Issue 2 initiative to legalize recreational marijuana in Ohio. Mr. Fenn reported that Solicitor Marshal Pitchford had determined that such a moratorium was legal. Ms. Vadas noted that the Ohio legislature was still debating proposed changes to the Issue 2 law and so rules and regulations were still in flux.

ORDINANCE 2023-12-25
(First Reading)

To 2nd Reading

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 121.02(d)(1) AND CREATING SECTIONS 121.02(d)(7) and 121.02(e)(6) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, A PART OF THE RULES OF COUNCIL; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ed. Note: This is in reference to the Solicitor's stated intention to tighten up some of the rules for Council meetings, specifically the means for canceling them. Mr. Fenn suggested that further discussion was in order, primarily because the notion of adjournment to a definite date had not been discussed. The matter was left to a second reading.

ORDINANCE 2023-12-26
(First Reading)

ADOPTED
Ord 2023-12-26

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 189 TO ADOPT UPDATES AND TO CONFORM TO OHIO AMENDED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 33; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ed. Note: This chapter established the Village's income tax. The Fiscal Officer explained that this measure aligns the Village with the new state regulations on net profits taxation and Work From Home tax allocation. Mayor Gony noted also that Summit County's inter-community income tax sharing (anti-poaching) agreement was in the process of revision.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2023-12-61 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO
(First Reading) A CONTRACT WITH THE SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC
DEFENDER'S OFFICE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY,

ADOPTED

Res 2023-12-61

Ed. Note: This is the Village's annual agreement to provide public defender services.

RESOLUTION 2023-12-62 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PERMANENT ANNUAL
(First Reading) APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VILLAGE OF BOSTON HEIGHTS
FOR THE YEAR OF 2024; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY,

ADOPTED

Res 2023-12-62

Ed. Note: This is the Village's routine initiation of the 2024 budget and appropriations. Mr. Maccarone wondered why the term "permanent" was applied to annual appropriations; F.O. Varney explained that this was in contrast to "temporary" appropriations.

REPORTS

MAYOR

B. GONCY

Mayor Goncy read a letter from John Codrea resigning his position on the Village's Planning Commission; Mr. Codrea was the long-serving Chair of that body, and had previously served on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Comprehensive Plan committee. Mr. Goncy stated that he would be interested in an appointment to the PC, as his current ex officio seat as Mayor would be filled by Mr. Antal. A further discussion noted that there might be an additional vacancy on the PC as well.

The Mayor noted a letter received from the OPWC in conjunction with the final disbursement of state funds for the Brandywine Road reconstruction project.

Mr. Goncy made a few final remarks on his tenure as Mayor and, previously, Council member and Planning Commission member.

FISCAL OFFICER

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SAFETY COMMITTEE / VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT R. ANTAL

Mr. Antal reported that Valley Fire District offered their appreciation and thanks to outgoing Mayor Gony.

ROADS COMMITTEE R. FENN

Mr. Fenn reported that the Road Department was successfully salting and plowing.

CEMETERY TRUSTEES R. FENN

[CEMETERY COMMITTEE]

Mr. Fenn reported that the Cemetery Association was quiescent through Winter, until March.

LANDS AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE / PARK J.MILLER

none

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DAVE MACCARONE

Mr. Maccarone alluded to a proposed tax incentive plan to encourage the long-planned Wendy's location in the Village. He also suggested that there might soon be progress on the long-awaited Bass Pro development, but that the company was concerned about the vacant hotel in the Village center.

PLANNING COMMISSION / BZA R. ANTAL

no PC or BZA meetings in December, none planned for January 2024

ENGINEER OHM ADVISORS / BRIAN GOROG

Mr. Gorog reported that he had applied on the Village's behalf for a potentially very substantial one-time grant of state funds that could be applied to the Matthews-Thomas Park master development plan.

He also reported applying for funding for the proposed sanitary sewers for the Village's northeast residential quadrant.

He further reported that work was continuing on the slow-moving Wolcott Road sanitary sewer and road construction project. After some firm negotiations with the contractor, it was determined that work would continue through the winter, with the expectation that the road work could be done next spring.

Mr. Gorog also thanked the Mayor for his assistance and cooperation on behalf of O.H.M.

OLD BUSINESS -- None

NEW BUSINESS -- None

EXECUTIVE SESSION -- None

ADJOURN

NOTICE

The complete text of each such Ordinance or Resolution may be obtained or viewed at the Boston Heights Village Hall, 45 East Boston Mills Road in the Office of the Fiscal Officer during office hours.