

PLEASANT HILL VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2007  
MINUTES

Mayor Gary Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Roll Call: Melinda Clark, Donna Favorite, Rick Baker, John Schultz, Bob Sollmann, and Ronald "Bud" Perry all present. Others present were Jeff Derksen Service Superintendent, Gary Johnston Mayor, Paul Wagner Solicitor, Debbie Cress Income Tax Administrator, Dean Schauer VFW representative, Sgt. James McGlinch Sheriff's Department representative.

Donna made a motion to approve the April 9th, 2007 regular meeting minutes, seconded by John. Roll Call: Donna, John, Melinda, Rick, Bob, and Bud all yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Department:

Melinda reported that there are 4 wheelers being operated on the streets on the west side of town. Rick reported his concern about a safety issue with the children playing basketball on the street on Long Street. Bob stated his concerns about the safety of children riding bicycles into the street in the same area. Bud reported that on the weekends the west end of High St seems to be a congregation point for motorcycles and cars, and the vehicles are then operated in a reckless manner (burning out, speeding, noise). Sgt. McGlinch noted that they will handle the vehicle problems, but noise issues require filing a complaint (in compliance with Village ordinance).

Citizens Comments:

Dean Shauer, Pleasant Hill VFW representative, reported that the Memorial Day parade will be held on May 28, with the parade forming at the school at 9:30, and starting at 10:30. He has contacted the Sheriff's Department about providing traffic control. He invited Village Council members to ride in the parade and to sit on the platform at the ceremony. He noted that the Mayor will be one of the speakers.

John inquired about the replacement policy for the Village's 3' X 5' flags; Dean reported that the VFW expects to provide any replacements needed. John requested two. Dean asked that any damaged flags be given to him for proper disposal. Dean also reported that flags will remain on the cemetery graves until after Flag Day.

## Department Reports:

Council noted receipt of Jason Winner's Fanning/Howey update: Newton Township/Village Park – notice of award of Nature's Work grant for acquisition of new park ground – \$90,000; Monument St Reconstruction Phase 1 – expects notice tomorrow (May 15); CDBG Distress Application – 4th public hearing scheduled for May 24 at 7:00 pm; WWTP Sewer Study – study to begin in June with estimated completion August/September.

Jeff reported that the only quote for the repairs on the Monument base corners was from KPR Construction for \$117. Council expressed concern about any repairs to old concrete holding up, and decided to repaint it as general maintenance.

Jeff presented the proposals for the Grace and Long streets repairs project: S & S Excavating – \$13,000; Wagner Paving – \$12,100; Star-Ex – \$21,854.25; D & M Excavating – \$16,825.90; Miller Bros – \$16,250. Jeff noted that Wagner's bid did not include curb work, which is an additional \$2,700. The Mayor brought to Council's attention the report from Fanning/Howey about upcoming projects, and expressed concern about committing funds to other projects. Bob led Council's discussion with the Mayor about the need to be able to fund repair and maintenance items. Concern about the lack of a capital plan was expressed; the need for identifying and prioritizing projects. Donna made a motion to table the decision on the acceptance of quotes related to the Grace and Long streets repair project. Melinda noted that she is the Village representative on the Park Committee, along with a township trustee, Stan Fessler, Brenda Stephens, and soccer and baseball representatives; that pursuing grants for a park has been a joint effort between the Village and Newton Township, and so far the Village has paid 50% of the engineering fees, which she estimated at \$3,000. Council noted that this project was begun before most members were on the Council, and requested that they be more informed of the situation. Bob strongly stated his opinion that expenditures for a park should not take precedence over regular maintenance. Melinda reported that she may soon be moving out of Pleasant Hill, and questioned if this would be an appropriate time for Council to appoint a replacement for her on the Park Committee, now that grants have been received and meetings will resume and decisions and/or recommendations will need to be made. Melinda also stated her agreement with Bob about the need for street maintenance coming first; any problems she has with approving the Grace and Long streets project has to do with the lack of a capital plan, not with a park. Donna withdrew her motion. Bud made a motion to accept S & S Excavating's \$13,000 bid to make the Grace and Long streets repairs. Bob seconded. The Mayor noted that he has to throw out a word of caution on finances when he sees the Nature's Work grant coming in and he doesn't know where all the matching money is coming from, and the financial

commitment involved with the Monument Street project. Roll call: Bud and Bob both yes, Melinda no, Donna yes, Rick no, John yes. Motion carried 4 – 2.

Jeff presented proposed changes to the cemetery rules. Donna asked what changes are being proposed, if anything other than decorations were being changed. Jeff responded that the changes from the original had been presented at the last meeting, with the extra change presented tonight being the addition of item 10 dealing with shepherd's hooks, and renumbering of following items. Donna stated, with general Council agreement, that Don Cress' decorations were in violation. Jeff noted that the rules are intended to promote efficient maintenance and the ability to access graves sites without causing damage to the decorations. Jeff said that the difference between two of the proposals is the treatment of the shepherd's hooks. Council agreed that the intent is to allow shepherd's hooks to be placed against the foundation, with any pot, etc, hanging over the stone, and nothing concreted in. Bud questioned whether it would be more efficient to set up an enacting ordinance, with provisions for rules which could be changed without passing a new ordinance. Paul responded about the steps and procedures which would be needed, and expressed his opinion that the current method is probably best. John made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1025 First Reading by Title of Cemetery Rules, the proposal labeled 2, which allows for two shepherd's hooks, with a single hook each, per grave. Bob seconded. Roll call: John, Bob, Bud, Rick, Donna, Melinda. Motion carried.

The Mayor reported that there are two conflicting ordinances – Ordinance 997, which replaces 962 and 920, and Ordinance 1009, which also replaces 962 and 920. Both Ordinances relate to trimming of trees shrubbery, weeds and grass. The only difference is the height above the streets for tree limbs. Ordinance 997 is 15 feet and Ordinance 962 is 12 feet. Melinda made a motion for the first reading of Ordinance 1026 – Repeal of Ordinance 997. Bud seconded. Roll call: Melinda, Bud, Bob, John, Rick, and Donna all yes. Motion carried.

The proposed notice for residents who leave their trash cans out in the street, curb lawn, or on the sidewalk was reviewed by Council. Wording changes were suggested, and it was agreed that this notice would be issued with all the council members' names.

#### Committee Reports:

Beautification – Melinda passed on grant information to the committee. John reported that some citizens (Holsingers, Hormells, and Bledsoes) have organized and would like to be a Tree Committee and they plan to meet on May 29 at 7:00 pm. Wendy, Urban Forester from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division will also attend.

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Recreation – Melinda provided a brief history of why a Park Committee was formed and noted that the intent for the park is to be centrally located and family oriented. The goal is funding through offsetting grants with the outlay to be minimal. The Township and Village have been sharing the initial grant and engineering costs. Park diagrams developed were just concepts for the grant submissions. She reported that with the awarding of the Nature’s Work grant, the needed steps are: Village/Township joint operating agreement; final design; definition and agreement to operating responsibilities; and additional grant applications through the township. Melinda again suggested that she be replaced on the Park Committee because of her plans to move.

Old Business:

The Mayor reported that Chester Wolfe is willing to be the Village Zoning Inspector. Council agreed that the position of Zoning Inspector has been created by adoption of the Zoning Regulations. The members of the Zoning and Planning Board will need to determine the responsibilities of the position, sources of funding to pay for the position (permit fees?), and determine how to seek candidates and bring their recommendations to Village Council. Bob, Council representative on the Zoning and Planning Board, said that they will call a meeting of the Zoning and Planning Board to deal with this.

New Business:

The Mayor updated the Council on the status of compliance with the Property Owners’ Maintenance Ordinance: John Marchal has failed in his written commitment to having two properties in compliance by January 1, 2007; Tom Bohlander has also failed to complete his compliance. Council requested that Paul send letters to John Marchal and Tom Bohlander stating legal action will be taken unless they submit plans and a timetable for required maintenance.

Bob made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Rick seconded. Melinda questioned the \$1,817.52 payment to Fanning/Howey; which was the amount being paid for CDBG Distress Grant services. Roll call: Bob, Rick, Donna, John, Bud, and Melinda all yes. Motion carried.

The Mayor reported that Harve Bowman is selling his bucket truck and asked if Council has any interest. He noted that the BPA has expressed their disinterest. Council agreed that they are not interested.

Melinda reported that she is unable to obtain the Dell copier that she had recommended at a cost of \$340, and upon further review, the cost for the capabilities needed would be about \$500. Donna made a motion to increase the authorized purchase price of a copier which would perform the functions needed at the Village office to a total cost not to exceed \$500. Melinda seconded. Roll call: Donna, Melinda, Rick, John, Bob, Bud all yes. Motion carried.

Donna reported that the Village had a successful garage sale. It was suggested that next year more port-a-johns be rented.

Bud reported that he has recently learned that bulk water purchases are charged to out of town customers at \$2.30 per thousand gallons. Debbie noted that this rate is part of the current water ordinance, and the BPA is aware of this and has indicated it will be addressed.

Council expressed their appreciation for the nice job that Dale Hershey had done in making the flower boxes for the Monument.

Bud moved to adjourn, seconded by Donna. Roll Call: Bud, Donna, Melinda, Rick, John, and Bob all yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

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Mayor/ Gary Johnston

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Income Tax Administrator/ Debbie Cress