

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF SILVER LAKE****Monday, September 20, 2021****7:00 p.m.**

The Village of Silver Lake Council met in regular session on Monday, September 20, 2021, at Silver Lake Village Hall, 2961 Kent Road, Silver Lake, Ohio. The meeting was only in-person.

With Council President William M. Church presiding, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Church led the Pledge of Allegiance.

These members were present and responded to roll call: Mr. Dann Nivens, Mr. Tim Nichols, Mr. Matthew Plesich, Mr. William Church, Mrs. Therese Dunphy, Mrs. Betsy Meyer, and Mr. Christopher Scott.

Roll call of Council - 7 members present. Absent – 0.

Mr. Church: Were there any additions or corrections to the minutes of the August 31<sup>st</sup> Special Council Meeting? [There being none, the minutes were approved as submitted.] Any additions or corrections for the September 7<sup>th</sup> minutes? [There being none, the minutes were approved as submitted.] Assistant Clerk, first reading.

**First Reading:**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 53-2021 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *(Finance & Appropriations)***

**RESOLUTION NO.: 54-2021 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A DRIVEWAY SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM FOR SENIOR AND INFIRM RESIDENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *(Personnel & Public Affairs)***

**RESOLUTION NO.: 55-2021 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE VETERANS TRAIL PROJECT IN THE VILLAGE OF SILVER LAKE, OHIO. *(Planning, Zoning & Insurance)***

**Second Reading: None.**

**Third Reading: None.**

**Comments from the audience: *(3 minutes each)* There were none.**

**FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE - Mrs. Dunphy**

**ORDINANCE NO.: 53-2021**

Mr. Housley explained that the county reappraised the Village's property evaluations and didn't change the tax rate on them. Mr. Housley said Council has the option to dispute these evaluations, or accept them as has always been done. Mr. Housley recommended accepting the tax rates.

Roll call to suspend the rules                      Yes     7                      No     0



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Mixed discussion occurred regarding the various cost estimates for the Englewood project. Council agreed to assess for the usual sidewalks and curbs. Mr. Housley stated the codified ordinances needed to be amended to allow this project to proceed without assessing for road-widening; Mr. Housley asked that the bidding process be delayed to allow him time to discuss the process with consultants specializing in assessments and grants.

Mayor Hovey: I have one last item. This week I spoke with our police officers, and we're going to start recognizing officers in front of Council for going above and beyond the call of duty. Our first recipient will appear before Council Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>; he and other officers were instrumental in saving a resident's life. Our officers are excellent and deserve recognition.

**Mr. Robert Heydorn, Village Solicitor:** No report.

**Chief Jamie Norris, Chief of Police:** We have talked with 3 vendors about bodycam quotes, and Mr. Heydorn is helping us proceed with that. [Mr. Heydorn clarified he was researching whether a certain vendor had proprietary technology.] The quotes are \$50,000 and up, which I expected. We're behind technologically. We're still on a first-generation system while other departments have fourth-generation ones. Everyone is behind on shipping out product, also there's the installation time. The school had its family night; we were there, and it was a nice night. The kids got a little stamp book and officers were signing autographs. Yesterday's car show went well. We've gotten reports about golfcarts speeding around, and we encourage people to call our non-emergency number [330-929-8771] while it's happening. Officer Rowe is here to quickly discuss a fundraiser we're doing through the association.

Officer Rowe: Evening, Council. The Pink Patch Project was started in 2013 to support breast cancer awareness and other cancer organizations. The Seal Beach, California, Police were the first to wear the pink patches. In 2015, the Irwindale, California, Police started wearing and selling the patches, raising over \$20,000 for charity. Also in 2015, the Los Angeles Police and 25 other organizations joined in. Since the Project has started, over 900,000 patches have been sold to raise more than \$1,400,000 for cancer research, and organizations all over the country have joined in, with some international participants as well. I've wanted to involve our department for a few years, and this year we will be participating. For the month of October, officers who want to wear the pink patch will get it sewn onto their uniform for free, and we will be selling the patches for \$10 each. All the money will be given to the Cuyahoga Falls Cancer Club. These patches are considered a unique item and we should sell out. I'd like to thank Chief Norris and the mayor for their support on this. I'd like to thank the association for covering the costs. I believe we are only the second agency in Summit County to do this. Akron started last year and raised over \$10,000, and was the first in the county. We'll also be the fifth agency in the entire state to do this. Hopefully, other agencies will look at us as an example and join in.

Chief Norris: When Officer Rowe brought this to me, I couldn't turn it down. My middle daughter is a 10-year cancer survivor, and she raised money for Children's Hospital by selling gold laces while she was on the soccer team. I think it's a good cause. [Council agreed.]

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**Mr. Mark Lipan, Service Director:** We finished the crack sealing. We should be finished jetting the sewers this week. I had to spend \$5,000 on the Vactor for parts that rusted. We still have to replace the fan, but I still have money in the budget for it. The backhoe also broke down; they came out today to look at it, but it needs to go to the shop for repairs. The gas company has started a project in the highlands and northeast, so that's why the flags and paint are there, and they hope to be finished by January. The gas leak on Parkwood was a small leak in a big line that happened over enough time that it spread to all corners of the intersection and killed the grass. It's fixed now. Two of the homes being built in the Village are finished, and work is continuing on the others. I'm waiting on EnviroScience's quote on Englewood; it should be about \$3,000-5,000. And leaf pickup begins Oct. 25 and ends Dec. 5.

**Mr. Sean Housley, Clerk-Treasurer:** The public notice about the potential charter changes is finished. Once Mr. Heydorn approves it, I will send it to be published.

We have also received July's sewage treatment bill for \$32,000. Last July, we paid \$22,000, so it's about a 50% increase, even though our treatment fees increased only 34%. I looked into it, and we had more rain this July, 7" as opposed to last July's 3", and we treated 6.7 mil. gal. this July compared to 5.5 mil. gal. last July. Therefore, the bill is reasonable, so I'm going to pay it.

Our current estimate for income tax revenue is \$950,000, but that will probably be closer to \$900,000. I'm not planning on revising the related estimated revenue amount down yet, but I may inform the County on our next amended certificate that we're not going to collect that much.

Last meeting, Mr. Nivens asked about fund B10, and I found that we spent \$8,200 more than what we collected this year. That fund pays for about 30-35% of our salt costs, and our salt costs are close to \$13,000 this year. That fund only collects around \$8,000/yr. on average. So, we're spending down some of the reserve in that fund. In the future, we might need to change which fund pays for our salt. You could pay for it entirely out of the general fund if you wanted. [Mixed discussion occurred about the funding process of the police dept.'s new equipment.] We could pay for the Chief's new equipment out of the general fund this year if we need to.

If we do decide to seek bids on Englewood, I don't know if—usually, I present Council with a draft budget by the second meeting in October and I'm on schedule to do so this year. If we do get bids in for Englewood, I can tell you how we can pay for it and I'll probably issue a note, so we can get started right away. I'm going to reach out to this consulting firm for help with possible grants, so by the time the project is complete we can apply any grant or low-interest monies to it. I'm planning on paying for the governmental portion of debt from the street-widening and assessments out of the general capital improvement fund and water and sewer fund. [Mr. Nichols inquired about the consulting firm's location, and Mr. Housley replied that it was out of Youngstown State.] I'll probably transfer some amount from the general fund to the general capital improvement fund too.

Mr. Nivens inquired about the settlement from the 3 opioid distributors [46-2021], and Mr. Housley and Mr. Heydorn replied that the Village would receive about \$12,000-18,000 over at least 10 years. Mr. Scott inquired about QualityIP's [the Village's new IT services provider] progress, and Mr. Housley answered QualityIP has installed smart technology and offered

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training to staff to minimize security risks and are working to bring the Village up to “best standards.”

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Mrs. Dunphy mentioned the stormwater mitigation aspects of the Englewood project, and asked Council to allow EnviroScience, and the Crystal and Silver Lake boards to talk with Council about stormwater mitigation and become more involved in the process. Mr. Nichols concurred. Mrs. Dunphy proposed holding budget meetings an hour before regular Council meetings, starting Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> until the budget is done. Council raised no objections.

Mrs. Dunphy drew Council’s attention to Mr. Housley’s materials on the salary ordinance and the cost of living. Mr. Housley stated that the cost-of-living adjustment is about 6.1%, but he should know the final amount by mid-October, and said that his wage projection showed an increase of approximately \$109,000 (6.69%) in wage and pension costs, including step increases and longevity increases. Mr. Housley reminded Council of the amended language that will need to be included in the 2022 salary ordinance. Mr. Lipan mentioned the Service Dept. would like an increase in the boot allowance to \$250 from the current \$230. Mr. Lipan also wanted to raise the part-time wage, and the seasonal wage to ensure the Village gets enough seasonal workers. Mr. Church encouraged Mr. Lipan and Chief Norris to submit “dream sheets” with any special appropriations requests to Council before the Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> budget meeting. It was clarified that the salary ordinance was finance legislation, not personnel legislation.

Mrs. Dunphy inquired about setting aside some money for future equipment repairs. Mr. Housley stated he wanted to move \$300,000 from the general fund to the general capital fund to be earmarked for a new Vactor. Mr. Lipan stated he planned to get a new Vactor in 2026. Mr. Housley said Council could move monies to the general capital fund for equipment purchases or repair costs, but once moved, the money could not go back to the general fund. The mayor supported putting money into the general capital improvement fund.

Mr. Church drew Council’s attention to the sign ordinance handout, and Mr. Heydorn clarified the handout was not binding, rather for discussion purposes only. Mr. Heydorn emphasized the looser standard for real estate signs as compared to yardsale/auction signs. He explained the suggested amendment on the handout was meant to prevent a homeowner being overwhelmed with signs, and mentioned the part that required a homeowner not object to the sign being on his/her property. It was clarified that the handout allows 1 sign per address, not 1 sign per yardsale. Mr. Plesich stated he received emails from residents against changing the sign ordinance. Mr. Heydorn said he looked at other municipalities’ temporary sign ordinances and some of them required permits, so showing proof of the homeowner’s permission could be part of a permit application process. Mr. Church stated he also received emails from residents against changing the ordinance. Mrs. Dunphy questioned the necessity of directional signs, given current technology. Mr. Scott said the current sign ordinance isn’t being completely enforced, and Mr. Lipan and Chief Norris disagreed. It was clarified that political signs are exempt by law. Mr. Lipan emphasized that each contractor permit mentions that signs are not allowed. Mr. Nivens recalled the past discussion about real estate signs, and said he had received emails from residents both in favor of and against changes. Council decided not to pursue any change to the sign ordinance.

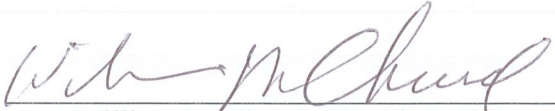
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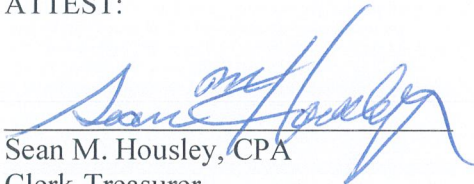
7:00 p.m.

There being no further questions or comments, Council adjourned at 8:23 p.m., until the next regular Council Meeting on Monday, October 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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William M. Church, President of Council

ATTEST:

  
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Sean M. Housley, CPA  
Clerk-Treasurer  
prepared by: Kathryn Kleinhans, Assistant to the Clerk-Treasurer