

**VILLAGE OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL MEETING
November 8, 2021
7:30 p.m.**

Mayor Brad Nicodemus opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Council members present were Waid Cosgray, Rick Foreman, Mike Hamilton, Bob Hankison, Chuck Keller, and Brandy McCreery.

Also in Attendance

Mayor Brad Nicodemus, Village Administrator Teri Wise, Fiscal Officer Brian Bibler, Solicitor Jeff Feyko, and Police Chief Mike Tussey

Approval of Minutes

Keller moved to approve the minutes of the October 25 Council meeting as written. Foreman seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote with McCreery abstaining.

Approval of Agenda

Keller moved to accept the agenda as presented. McCreery seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Visitors

- None

Village Administration Reports

Mayor

1. The \$1.2 trillion federal infrastructure bill includes \$15 billion for replacement of lead pipe waterlines, \$10 billion for chemical cleanup, and \$35 billion for water infrastructure repair and replacement. It remains to be seen how those funds will trickle down to the Village level.
2. The Village submitted a waterline project proposal for HB 168 (CARES) funding on October 26. The Governor announced \$93 million in water grants; however, the Village received none of the funding. He noted Lancaster got \$1 million to run 1,300 feet of waterline under US Route 33. A couple other small communities had projects that were funded (\$400K to extend a waterline to serve 18 people and \$5 million for a waterline project for a community of 1,000). The Mayor said he is not sure what wisdom or metrics went into the grant determinations, but said he had talked up the \$700,000 Village project (which had a large local match using American Rescue Plan funds) with every influential person he could think of. The Mayor will take up the matter with the State Senator and hope for a better result in the second round of funding. However, he suspects little of the federal funding will trickle down to small communities since projects in more densely populated areas impact more lives even though rural areas arguably need it more.

3. A bill introduced in the Ohio House recently would allow communities to conduct their meetings remotely, arguing that the experience during the pandemic proved that remote meetings can work well.
4. The Mayor has received four letters of interest for the two open Council seats and will continue to accept letters through the end of the year. Information will be posted on the VOB website.
5. Council will hold its Organizational meeting at 5 p.m. January 10, 2022.

Village Administrator

1. Regarding HB 168 funding, the VA said she was very disappointed in the Governor and wonders who has his ear. She would like to make an appointment to meet with him. She has little hope for getting federal funds and feels like it is up to the Village to continue to fend for itself by competing for other grants.
2. Membrane 4 was taken out of service today and put into the membrane 1 tank, where both are being cleaned in preparation for an experiment to see if cleaning membranes before adding bugs (used in digesting sewage) makes an efficiency difference. Bugs will be added to dirty membranes 2 and 3 at the same time. Also, a new hauler of filled sludge bags is ready to take away two filled bags.
3. The Village has received a new water meter for the schools to replace one that is 20 or 25 years old. It will be installed during the Thanksgiving break. Joey is ironing out details.
4. The water loop project for Kumler, Brown and Fremont will be completed yet this year if materials can be procured. Otherwise it will have to be pushed to 2022.
5. Leaf pickup has begun; today's pickup was finished by 1 p.m. A resignation last week has contributed further to a staffing shortage, so leaf collection may need to be extended while the Village focuses on priorities, keeping plants going and addressing emergencies.
6. Notifications went out today to those who live in the vicinity of Canal Street, informing them that starting November 25 traffic on that street will be two-way.
7. The Village's new website went up Friday evening. Some administration training is needed so the site can be updated by staff.
8. Barb is out for the rest of November.
9. The FO and VA will meet tomorrow with T-Mobile because some Village-issued cell phones are not working. On further investigation they learned that none of the phones will work after the first of the year. VA is hoping for a resolution at the meeting with T-Mobile, which took over for Sprint.
10. Brad passed his Wastewater I test on Friday, allowing Joey Little to move back to the Water Department full-time.

Fiscal Officer

1. The FO welcomed any and all questions about the 2022 Budget.

Solicitor

1. There are three new pieces of legislation that have been discussed and are on the agenda. There is also one piece of legislation for a second reading.
2. Ordinance 2021-32 is an agreement with ODOT for snow and ice removal on State Routes in the Village and needs to be passed as an emergency.
3. Ordinance 2021-33 is a 6-month moratorium on the building of ponds in the Village, also with emergency language.
4. Ordinance 2021-34 is for the 2022 budget.

Committee Reports

Finance

- Chairperson Keller said that they met before Council to review monthly financial reports and went over the 2022 Budget.
- **The next meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Monday in December; December 13th at 6:00 p.m.** Meetings will be hybrid for the time being. The members will be in person, visitors can attend remotely.

Service

- Chairperson Cosgray said that they have not met since last Council meeting.
- **The next meeting is scheduled for the 4th Monday in November; November 22nd at 6:00 p.m.** Meetings will be hybrid for the time being. The members will be in person, visitors can attend remotely.

Safety

- Chairperson Hankison said that they have not met since last Council meeting.
- **The next meeting is scheduled for the 4th Monday in November; November 22nd at 6:45 p.m. or immediately following the conclusion of the Service Committee meeting.** Meetings will be hybrid for the time being. The members will be in person, visitors can attend remotely.

Rules

- Chairperson Hamilton said that they met before Council.
- **The next meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Monday in December; December 13th at 6:45 p.m. or immediately following the conclusion of the Finance meeting.** Meetings will be hybrid for the time being. The members will be in person, visitors can attend remotely.

Public Safety Reports

Police Department

- Officer Clark, the School Resource Officer, has resigned to take a full-time job with Pickerington PD. Lt. Rogers has agreed to serve as SRO for this school year.

The Mayor suggested that Rogers attend SRO training the next time it's offered, even if it is after the school year ends, so that he will have that training if called to fill in again in the future.

- Car 3, the oldest in the fleet but serviceable again, is now being driven by the SRO.
- The PD has three other resignations because officers are moving to positions in other departments. One is going to the Ohio State Highway Patrol and will be assigned to the Statehouse, one is going back home and will be employed by the Belmont County Sheriff's Office, and one is going to Athens PD. The Department is in recruitment mode, combing applicant files and posting positions on the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police website.
- The PD looks great with new paint and new door. Exterior signs have been ordered.

Basil Joint Fire District Board

- Nothing to report; however, a levy is under consideration to cover new staffing.

The Mayor asked if the Board had looked at cutting costs first rather than going straight for a levy.

- Hankison said that the Board plans to revisit part of the union contract requiring that overtime go to full-time firefighters rather than to part-timers.

- **The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 18th at 6:30 p.m. at Station 610.**

Village Committees and Commissions

Planning and Zoning Commission

- P&Z met November 4th to discuss ponds, which turned out to be more complex than expected, leading to the six-month moratorium request. The Mayor credited committee members for their thoughtfulness and willingness to wrestle with information to come to a thorough understanding and rules that make sense.
- **The next meeting will be held Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m.**
- Ponds may not be discussed since a request for a planned unit development (PUD) is on the agenda—the first one using a new process.

Tree Commission

- A matching grant was submitted to ODNR for the tree canopy. The funding will help the Village plant new trees and remove dead ones. The Tree City USA application is due by December 1. The next meeting will be held in January.

Records Commission

- Next hearing is likely in early spring 2022.

Motions

Keller moved that Council and administrators meet in executive session to discuss Personnel immediately after regular business. Hankison seconded. There was not discussion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Ordinances and Resolutions

FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2021-32

APPROVING AND GIVING CONSENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO APPLY, MAINTAIN, AND REPAIR STANDARD LONGITUDINAL PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND ERECT REGULATORY AND WARNING SIGNS ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE VILLAGE CORPORATION LIMIT; AND 2.) GIVING CONSENT FOR ODOT TO REMOVE SNOW AND ICE AND USE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL MATERIALS ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE VILLAGE CORPORATION LIMITS; AND 3.) GIVING CONSENT FOR ODOT TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPAIR ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE VILLAGE CORPORATION LIMITS; AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Sponsor: Keller

- Sponsor Keller said that this has emergency language. He made a motion to suspend the three-reading rule. Cosgray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.
- Sponsor Keller made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-32. Cosgray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Ordinance 2021-32 was adopted by a 6-0 vote.

ORDINANCE 2021-32

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF PONDS WITHIN THE VILLAGE CORPORATION LIMITS AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Sponsor: McCreery.

McCreery said the Planning and Zoning Commission felt it needed six months to study this issue and come up with defensible definitions and rules. The Mayor added that it was a unanimous vote from P&Z to request this action from Council.

- Sponsor McCreery said that this has emergency language. She made a motion to suspend the three-reading rule. Cosgray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.
- Sponsor McCreery made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-33. Cosgray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Ordinance 2021-33 was adopted by a 6-0 vote.

ORDINANCE 2021-34

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PERMANENT ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE VILLAGE OF BALTIMORE FOR 2022 AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Sponsor: Hankison

- Sponsor Hankison said this ordinance is to set the Village's budget for 2022. This doesn't need to be passed tonight and can go to a second reading.

SECOND READING

ORDINANCE 2021-31

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE VILLAGE'S 2021-2022 PAY PLAN TO REFLECT AMENDMENTS TO PAY RANGES AND OTHER MATTERS.

Sponsor: Foreman

- Sponsor Foreman said that this is to update the Pay Plan to increase the maximum within the ranges and add additional pay for various licenses. This doesn't need to be passed tonight and can go to a third reading.

TABLED ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 2021-24

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN PORTIONS OF PART 12 (PLANNING AND ZONING CODE) OF THE BALTIMORE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR MAXIMUM LOT COVERAGES

Sponsor: McCreery

ORDINANCE 2021-25

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN PORTIONS OF PART 12 (PLANNING AND ZONING CODE) OF THE BALTIMORE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF SHORT-TERM RENTAL PROPERTIES

Sponsor: McCreery

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Keller asked what was going on at 309 S. Main St.

Visitors

- None

With no other business to discuss, the Mayor called for a short recess at 8:07 prior to the Executive Session.

At 8:09, Council and Administrators went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Council came out of the Executive Session and resumed the Council meeting at 8:42.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for the 4th Monday in November; November 22nd at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Foreman made a motion to adjourn. McCreery seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Brian Bibler, Fiscal Officer

Brad Nicodemus, Mayor