

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011, at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Merrie Stillpass called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

Jon Chaiken
Fran Cohen
Peg Conway
Ed Hattenbach
Louis Katz
Leslie McIntosh
Merrie Stillpass

ALSO PRESENT:

Bernie Boraten, Village Manager
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Lt. Kevin Fryman, Police/Fire
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

ABSENT:

Rick Kay, Village Treasurer
Chief Monahan, Police/Fire

Mayor Merrie Stillpass welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amberley Village Council, and led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Stillpass presented the minutes of the March 14, 2011, regular meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. There being none, Mayor Stillpass stated that the minutes stand approved as distributed.

Mayor Stillpass presented the minutes of the April 5, 2011, special meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. There being none, Mayor Stillpass stated that the minutes stand approved as distributed.

There was a brief discussion regarding a request from Mr. Katz for council to receive a redline copy of the council minutes, should any changes be submitted during the email review process, and prior to council receiving the final version in their meeting packet.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Boraten reported that the Finance Report for the month of March will be presented at the next council meeting because the Finance Administrator was out of town.

CITIZEN TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Michael Gerson, 6700 E. Beechlands, encouraged Village Council to take action regarding the financial debt related to Amberley Green. He commented that interest rates were going up and nothing will be built on the property any time soon, therefore, now is the time to lock-in rates. He stated that he was a member of the Citizen Advisory Committee three years ago and Council has done nothing with the property or the debt since that time.

Mr. Gerson explained various consequences for not resolving the Amberley Green debt. He urged Council to allow the residents to decide, on the November ballot, whether or not they are willing to pass a levy to support the Amberley Green property and debt. He volunteered his time and assistance to support this effort.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (ESC)

Ms. McIntosh announced that the committee meets every fourth Monday. The committee has recently reviewed mowing proposals, and the Public Buildings and Grounds Committee met and also agreed to the proposal selected by the ESC. An ordinance related to such will be brought to council next month.

The ESC also discussed planning for the Tree City USA Luncheon 2012 event which will be held at the JCC. The committee will hold a volunteer planning session on April 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the community room.

Ms. McIntosh reported that the committee also discussed planning for the Arbor Day in the Garden Party set for June 12. This event will be a thank you to past volunteers. It will also include a heritage tree dedication, acknowledgments for the Tree Academy graduates, and paper shredding for the residents.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Ms. McIntosh reported that the fee for the tennis keycards was reviewed. Ms. McIntosh moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2011-02, RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEE FOR TENNIS KEY CARDS FOR THE 2011 AND 2012 SEASONS. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously. A two-year card will cost \$50 and a second-year card will cost \$35.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE (LRPC)

Mr. Chaiken reported that the committee has completed its report and recommendation to council regarding economic development related specifically to the Amberley Green and North Site properties. The LRPC submitted this report to council for its review. At next month's meeting, Mr. Chaiken commented that he would like to entertain a motion to accept the report. He then recognized the committee for its time and effort, along with special thanks going to Jim Rulli and Jeff Ernst. Mr. Chaiken invited council members to contact him with any questions or comments.

Mr. Katz then commented regarding a conversation he had with Mr. Ron Levine regarding the possibility of allowing residents to purchase the property from the village, if the property could not be sold, which would produce a suggested \$2 million raised.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stillpass reported that the Village will hold a special council meeting to continue its discussions regarding the recruitment process for a new Village Manager. She then thanked Mr. Boraten for his service to the Village.

Mayor Stillpass stated the council will next interview four recruitment firms. She stated that there would be a citizen involvement component to this process. The process may take 90-120 days; therefore, an interim period will exist. She explained the options during the interim period were: 1) appoint internal candidate, 2) appoint external candidate that will assist with search, or 3) appoint external candidate and use search firm.

Mayor Stillpass commented that she would finish her report and then return to the discussion of the interim process.

Mayor Stillpass then thanked Ms. McIntosh and the Environmental Stewardship Committee for achieving the Tree City USA award for 2010.

Mayor Stillpass thanked Mr. Chaiken and the Long Range Planning Committee for their report to council.

Mayor Stillpass announced that she had received an official proclamation from the Census Bureau verifying that the Village's population is 3,585 from the recent census.

Council then returned to the discussion of interim manager. Various options were discussed including the use of an in-house scenario with existing staff.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Boraten congratulated the maintenance department on another outstanding season of service throughout the winter season. Estimates for salt usage were on target: 758 tons used and 750 tons estimated. The City of Cincinnati has called for a meeting of joint bidders for the upcoming 2011-12 salt season. The Village will, once again, participate in the cooperative purchasing option.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Katz stated that a number of residents have expressed their concern to him regarding the cancellation of the ice cream social event. He stated that it would also be an opportunity to honor Mr. Boraten's retirement and he would like council to take it under consideration to be placed back in the budget. A brief discussion was held and this matter was deferred to the Public Outreach Committee for consideration.

Mayor Stillpass stated that there being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Merrie Stillpass