Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 17, 2023 – 7:30 PM

Council Chambers

Issued: 4/14/2023

Item	Presented By:	Action	Topic	Report
Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call for Quorum	Mayor Stefan Densmore			The Village Council convened a regular, in-person meeting on Monday, April 17 2023, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Stefan Densmore presiding. Roll call of Council Members: Ms. Chaney: Present Mr. Fischer: Present Mr. Kneipp: Present Mr. Marx: Present Ms. Snyder: Present Mr. Van Harn: Present
Set the Agenda & Adopt	Mayor Densmore	Review & Motion		Motion to approve the agenda by Mr. Van Harn. Second by Ms. Chaney. All voted in favor.
Persons Registered to Address Council	Resident/Visitor	3-minute time limit per speaker.	• Melody Mayle, Resident 2437 St. Albans Ave. • Brittney Kreimer, Resident 6254 Elbrook Ave • Antoinette Moore, Resident 2648 Losantiville Ave	2023 Juneteenth Event. Ms. Mayle spoke in support of the Juneteenth Event. Motion to include Ms. Mayle's email to council, 2022 Juneteenth Budget, and Juneteenth Committee Public statement by Mr. Van Harn. Second by Mr. Marx. All voted in favor. Ms. Kreimer spoke in support of the event and spoke against comments made by Mr. Kneipp in council on 3/27. Ms. Moore (Grey) chose not to speak in deference to the Juneteenth Planning Commission statement.

			• Maxine Robinson, Resident 2441 Ardmore Ave	Ms. Robinson urged council to attend diversity and bias training. She spoke in support for Motion to direct the Administration to implement annual diversity training by Ms. Snyder. Second by Mr. Van Harn. All voted in favor.
			• Charlotte Bruewer, Resident 6122 Mayflower Ave	Ms. Bruewer spoke against comments made by Mr. Kneipp in council on 3/27.
			• Leslie Hamilton-Bruewer, Resident 6122 Mayflower Ave	Ms. Hamilton-Bruewer spoke against comments made by Mr. Kneipp in council on 3/27. Motion to explore the recommendation of entering the JEDI plan into the GM administrative protocol by Ms. Snyder. Second by Mr. Marx. All voted in favor.
			• Michael Sickles, Resident 2434 Saint Albans Ave	Mr. Sickles spoke in support of the event and spoke against comments made by Mr. Kneipp in council on 3/27.
			• Ryane Sickles, Resident 2434 Saint Albans Ave	Ms. Sickles chose not to speak.
			• Greg Schwartzberg, Resident 6462 Elbrook Ave.	Mr. Schwartzberg emphasized that Mr. Kneipp's comments were about the fiscal support of all federal holidays, not just Juneteenth.
			• Danny Kneipp, Councilman	Mr. Kneipp apologized for his comments on 3/27.
Minutes to be Approved	Mayor Densmore	Review & Motion	Minutes from Previous Council Meeting for Approval: • 3/27/2023	Motion to approve minutes for 3/27/23 by Mr. Marx. Second by Mr. Van Harn. All voted in favor.

Department Reports				
Fire District	Chief Denny Meador	Report		Best wishes to Chief Campbell and wishing him a full recovery. Congratulations to Capt. Reed. Fire Dept will try to attend upcoming community events this summer.
Mayor	Mayor Densmore	Report & Announcements		Announcing the recently appointed Chair of Community Engagement Committee, Bryant Bussa. Mr. Densmore thanked Mr. Bussa for his previous service to the Village and surrounding areas, solving the nails issue on Langdon Farm. Mr. Densmore mentioned attending a meeting with both Ohio Senators, in which rail safety improvements were discussed.
Village Administrator	Ron Hirth	Report		**Strategic plan** is Village Funded and important for Council to move forward on this. **Housing plan** is county funded. Liz Blume has a presentation of this information. The Administration requests a Special Meeting of Council for Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7 PM as a working session to consider and discuss a County-funded Housing plan presentation by Liz Blume. Motion by Mr. Marx to convene May 1, at 7pm. Second by Mr. Van Harn. All voted in favor. **Roads Summary:** **Wiehe:** Road construction continues. **Elbrook:** GCWW continues progress with installation of the new water main. The pre-construction meeting was held on Wednesday, March 15. A mailing to residents went out last week. **Englewood/Canterbury:** Council awarded the contract to Rack & Ballauer. **Losantiville Traffic Study** has been initiated with JMA Consultants, working in the capacity of Village Engineer. See Executive Committee for more details on this project. The Village was awarded $15,000 mini grant funding for the park shade sail project.

Fiscal Officer	Eric Pridonoff	Report		For the month of March FY23, the Village had a combined bank balance of $3,918,137.82. Of this amount $2,211,302.59, can be found in the Village's primary checking account, while the balance resides in several Village dedicated funds. For the month of March FY23, the Village generated $58,063.95 in General Fund income tax receipts. This number was 7% higher than the previous year. For the year, the Village has collected $219,359.29, in GF income tax receipts. This is almost 6% higher than March FY22. The Village has received the first bi-annual disbursement of real estate taxes from the Hamilton County Auditor, in the amount of $943,418.50. This is a major increase over 2022, with the Village receiving the first receipts of the fire levy. Notwithstanding the fire levy's $271,660.24, the village is still ahead over 2022, in real estate tax collection by nearly $20,000. The Village received $618,426.90, in General Fund Receipts. This number is $98,236.92, less than March FY22, because in 2022, the Village received tax money from LMFR. The Village received $15,150.32 in additional funds from the DEA Program, totalling $84,841.51. Ending the first quarter, the Village continues to be on track to receive well over $200,000 for the year. The top five payees for the month were Payroll, DEER PARK SILVERTON JOINT FIRE DISTRICT, RUMPKE CONTAINER, Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund, and RACK & BALLAUER EXCAVATING CO INC. Total Village General Fund Appropriations spend for the month was in the amount of $289,210.83. This figure is $14,172.6, more than March FY22. The Village had 23 outstanding payments that totaled $18,024.41. Village Administration will continue to monitor appropriation spend and make any adjustments deemed necessary.

				The PD vehicle purchase revision was discussed, as well as the travel per diem, Star Fund, and 5/3 Bank account. Motion to accept report by Mr. Van Harn. Second by Mr. Marx. All voted in favor.
Police	Capt. Ryland Reed	Report		Total to the City: $4695.00 Total to the State: $1,348.50 Total to other: $46.50 Motion to accept by Ms. Chaney. Second by Ms. Snyder. All voted in favor. Police Cruiser 122 was involved in an accident. The cruiser is being repaired. For Hyundai and Kia owners, please make sure to protect yourself. The PD offers free steering wheel locks for those vehicle owners. Recent Ohio law has changed, doing any more on a phone than a simple swipe is a citable offense.
Solicitor Report	Mr. Butler		**RES. 2023-6:** A Resolution Establishing Compensation for the Village Administrator and Declaring an Emergency	**RES. 2023-6: For Approval** Motion to read by title only by Mr. Marx. Second by Ms. Snyder. All voted in favor. Motion to adopt **ORD 2023- 4** as an emergency by Mr. Van Harn Second by Mr. Fischer. Discussion: Ms. Chaney would like to see a resolution passed for the review process and inclusion of interest on money owed to any employee of the Village, whose pay increase has been delayed by an unreasonable amount of time. Roll Call:

				Ms. Chaney: Yes Mr. Fischer: Yes Mr. Kneipp: Yes Mr. Marx: Yes Ms. Snyder: Yes Mr. Van Harn: Yes **ORD. 2023-6: Passes**
			RES. 2023-7: A Resolution Rescinding Resolution 2023-3 Authorizing the Lease/Purchase of a 2022 Ford Police Interceptor and Accessory Equipment	**RES. 2023-7: For Approval** Motion to read by title only by Mr. Marx. Second by Mr. Kneipp. All voted in favor. Motion to adopt **ORD 2023- 4** as an emergency by Ms. Chaney. Second by Ms. Snyder Discussion: Roll Call: Ms. Chaney: Yes Mr. Fischer: Yes Mr. Kneipp: Yes Mr. Marx: Yes Ms. Snyder: Yes Mr. Van Harn: Yes **RES. 2023-7: Passes**
			RES. 2023-8: A Resolution Authorizing the Lease/Purchase of a 2023 F150 Responder and Accessory Equipment	**RES. 2023-8: For Approval** Motion to read by title only by Mr. Marx Second by Mr. Fischer All voted in favor. Motion to adopt **ORD 2023- 4** as an emergency by Mr. Marx. Second by Ms. Snyder. Discussion: Roll Call:

				Ms. Chaney: Yes Mr. Fischer: Yes Mr. Kneipp: Yes Mr. Marx: Yes Ms. Snyder: Yes Mr. Van Harn: Yes **RES. 2023-7: Passes**
			ORD. 2023-4: An Ordinance Establishing Court Costs for the Village of Golf Manor Ohio Mayor's Court and Declaring An Emergency	**ORD. 2023-4: For Approval** Motion to read by title only by Ms. Snyder. Second by Ms. Chaney. All voted in favor. Mr. Densmore requested Mr. Butler read the ordinance in its entirety. Motion to Suspend rules and pass as emergency by Mr. Van Harn. Second by Ms. Chaney, All voted in favor. Motion to adopt **ORD 2023- 4** as an emergency by Mr. Marx. Second by Mr. Fischer. Discussion: Roll Call: Ms. Chaney: Yes Mr. Fischer: Yes Mr. Kneipp: Yes Mr. Marx: Yes Ms. Snyder: Yes Mr. Van Harn: Yes **ORD. 2023-4: Passes**
Executive Committee	Roger Van Harn, Chair	Report		The full committee minutes are here. The Executive Committee met this evening and will discuss the process of reviewing the Administrator.

				Mr. Van Harn requests committee heads to set a date to meet and discuss item assignments. Mr. Densmore asked the administration to work out a meeting for committee chair heads.
Planning Commission	Lou Marx	Report		• The next scheduled Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2023, at 6:30 PM. There will be a change of use hearing on a zoning request to allow a car rental business to operate at 2198 Losantiville Ave.
Community Engagement Committee	Bryant Bussa	Report		The full committee minutes are here. Parks Committee Mission statement was created. Next Parks Meeting will be April 28. WeTHRIVE Clean up, Yard Sale was discussed. Village App was not discussed, but was recommended to be brought to council. Mr. Densmore requested Mr. Hirth to share the answers about the app to committee members. The Community Engagement Committee will meet Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 9:30 AM. Mr. Van Harn recommended looking at the National Recreation and Parks Association for ideas.
Education	Sharon Chaney			Building expansion for PRM has begun. Should be completed by Aug. 1. The building should be completed by September.
Communication				
Non-Profit	David Fischer			
Finance Committee	David Fischer	Report		The full committee minutes are here. Police Per Diem policy was discussed. Motion to adopt by Mr. Fischer retroactively to Jan 1, 2023. Second by Mr. Marx. All voted in favor.

Old Business		Discussion		
New Business		Discussion		
Announcements				Next Council Meetings are scheduled for: **Monday, May 8, 2023:** Records Commission @ 5:45 PM ○ Executive Committee Meeting @ 6 PM ○ Council @ 7 PM or immediately after conclusion of Executive Committee meeting • **Monday, May 22, 2023:** ○ Finance Committee Meeting @6 PM ○ Council @ 7 PM or immediately after conclusion of Finance Committee meeting
Adjourn				Motion to adjourn by Mr. Marx at 9:44 PM Second by Ms. Chaney. All voted in favor.

Approvals:

_____ Date: _____

Submitted by Eric Pridonoff, Fiscal Officer

_____ Date: _____

Sharon Chaney, Committee Chair

_____ Date: _____

Paula Burgin, Asst. Clerk of Council

Official Statement from the Juneteenth 2023 Committee
Written: Friday, April 7, 2023
Released: Monday, April, 10, 20023

The Golf Manor residents responsible for planning the Juneteenth 2023 celebration would like to thank our Mayor, Administrator, Council, and Community Engagement Committee along with our supporters, including outraged neighbors, concerned citizens, and community organizers.

Despite former President Abraham Lincoln having signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, slavery remained instituted more than two years later. Consequently, federal troops arrived in Galveston, TX in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure enslaved people were freed. Juneteenth, shortened for June 19th, recognizes this historical event. While Juneteenth has since been celebrated by Black Americans in Texas and eventually the rest of the country, President Joe Biden officially designated it a federally recognized holiday in 2021.

In 2022, several Golf Manor residents organized a committee and planned an inaugural Juneteenth celebration for the Village. We provided food, music, activities, and proudly registered more than 20 vendors. Vendors included merchants selling apparel, art, handmade jewelry & accessories, and also spiritual leaders, financial advisors, mental health organizations, reproductive health advocates, and political candidates registering voters. The intent of the event was to strengthen the community; promote overall well-being; and financially empower our local, Black-owned small businesses.

The inaugural Juneteenth 2022 celebration was a success. As a result, Council members invited the planning committee to formally request Village support. Therefore, on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, members of the planning committee attended the Community Engagement Committee meeting, presented the budget for the 2022 event, and requested support for the 2023 event, fully expecting to receive it. The Community Engagement Committee, while very willing and eager to help, had the burden of formally addressing Council. The (now former) Community Engagement Committee Chair did so on Monday, March 27, 2023 and was met with unexpected resistance and backlash, as seen and heard in the video segment.

The Juneteenth planning committee encourages our outraged neighbors, concerned citizens, and community organizers to address the insensitive comments, specifically, and the manner in which Council meetings are conducted, generally, in the way they feel is appropriate. As the Juneteenth planning committee, we collectively have elected to remain diplomatic, address individual members of Council privately, and formally clarify the request for support.

However, at least three important lessons for all of us can be learned from this video:

1. This is a clear example of systemic racism. Racism is not only white men wearing robes, burning crosses on front lawns, and referring to Black people using the n-word. Racism is also your, otherwise, friendly neighbor and helpful volunteer, believing that recognizing the freedom of enslaved Black people is more analogous to celebrating St. Patrick's Day and Oktoberfest than the Fourth of July. Systemic racism is eight white people, elected to govern a predominantly Black neighborhood, arguing over whether or not to spend $1635 (really, $1000) on a Juneteenth celebration.
2. This is also an example of the silent majority. Not only was the Community Engagement Committee interested in supporting the event, so were some members of Council, the Mayor, and the Administrator. However, attention was drawn to the few who opposed, simply because they were the loudest voices in the room.
3. Finally, this is an example of the inefficiencies of government – even small government. Residents simply requesting support for a community event had to meet with the Community Engagement Committee, who had to address Council, who then had a discussion about a discussion. Additionally, the Council's decision on whether to provide support, and if so, in what capacity, remains unclear. While the Village desires more community building and utilization of our beautiful park, the means by which to do so is discouraging, particularly after watching that video segment.

The Juneteenth planning committee encourages you to stay engaged in current events and connected to the community, even after the video segment no longer receives media attention. Watch the Council meetings, all of which are available online, and attend when you can. Vote!! as these are officials elected to govern your neighborhood; three seats are available as soon as November.

Support the event and RSVP on the Facebook event page <https://fb.me/e/NJUL4Uee>. Despite the distractions, the Juneteenth committee continues to plan the second celebration, which is scheduled for Friday, June 16 from 4pm to 9pm at Volunteer Park (6441 Wiehe Rd). We welcome donations, volunteers, and of course, your attendance!

Finally, for those of you who also believe that recognizing the freedom of enslaved Black people is more analogous to celebrating St. Patrick's Day and Oktoberfest than the Fourth of July, please internally reflect why. The birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. was officially designated a federally recognized holiday in 1983 and observed starting in 1986. However, all 50 states did not observe King's birthday until 2000, many combining MLK Day with other holidays and/or simultaneously celebrating it with the birthday of Robert E. Lee. Nearly 40 years later, we know exactly why these states did not want to observe MLK Day then. Nearly 40 years from now, we will also know exactly why you do not want to celebrate Juneteenth today.

Clarify Request for Support for Juneteenth 2023 Celebration

Melody N. Mayle <melody.n.mayle@gmail.com> Mon, Apr 10, 2023 at 11:15 AM
To: Eric Pridonoff <e.pridonoff@golfmanoroh.gov>, David Fischer <d.fischer@golfmanoroh.gov>, Roger VanHarn <r.vanharn@golfmanoroh.gov>, Daniel Kneipp <d.kneipp@golfmanoroh.gov>, Lou Marx <l.marx@golfmanoroh.gov>, Ashley Snyder <a.snyder@golfmanoroh.gov>, Sharon Chaney <s.chaney@golfmanoroh.gov>, Stefan Densmore <s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov>, "stefan.densmore@gmail.com" <stefan.densmore@gmail.com>, Ron Hirth <R.Hirth@golfmanoroh.gov>
Cc: Antoinette Gray <grayac1012@gmail.com>, maxine robinson <robinsonmaxine86@gmail.com>, Rob Wilkinson <wilkinson2@gmail.com>

Council, Mayor, Administrator,

I wish I would have watched your discussion regarding support for the Juneteenth 2023 celebration before sending my latest reply to Fiscal Officer Eric. Yikes!!

To clarify the request for support, the cost of the event presented at the Community Engagement Committee meeting for this year was an estimated $665, plus an undetermined amount on advertising. This total could be less than $1000. It is certainly not the $1635 quoted in the Council meeting and listed as total expenses in the 2022 budget provided.

The difference between the $1635 and the $665 is the BBQ and t-shirts for tie-dying, both of which were "sold" during the event. Although listed as income in the 2022 budget, I'm unsure if "selling" the BBQ and t-shirts for tie-dying are being considered by Council as fundraising; they were not to the planning committee. The intent was to break even on both. Because we actually lost money serving the BBQ, we have already elected not to do so again this year, and likely will not be tie-dying t-shirts again either. I believe this was explained during the Community Engagement Committee meeting, though obviously poorly. Despite, the costs for the DJ, bartender & insurance, and advertising have always been identified in the 2022 budget and were what we were initially requesting support for this year.

Given how grand and recurring the Fourth of July celebrations are, I certainly assumed the Village provides well over $1000 on them. Therefore, I thought our request for support was modest and I fully expected to receive it. I've since learned that the Village does not provide funding for the Fourth of July celebrations? Please confirm and share that with all the Golf Manor residents, as I was not the only person under this assumption.

Juneteenth is a vendor event. We want to promote Black economic empowerment. Therefore, absolutely, I told Eric in a previous email that I don't want to charge our vendors. I want them to earn as much money as they can!! While the planning committee received two large donations prior to the event and several small donations on the day of (including "selling" BBQ and t-shirts for tie-dying), all listed as income in the 2022 budget, the "fundraising" was primarily attracting and charging vendors. This requires a lot of effort, and most importantly, time. I don't see any harm in subsidizing their businesses with tax-payer dollars by waiving their "fee." However, we have decided that we will continue to charge our vendors because: (1) It commits them and incentivises them to attend the event; and (2) It unfortunately remains unclear if we will receive any funds from the Village.

To attract vendors, and thus to easier "fundraise," we need to attract neighbors and customers. To attract neighbors and customers, we need advertisement, as emphasized in the Community Engagement Committee meeting, and for example, programming. Programming can replace the DJ; it does not have to be in addition to.

We want the event this year to be bigger and better than the event last year, even if sponsored entirely by the Village. Again, I thought our request for support was modest compared to the funding that I (falsely?) assumed the Village provides for the Fourth of July. I had in mind $1000... for a Juneteenth celebration... in a predominantly Black neighborhood. Consequently, it was troublesome watching the Council discussion.

For whatever reasons, the validity of whether the event was covered by additional insurance provided by the mobile bartender that we hired last year remains in question and it was suggested that I was "misled." No one has yet to prove that I was "misled." Regardless, I choose to believe that the mobile bartender knows her business better than me and is more qualified to answer related questions than any of you. Additionally, I provided her vendor license and proof of insurance, which explicitly named Volunteer Park as the Certificate Holder, to the Village last year. This was obviously sufficient, as it was approved. Respectfully, do not question the character of this committee, and especially not my personal integrity, going forward.

In summary, we will continue to charge our vendors to match any funding that we may or may not even receive from the Village.

Regards,
Melody N. Mayle
Not necessarily on behalf of the Juneteenth planning committee

Income			
	Vendor "Fees"		$ 465.00
		(15 × $15) + (12 × $20)	
	Donations		$ 300.00
		2 × $150	
	Online T-shirt Sales		$ 55.80
	BBQ "Sales"		$ 613.00
	Donations Day-of		$ 125.00
		Includes donations for t-shirt tie-dying and face panting.	
	In-kind Donations		$ -
		Includes water, ice, popsicles, tie-dye, face paint, playing cards, pins, bracelets, swag bags	
			$ 1,558.80
Expenses			
➡	DJ		$ (500.00)
➡	Bartender with Insurance		$ (165.00)
➡	Advertisement		$ -
	BBQ		$ (670.00)
	T-shirts for Tie-dying		$ (300.00)
			$ (1,635.00)
			$ (76.20)