

Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2024 – 7 PM

Council Chambers

| Item | Presented By: | Action | Topic | Report |
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| Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call for Quorum | Mayor Stefan Densmore | | | <p>The Village Council convened a regular, in-person meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7 PM with Mayor Stefan Densmore presiding.</p> <p>Roll call of Council Members: Ms. Bruewer: Present Ms. Chaney: Present Mr. Fischer: Present Ms. Kreimer: Present Ms. Mayle: Present Ms. Snyder: Present</p> |
| Set the Agenda & Adopt | Mayor Densmore | Review & Motion | | <p>Motion to adopt as amended by Ms. Bruewer by Ms. Chaney. Second by Ms. Mayle. All voted in favor.</p> <p>Request by Ms. Bruewer to limit department reports to 10 minutes each.</p> |
| Persons Registered to Address Council | Resident/Visitor | 3-minute time limit per speaker. | Leslie Hamilton-Bruewer | <p>Topic: Treatment of Women</p> <p>Resident of 6122 Hammel. Mayor Densmore thanked the speaker and acknowledged the courage of Ms. Hamilton-Bruewer to speak her truth to power.</p> <p>Mayor Densmore offers to publish the email thread mentioned by Ms. Hamilton-Bruewer on the Village website.</p> <p>Mr. Fischer expressed solidarity with Ms. Hamilton-Bruewer's statements.</p> <p>2 minute recess.</p> |

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| | | | | <p>Roll call of Council Members: Ms. Bruewer: Present Ms. Chaney: Present Mr. Fischer: Present Ms. Kreimer: Present Ms. Mayle: Present Ms. Snyder: Present All members present and accounted for.</p> |
| Minutes to be Approved | Mayor Densmore | Review & Motion | Minutes from Previous Council Meeting for Approval: 12/11/2023 | <p>Motion to approve 12/11/2023 minutes as amended by Ms. Snyder. Second by Ms. Chaney. All voted in favor.</p> |
| Department Reports | | | | |
| DPS Fire District | Chief Denny Meador | | DPS Fire District Report – December 2023 | <p>Activity is higher than the previous year, but had 2 additional months including GM and Columbia Twp.</p> <p>Still hiring a full-time employee. DPS is doing well with part-time personnel.</p> |
| Mayor | Mayor Densmore | Report & Announcements | | <p>County Commission President Alicia Reece will deliver State of the County at Memorial Hall, Weds, Jan 25, 5:30pm.</p> <p>Mayor Densmore discussed a possible format for increasing council participation in composing rules of council.</p> <p>Mayor Densmore discussed composing rules of council.</p> <p>Committee Appointment Executive: Ms. Kreimer (Chair), Mr. Fischer, Ms. Mayle, Dr. Minna Fischer, and Mr. Michelson.</p> <p>Finance: Mr. Fischer (Chair), Ms. Kreimer, Ms. Bruewer, Mr. Michelson, Mr. Chaney</p> <p>Community Engagement: Ms. Bruewer (Chair), Mr. Sickles</p> |

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| | | | | <p>Mayor Densmore discussed appointments/reappointments to Recreation Commission. Replacement seats for Ms. Mayle and Ms. Bruewer are open. Victor Brown was nominated.</p> <p>Administration will advise location for outside background checks for child safety. Accordingly, the Recreation commission will meet, Feb. 5, 2024.</p> <p>HRC: Mayor Densmore discussed reappointment of commission members, and appointment of new members.</p> <p>Mayor Densmore referenced training for Ohio Sunshine Laws.</p> <p>The Center for Local Government provides training for newly elected officials, Saturday Feb 17, 2024.</p> <p>GMPD received a letter commending exemplary service from the Chief of Cheviot Police.</p> |
| Village Administrator | Ron Hirth | Report | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf collection has finished. Snow removal and winter road maintenance will continue through the winter. • Residents were treated to see the deployment of a new brine spreader system in use this past week, ahead of the winter storm, reducing total salt use for the Village. • Village leaf pick-up ended Friday, December 22. Leaves now must be bagged and set out for Rumpke pick-up on Tuesdays with the regular trash, • Wiehe and Elbrook @Losantiville engineering preliminary designs should be ready to review on the next week or so. • Hammel Avenue construction bid will be before council at the next meeting. • Financial Ops Manager/Village Clerk position remains open to applications. • North Wiehe demolition meeting to occur this week. • Mr. Horth reported he has completed and received certification from the ICMA Professional Development |

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| | | | | <p>Academy. The courses covered about 48 hours of instructional learning covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leadership Mindset and Positive Engagement ○ Leading Effective Change ○ Communication and Collaboration ○ Leading High-Performance Teams |
| Fiscal Officer | Eric Pridonoff | Report | | <p>Year-end accounting procedures is in full swing. All pensions have been submitted for the previous month, ahead of schedule, and all payroll/benefits management continues without any hiccups.</p> <p>Important to pass legislation tonight to request advanced tax receipts from the County, this enables the village to collect an additional 3 months of interest.</p> |
| Police | Chief Chris Campbell | Report | Mayor's Court Report – December 2023 | <p>Totals to: Village: \$2,700 State: \$602 Other: \$21</p> <p>Total \$3,323.</p> <p>Motion to accept by Ms. Chaney. Second by Ms. Mayle. All voted in favor.</p> <p>Ms. Chaney requests an activity report for the Village. Chief Campbell indicated limitations in the current software with pre-populated data. The Chief expressed willingness to work with Chief Meador to collaborate reporting.</p> <p>Chief Campbell is working with a new software vendor to report calls for service. Projected cost is \$17,000 plus cost to transfer data, but that was not included in the budget.</p> <p>Ms. Kreimer requests the Village Website advertise the availability of steering wheel locks to residents again.</p> |

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| Solicitor Report | Mr. Butler | | RES. 2024 – 1: A Resolution Requesting the County Auditor to Make Tax Advances During the Year 2024 | RES. 2024 – 1: For Approval Motion to read by title only by Ms. Chaney. Second by Ms. Bruewer. All voted in favor. Motion to approve by Ms. Chaney. Second by Ms. Kreimer. Roll call: Ms. Bruewer: Yes Ms. Chaney: Yes Mr. Fischer: Yes Ms. Kreimer: Yes Ms. Mayle: Yes Ms. Snyder: Yes |
| Executive Committee | | Report | | The Executive Committee did not meet. |
| Planning Commission | | Report | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next scheduled Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:30 PM, pending any business. |
| Community Engagement Committee | | Report | | |
| Education | | | | |
| Communication | | | | |
| Finance Committee | | Report | | The Finance Committee does not meet this evening. |
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| Old Business | | Discussion | | |
| New Business | | Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Assignments | <p>Ms. Bruewer requested Mayor Densmore repeat committee assignments.</p> <p>Executive: Chair Brittney Kreimer, David Fischer, Melody Mayle, resident Dr. Minna Fischer, resident Zach Michelson.</p> <p>Finance: David Fischer, Chair, Brittney Kreimer, Charlotte Bruewer, Sharon Chaney, resident Zach Michelson.</p> |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Council & Committee Meeting Schedule | <p>Community Engagement: Chair Charlotte Bruewer, Ashley Snyder, Melody Mayle, resident Dr. Minna Fischer, resident Michael Sickles.</p> <p>Mr. Densmore appoints Ms. Chaney to head two special projects— Veterans’ Park restoration, and PRM Education Report</p> <p>Ms. Chaney objected to Mr. Densmore not appointing her chair of any committee.</p> <p>Education: Ms. Chaney. Ms. Bruewer offered to include the Education report as part of Community Engagement to provide support and coordination with communication.</p> <p>Mayor Densmore would like to expand education report to include area high schools most attended by GM residents, suggests getting this data from PRM.</p> <p>Mr. Blathers’ and Mr. Simiele’s terms on the Zoning Commission ended December 2023. Council must appoint a representative to Zoning.</p> <p>Ms. Bruewer spoke about Community Engagement Committee. She invited all other council members to all meetings to the table, even if not assigned. Mr. Butler advised the mayor may not be a member of any committee. Mr. Densmore offered himself in an advisory capacity to all committee meetings.</p> <p>Mr. Densmore emphasized right-of-decision is allowed to committee chairs. Ms. Bruewer expressed a desire to remain independent as a committee chair.</p> <p>Ms. Snyder asked if the Mayor is an advisor on any committees. Mr. Butler clarified that the Mayor is unable to appoint himself as an advisor on any committees. Additionally, the practice of naming advisors has been clarified as unnecessary.</p> <p>Ms. Bruewer proposed a new schedule of council meeting.</p> |
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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules of Council • Strategic Plan • Council Member Training | <p>Motion by Ms. Snyder to accept the council/committee meeting schedule proposed by Ms. Bruewer. Second by Ms. Kreimer. All voted in favor.</p> <p>Ms. Chaney requests a council meeting to include a public working session for rules of council, Weds., Jan 17, 2024, 6pm.</p> <p>Ms. Mayle proposes committee chairs to be appointed by committees themselves.</p> <p>Ms. Bruewer recommends pausing enactment of any part of the strategic plan until further community input is received, especially through the Community Engagement Committee. Ms. Chaney agrees with Ms. Bruewer’s recommendation.</p> <p>Motion to task Community Engagement with gathering more community input for the strategic plan by Ms. Chaney. Second by Ms. Snyder All voted in favor.</p> <p>Mr. Hirth recommended a few sources of training for all council members. Council members are encouraged to reach out to Mr. Hirth for more information.</p> <p>CPR training will continue, pending direction from Lt. Forrest. Mayor Densmore referenced FREE online “hands-only” CPR training from American Heart Association.” After “CPR training will continue, pending direction from Lt. Forrest.</p> |
| Announcements | | | | <p>Next Council Meetings are scheduled for: Monday, Jan 22, 2024: Executive Committee at 6pm. Finance Committee at 7pm.</p> <p>Thursday, Jan 25, 2024:</p> |


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| | | | | Community Engagement Committee + Recreation Commission 6-8pm Tues., Feb 6, 2024: Human Rights Commission, 7pm. Tuesday, Feb 20, 2024: Full Council 6pm. |
| Adjourn | | | | Motion to adjourn by Ms. Bruewer. Second by Ms. Chaney. All voted in favor. |

Approvals:

_____ Date: _____
 Submitted by Eric Pridonoff, Fiscal Officer

_____ Date: _____
 Stefan Densmore, Mayor

_____ Date: _____
 Carolynne Johnson, Asst. Clerk

From: Leslie Hamilton-Brewer <lshamilton27@gmail.com> 
Subject: Fwd: Political sign ordinances
Date: November 7, 2023 at 3:11 PM
To: s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Leslie Hamilton-Brewer <lshamilton27@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 30, 2023 at 3:49 PM
Subject: Fwd: Political sign ordinances
To: butler@donnellonlaw.com <butler@donnellonlaw.com>

Mr. Butler,

Good afternoon! We spoke very briefly after the Golf Manor council meeting last Monday, 10/23; Mayor Densmore authorized 15 minutes to address our concerns. I am forwarding the email that was sent to the solicitor@golfmanoroh.gov address listed on the website.

I'd also note that in the intervening time, Roger has been using his position as an admin of the Go Golf Manor Facebook page to campaign and discuss village council matters, appearing to violate the laws around permitted political activity from 501(c)3 organizations. The organization continues to solicit donations through its website despite not being a currently registered non-profit in Ohio. What is the village's potential liability in knowing that a current elected official is doing this and not taking action?

Thank you,
Leslie Hamilton-Brewer
513-207-6766

From: Leslie Hamilton-Brewer lshamilton27@gmail.com 
Subject: Re: Political sign ordinances
Date: November 15, 2023 at 12:35 AM
To: butler@donnellonlaw.com, Stefan Densmore s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov
Cc: Charlotte Bruewer charlotte.bruewer@gmail.com



Mr. Butler and Mr. Densmore,

Good evening! My wife said she spoke with you Monday after the council meeting, and that you had not replied to me because you'd gotten very busy and then after the election assumed everything was settled. She also said she let you know that we do not consider matters settled and that I'd be reaching back out.

Our continuing concerns:

1. Charlotte first reached out to Ron about the signs on October 8. My first follow up was on 10/16, then 10/23, then 10/30, then 11/7. These have gone to Ron and both of you, and to date I have received no response, including no reply just to say the matter was closing. —Is this the standard process when a resident has a concern? How long should residents expect to wait, and to how many people should they reach out?

2. While this election is over, the actual conflict regarding the ordinance is not settled. To prevent this from happening again in future elections, we either need to know the case law that renders GM's code unenforceable (and, at that point, the new council needs to replace it), or we need to know that actually the code is enforceable as it stands.

3. Surely losing an election is not the accountability mechanism GM uses against officials accused of multiple and ongoing violations of federal, state, and local statutes? The signs aside, Roger has been credibly accused of improperly running a 501c3, illegally soliciting donations while unregistered in Ohio, electioneering from a 501c3 platform, using a 501c3 to promote legislation/policy in front of him, verbally and physically harassing residents, and creating massive liability for the Village through both his actions (eg leaving alcohol easily available for minors on government property at a civic function) and a lack of accountability (eg Village responsibility for upholding the GM charter and Ohio's code of ethics for public officials). The enormous conflict of interest, in which he has pushed events or portions thereof away from the control of the council and to his 501c3 while serving in his capacity as council member and leading to him making a profit and GM losing out on revenue, is ubiquitously known and simply dismissed as a nice man trying to throw some fun events for his neighbors.

As residents of Golf Manor, we are owed explanations for why this has been allowed to continue for so long and how it will be addressed to ensure this doesn't happen again, going beyond this election.

As just one of the women who was accosted by sitting council member Van Ham at the municipal building on Election Day, after we had alerted Mayor Densmore to the fact that this nice neighbor had been harassing and threatening women, I am owed the respect and dignity of a response.

Thank you,
Leslie Hamilton-Brewer

From: Stefan Densmore s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov
Subject: Re: Political sign ordinances
Date: November 15, 2023 at 2:02 PM
To: Leslie Hamilton-Bruewer lshamilton27@gmail.com
Cc: butler@donnellonlaw.com, Charlotte Bruewer charlotte.bruewer@gmail.com

SD

Ms Hamilton-Bruewer,

Good Morning. I am taken off guard by your email, as I have seen myself as an ally of yours, and your wife, concerning several of the issues raised, which clearly is not a mutual feeling as presented by the tone and accusations in your email. Additionally, there are several inaccuracies in your email which attribute statements to me, and email correspondence to me, which never occurred. I'm presuming the inaccuracies are due either to miscommunication between your wife and yourself, or by rushed grammar, but I feel they need to be addressed first as they distract from the significant and valid issues you raise, to which I would like to be an ally in successfully addressing.

First, I never told your wife that I was too busy to respond to you or that I presumed that everything was settled due to the election being over. This was a conversation which I overheard between the solicitor and your wife Monday, but to which I did not comment at that time.

Second, I was not sent all the emails you state I received. Please go back and look at the addressees to confirm this. I was cc'd on the first email 10/8/23, from your wife to our village administrator, as well as the response from our village administrator that same day, which stated that matter was being forwarded to our code enforcement official. I was also cc'd on a response from your wife, the next day, addressed to the village administrator and the code enforcement official, stating that she, as well as Ms Kreimer and Ms Mayle, were not satisfied with the oral response that the code enforcement official had provided.

You state that you sent emails to me on 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, and 11/7/23, further concerning this matter, and that you have received no response. I agree with your insinuation that such an egregious lack of response is not acceptable. Please relook at the address lines of these emails to confirm that I was actually never sent these. Indeed, in a conversation that you and I had at your house on 11/1/23, I informed you that I had not received any emails beyond those sent 10/8-9/23, and requested that I be cc'd on all correspondence about this issue moving forward. Other than the email today, that has not happened.

I agree with your determination to obtain clarity about Golf Manor's political sign ordinance, and the importance of getting that clarity well before another election. And I am happy to bring the matter to council, with your testimony, so that any questions about the enforceability of the current code can be publicly reviewed, commented on, and any further action considered. This is not meant to circumvent a more direct response from our solicitor to your unanswered questions.

As to your statements about the accountability of Councilman Van Harn, I have asked for council members to either initiate formal sanctions against a council member they believe is violating the code of ethics, or to stop the accusations. As you may imagine, I hear ethics complaints about each and every council member. When I hear them, I ask for evidence before proceeding. If you recall, during our meeting at your house on 11/1/23, I requested that you review and provide the timestamps of video recordings made at council meetings where Councilman Van Harn can be viewed bullying or even interrupting other council members. I told you if he did this it is on me for not stopping it in the moment— I take that behavior very seriously. Timestamps would allow me and his fellow council members to review the conduct of Councilman VanHarn, and to initiate any appropriate formal ethics complaint.

I am very alarmed by the insinuation that I have personally dismissed your concerns about Councilman VanHarn, and that I in any way attributed his behavior to a "nice man trying to throw some fun events for his neighbors." If that is rather a general impression you felt, I would like that clarified, as I never stated it, and it was never my intention in any way to convey it. If it was a specific statement someone else made dismissing his behavior, please tell me who specifically said it.

I am most alarmed by the statement that multiple women were accosted by Councilman Van Harn at the municipal building on Election Day. I am aware that he and others entered the building wearing specific campaign shirts, and that the instance of his doing this was reported to onsite election officials. I also heard words exchanged that day whereby he was told by another candidate to not enter the building, and that he was dismissive of that concern. But I am not aware of multiple women being accosted by him that day. This is the first I've heard of it. Can you please either direct these women to file charges at the police station, or at least to request a meeting with a police officer before more time elapses.

You additionally state in your final paragraph that I personally had previously been alerted that Councilman Van Harn has been harassing and threatening women. I am angered by this accusation as it is not true, or in fairness refers to incidents that, by comparison, diminish by definition threats to which the police should be involved. I'm angered because I still consider myself an ally to the important issue of the accountability of our village administration and council members, and your statements seem to disavow that.

Aside from the third party complaint you relayed about Councilman Van Harn's behavior in council (mentioned above), the only other complaints I've heard are about his behavior on social media, but I've never seen the exchanges. One such complaint was about the removal of administrative privileges for certain members of a Facebook Group. The only other complaint I've heard is that he insinuated that you stole one of the election signs you thought was violating local ordinances, but again, I've never seen the exchanges. If Councilman Van Harn is being inappropriate on social media, please make copies of the exchanges and report them to the social media platform and the police. If the police say that the social media exchanges do not meet the definition of threat or harassment to which they can respond, then I would direct you to bring a complaint to council for consideration, with copies of specific social media exchanges, which council can review for appropriate action. In my time on council we have never been brought such a complaint, so preceding will be a learning experience for everyone.

You additionally state that Councilman Van Harn has been accused of "multiple and ongoing violations of federal, state, and local statutes", and cite examples concerning his relationship with a 501c3 organization. This is the first I've seen any of these accusations in writing, and request that you provided a more detailed summary with specific evidence. 501c3 status is a federal designation, and complaints or accusations about the misuse of that status should be directed to the Secretary of State, and/or the IRS. For years I have advised the village administrator that I oppose the village partnering with any nonprofit that has not provided documents from the State of Ohio and the IRS that they are in good standing as a nonprofit. Please direct anyone accusing Councilman Van Harn of these violations to direct them as stated to the Secretary of State and/or the IRS. Any accusations separate from those, specific to Councilman Van Harn creating liability to the village for his actions (e.g. beer in the municipal building), should appropriately be addressed by our solicitor and council.

I hope you find this response allowing the respect and dignity you are owed, and I ask the solicitor to afford the same, correcting any errors in reference to laws and ordinances I may have inadvertently made.

Thank you,
Stefan Densmore

Stefan C. Densmore
Mayor, Village of Golf Manor
<https://golfmanoroh.gov>
6450 Wiehe Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45237
s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov
(513) 531-7491 x334 (office)
(513) 379-8992 (cell/text)



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/golfmanoroh/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/golfmanoroh>
Nextdoor: https://golfmanor.nextdoor.com/news_feed/

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From: Leslie Hamilton-Bruewer lshamilton27@gmail.com 
Subject: Re: Political sign ordinances
Date: November 15, 2023 at 2:54 PM
To: Stefan Densmore s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov
Cc: Charlotte Bruewer charlotte.bruewer@gmail.com, butler@donnellonlaw.com



Mayor Densmore,

I hope you understand that I do not at all find this response to include the level of respect and dignity I deserve. I will not respond to everything in this moment, as it will take some time to collect myself—frankly, I am reeling from this. But I do want to clarify a few things.

First, the most recent email was addressed to both you and Mr. Butler, and referenced that emails had been previously sent to you both and the village administrator. This was not meant to convey that you had each received every email, but rather that collectively the village, as represented by the 3 of you, had received this volume of correspondence without responding. I'll note that you do not dispute the fact that I have never received a response until now.

I also acknowledge that this was originally written to Mr. Butler alone, and then I realized I was truly speaking to you both. I did not adjust the first paragraph, which has clearly led to some confusion; perhaps that is the rushed grammar you presumed. If you feel that clarifying that you were not part of the conversation about the matter being closed was necessary because this discomfort you felt was distracting from the points I was making, ok. A question, though: if you weren't too busy to respond to me, why did it take this level of upset to do so? The email I forwarded you last week was in direct response to you asking me to do so, so you could get the answers.

Next, it is always important for allies to remember that they do not get to decide if they are being allies, and they do not get to use their previous actions or relationships as shields against accountability. If you want to be an ally, then actually listen to and believe what is being said. If we are saying that your actions are harmful to us, you do not get to declare that they are not. Just think back to the realization that men spoke for over 80 minutes and women spoke for less than 4, and that you were the presider over that meeting, and that you admitted to us that you didn't even realize it was happening.

Why didn't I go back and timestamp every interruption from that meeting? You yourself acknowledged that even in asking me to do so, you were putting the work back on me. And asking me to relive that almost hour and a half so I could find the evidence you need to believe that Roger interrupts women...I chose to use my time in ways that help rather than harm me. I believe it would be more powerful for you to watch the meeting and pay attention to what is being said, and how, and by whom, than for me to. If you choose not to because I bear the burden of proof, ok.

I know it's disappointing to discover that we aren't seen by others the way we thought we were. In these situations, I find it helpful to sit with the discomfort and reflect on why I wasn't aware of how they felt, or what impact my words and actions have been having and the gap between that impact and my intentions.

I'll have my full response by Monday, 11/20.

Thank you,
Leslie Hamilton-Bruewer

From: Stefan Densmore s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov
Subject: Re: Political sign ordinances
Date: November 17, 2023 at 9:00 AM
To: Leslie Hamilton-Bruwer lshamilton27@gmail.com
Cc: Charlotte Bruwer charlotte.bruwer@gmail.com, butler@donnellonlaw.com



Ms Hamilton-Bruwer,

I believe your most recent response again includes factually incorrect information, which I'm interested in clarifying if you are inclined to hear it at another time (I have a separate document written up concerning this when/if you want it). As you have communicated that you are not yet ready to more fully respond to my earlier email, I would like to add only the following comments for your consideration at this time:

I am trying to have clarity on any harm I have caused to you or anyone else so that I can correct it.

I need information if I am going to respond, so I do need to clarify it when I have not received information prior to now. You felt you were not taken seriously and I was trying to help you feel heard by responding thoroughly.

Complaints about the partnering with the non-profit need to go to the village administrator, the IRS, and the attorney general.

If Roger was accosting people, this needs to go to the police.

All legal matters need to go to the attorney.

I am striving to be aware of how people are talked over or spoken badly to at council meetings and I am working on being the best mediator I can be so that all feel heard. Your information will bring me more self-awareness in that effort.

I know it can feel frustrating to require proof or written statements, but as an official, I need specifics and proof to act in response to the actions of an elected official. That does not mean that I don't believe you, that means that I am acting in a careful and precise manner.

I truly appreciate your engagement and care that we work to have a community that is operating in a consistently above board manner and with full accountability and transparency.

Stefan

From: Leslie Hamilton-Brewer lshamilton27@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Political sign ordinances
Date: November 19, 2023 at 1:38 PM
To: Stefan Densmore s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov
Cc: Charlotte Bruewer charlotte.bruewer@gmail.com, butler@donnellonlaw.com



Mayor Densmore,

As I stated, I will have a thorough response to you by tomorrow. I would appreciate knowing what additional factual errors I have made so I can address them as well. What I do not understand is why answers to everything else are needed before we can get to the questions asked to the village and the solicitor since early October. Everything else aside:

1. What is the second SCOTUS case?
2. Why has it taken this long and this much effort to get this answer?

Please do share the second document you have written up--I think it will enlighten me to your perspective.

Thank you,
Leslie Hamilton-Brewer

From: Stefan Densmore s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov 
Subject: Re: Political sign ordinances
Date: November 19, 2023 at 9:40 PM
To: Leslie Hamilton-Bruewer lshamilton27@gmail.com
Cc: Charlotte Bruewer charlotte.bruewer@gmail.com, butler@donnellonlaw.com

SD

Ms Hamilton-Bruewer,

In my email 11/15 I directed the solicitor to respond directly to you, and also called him to communicate the same. I will call him tomorrow for an update. I do not see the discussion between you and I as something that should be delaying his response to your two questions.

Concerning the factual errors — there were three statements in your 11/15 correspondence that I took issue with as factually incorrect, if directed at me:

1). ...“collectively the village, as represented by the 3 of you, had received this volume of correspondence without responding. I’ll note that you do not dispute the fact that I have never received a response until now.”

There were responses— and I pointed those out in the third paragraph of my 11/15 afternoon correspondence with you. I was cc’d on those responses from the administration, and followed-up in person with you and your wife when I learned that there had been additional correspondence with no responses.

2). ...“if you weren’t too busy to respond to me, why did it take this level of upset to do so? The email I forwarded you last week was in direct response to you asking me to do so, so you could get the answers.”

I did not receive any email from you last week (i.e., between our meeting 11/1 and your email early morning 11/15), that is what I was trying to communicate, when I asked that you please check the address line.

3). ...“If we are saying that your actions are harmful to us, you do not get to declare that they are not. Just think back to the realization that men spoke for over 80 minutes and women spoke for less than 4, and that you were the presider over that meeting, and that you admitted to us that you didn’t even realize it was happening.”

I never said any of the actions raised were not harmful, I meant to convey that I was trying to gain more clarity about them, as it is very serious.

As to the dominance of male voices in the council meeting, I never said I didn’t notice it, I said I didn’t notice anyone interrupting or cutting others off— that is where the request for timestamps came from, and where I said it was on me if I didn’t defend someone being repeatedly interrupted or cut off while I was presiding over the meeting. If you’ve witnessed council meetings, you know I always ask if there are further questions or comments, and look specifically at people who are not talking. I do this because I believe in supporting participation of the entire community, including all council members. I know Roger interrupts people, he interrupts me all the time in personal conversations and I get pissed about it— its not a matter of belief as to whether it happens, but whether it happened in a council meeting, repeatedly, with me doing nothing about it, as I think you asserted. I don’t believe that happened— but I could be wrong, and if so, will make amends.

I hope my statements are helpful — they are meant to clarify my position, not to agree with the delayed response concerning your questions about the law to the solicitor.

Thank you,

Stefan

Stefan C. Densmore
Mayor, Village of Golf Manor
<https://golfmanoroh.gov>
6450 Wiehe Rd

Cincinnati, OH 45237
s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov
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Nextdoor: https://golfmanor.nextdoor.com/news_feed/

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From: Leslie Hamilton-Bruewer lshamilton27@gmail.com 
Subject: Re: Political sign ordinances
Date: November 20, 2023 at 10:45 PM
To: Stefan Densmore s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov
Cc: Charlotte Bruewer charlotte.bruewer@gmail.com, butler@donnellonlaw.com



To all,

I greatly appreciate hearing back from Mr. Butler this afternoon, who shared a few things. These are not quite our final answers on the signs, and Mr. Butler is meeting with Terry Donnellon on Tuesday; he'll ask him his thoughts about Reed, Austin, and the sign ordinance and then follow up with all of us to clarify the matter. He noted that this may take some time but he'll stay in communication with us.

As such, I'll wait to send my detailed response until I have this piece to include, given the relevance and importance.

Thank you for understanding,
Leslie

From: Robert Butler butler@donnellonlaw.com

Subject: RE: Political sign ordinances

Date: December 6, 2023 at 11:00 AM

To: Leslie Hamilton-Bruewer lshamilton27@gmail.com, Stefan Densmore s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov

Cc: Charlotte Bruewer charlotte.bruewer@gmail.com, Ron Hirth R.Hirth@golfmanoroh.gov

RB

Thank you for your patience on this matter

It seems the administration misunderstood our guidance on the enforceability of the sign code. It is enforceable, even with regard to political speech. Golf Manor's sign code is content neutral: It is enforceable, as the code has no relationship to content of the sign, including if the sign has a political message. If the Golf Manor sign code had governed political signs based upon message, or other signs for that matter based upon message, then the code would not be enforceable. The standard right now, although the law is still in somewhat of a flux, is that sign codes must be content neutral.

I'm sorry you may have been provided incorrect information, though it was the result of a misunderstanding. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Robert Butler
Attorney at Law

Donnellon
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From: Leslie Hamilton-Bruewer lshamilton27@gmail.com 

Subject: Re: Political sign ordinances

Date: December 6, 2023 at 11:26 PM

To: Robert Butler butler@donnellonlaw.com

Cc: Charlotte Bruewer charlotte.bruewer@gmail.com, Ron Hirth R.Hirth@golfmanoroh.gov, Stefan Densmore s.densmore@golfmanoroh.gov



Rob,

Thank you for getting to the bottom of this and getting back to us with the final information.

Have a good rest of the week,
Leslie