

City of Bay Village

Council Minutes, Committee Session
Conference Room
Paul Koomar, President of Council, Presiding

May 18, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Present: Clark, Henderson, Koomar, Lee, Lieske, Tadych, Vincent, Mayor Sutherland

Also Present: Law Director Ebert, Finance Director Mahoney

AUDIENCE

The following members of the audience signed in this evening: Patrick McGannon, Lydia DeGeorge, David Madigan, Conda Boyd, Pam Cottam, Karen and Alex Dade, Randy Risch, Russell Thompson, Suzanne Graham, Lawrence Kuh, Walt Van Tilburg, Dick Majewski, Marty Mace, William and Jack Nageotte, Ryan Duffy, Resident of 420 Parkside Drive, Mark Chernisky, Jerrie Barnett, Suzanne Graham, Dennis Moore

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Charles Ramer, NOPEC, Natural Gas Aggregation

Mayor Sutherland introduced Charles Ramer of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) and advised that the Natural Gas Aggregation Issue on the May 5 ballot passed with an 87% approval rating, the highest in the history of NOPEC.

Mr. Ramer stated that the NOPEC pricing remains very competitive and the current pricing is lower than two of the alternate offers on the PUCO website. He noted that those two lower offers are introductory offers with no guarantee of what might happen to that pricing after the special introductory offer expires. There are no dues or costs to become a NOPEC member. They will not always have the very lowest price but they will be consistently competitive and offer consumer education and consumer engagement. The process to be completed by City Council includes three pieces of legislation which are currently being reviewed by the Law Director. The first is to join NOPEC, the second piece of legislation is called the Plan of Operations and Governance, which is a PUCO Document, and the third is a gas agreement with includes details on the function of the gas program.

Before the legislation is passed, an advertised public hearing will be held on two separate dates, 30 minutes prior to Council meetings. After three readings of the legislation and adoption, the paper work will be processed with the PUCO, opt out letters mailed in July, and the program in place by September.

Mr. Lee stated that he read recently that NOPEC limits the number of homes that can be under the variable program. He asked Mr. Ramer if there is space available for the Bay Village

residents to go into that program. Mr. Ramer stated that nearly all of the Bay Village population can sign up for the variable program. This is the option that generates the two cents savings.

Mr. Vincent asked how many opt out letters are sent out. Mr. Ramer stated that the initial opt out letter goes out with a 21-day opt out period. After the close of that period, another letter, which is more of a post card, goes out that says as a reminder, this is a program that you have defaulted to because you didn't opt out. Also, you can opt out at any time at no cost. The opt out procedure is completed by either mailing in a card or by telephone call.

Mr. Tadych stated that the fixed price option is going to expire in June. When will the July option be announced? Mr. Ramer stated that the market is going back up. The price has been set for three months. They are buying in the gas in two weeks for the months of June, July and August. By the last meeting of June they will have a fixed price for three months. The price will be fixed for three or four months until the market plateaus, at which time they may choose to fix it longer. Customers will get regular notices of how those rates are going to change.

Mr. Ramer thanked everyone for their attention this evening.

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. Lee had no report this evening.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, STREETS/SEWERS/DRAINAGE COMMITTEE

Handicap Parking Space at United States Post Office on East Oviatt Road

Mr. Tadych advised that an ordinance has been prepared for presentation this evening to amend the traffic control map to provide a handicap parking spot at the United States Post Office on East Oviatt, about 60 feet east of Dover Center Road. Mr. Ebert stated that the installation of this new handicap parking spot at the post office was looked at by Safety Director Thomas, Police Chief Spaetzel, and Fire Chief Lyons to approve the location. The post office was informed and are thrilled to have the handicap accessible spot.

Mrs. Lieske asked if this new handicap parking spot and the amendment of the traffic control map will need to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. Mrs. Lieske noted that anything for parking has been in the plans reviewed by the Planning Commission for any new establishments in the City. Mr. Ebert stated that he does not believe so, because it is just a new handicap parking space. Mr. Ebert will review further and get back to Mrs. Lieske.

Mr. Koomar stated that the ordinance will be placed on first reading this evening.

FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE – Clark

City Council Compensation

Mr. Clark advised that a proposed ordinance was submitted to Council this weekend. In 2013 the rates of compensation for Ward and At-large-Council Members were fixed through 2017, but the Council President’s compensation went only through 2015. An adjustment to the compensation ordinance will be required in order to provide compensation for the President of Council for the term beginning January 1, 2016. Mr. Henderson asked if there is any reason the time frame is different for the Ward Council seats then the other two sets. Mr. Lee asked why some are set for five years and other set for three. Mr. Clark stated that the President of Council and Councilmen-at-large are set for four years. The Ward Councilmen salary is set for two years. Mr. Koomar stated that the salary cannot be increased during the term of office. The existing salary shown for President of Council and Councilmen-at-large for 2015 is the current salary and the increase is for the new term beginning January 1, 2016. The Ward Councilmen serve for two years.

Mrs. Lieske commented that she knows this is a 2% increase and this was approved when it was on the agenda in 2013. Mrs. Lieske was opposed to increases for Council at that time and she continues to be opposed if we are going to be asking residents to be faced with some of the challenges they are faced with. Mr. Koomar stated that due to the economic downturn, for four to five years we took the position of freezing the Council salaries at that point. The percentages proposed are relatively small. We are thousands of dollars behind other cities. If we are giving that 2% percentage for the cost of living to the employees of the bargaining units and administration we are just going to follow suit with Council. Mr. Ebert stated that he did review other cities’ compensation. Bay Village is one of, if not the lowest, and meets more often than any of the other Councils in the western suburbs.

Mr. Koomar stated that the ordinance will be presented in June for first reading. The compensation for the ward representatives is the same as what was approved two years ago in the previous ordinance.

PLANNING, ZONING & PUBLIC GROUNDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Lieske had no report this evening.

RECREATION & PARK IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Henderson had no report this evening.

SERVICES, UTILITIES & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Microphone and Speaker Update

Mr. Vincent advised that they have been reviewing a microphone and speaker system for both the Council Chambers and the Conference Room for several months. The League of Women

Committee Meeting of Council
May 18, 2015

Voters were kind enough to offer a sum of money, \$10,000 for the \$17,000 project. Mrs. Mahoney and the Mayor would like to look into some other options.

Finance Director Mahoney stated that she appreciates the effort. Unfortunately, it was only one bidder that was presented and she needs at least another couple of other ideas and vendors so that we know we are getting the best for our money.

Mr. Koomar stated that there is an issue of hardwiring the Committee Room versus having a standing microphone so that the Committee Room is not wired all the time. We are going to look into some issues there. The dollar amount is fine for not having multiple bids, so we are happy to step back. Mrs. Mahoney stated that if it were one of her projects she would not have to approach Council because it is under \$50,000, but things are done all the time for lesser amounts asking people to get multiple bids.

Mr. Koomar stated that we can go back and look at options for that Committee Room to meet everyone's needs. The League of Women Voters in their donation would like both rooms covered so we want to be true to that and make sure we had all the details in place before the donation is made. We will step back and take a look at that.

Mr. Vincent asked the Mayor and Finance Director when we will be able to reach a decision. Mayor Sutherland and Mrs. Mahoney stated that they will probably look at it this summer.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mrs. Lieske stated that there are two very large plastic signs affixed to a building by what looked like rope that says "Panorama Restaurant Opening Soon," one on East Oviatt and one on Dover Center Road. Is this something that needs to be approved?

Mr. Ebert stated that it did not come before the City. He will review this matter further and follow-through as necessary.

There will not be a meeting on Monday, May 25, which is Memorial Day.

Mr. Koomar asked Mrs. Mahoney about the contract for Fireworks for the July 4th festivities. Mrs. Mahoney stated that the contract does not have to be approved by City Council since it is under \$50,000. Mr. Koomar asked if multiple bids were received. Mrs. Mahoney and the Mayor stated that multiple bids were requested. One request was not answered and another bid came late.

AUDIENCE

Conda Boyd, West Oakland commended Council for the presentation of the compensation ordinance in a timely manner with opportunity for discussion. As a personal observation, Ms. Boyd feels an increase is merited.

Committee Meeting of Council
May 18, 2015

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Paul Koomar, President of Council

Joan Kemper, Clerk of Council