

City of Bay Village

Council Minutes, Committee Session
Conference Room

January 23, 2012
7:30 p.m.

Paul A. Koomar, President of Council, presiding

Present: Clark, Koomar, Lieske, Miller, Pohlkamp, Tadych, Young, Mayor Sutherland

Others

Present: Law Director Ebert, Finance Director Presley, Service Director
Galli, Police Chief Wright, Fire Chief Lyons, Community Services Director
Bock, Recreation Director Enovitch, Operations Manager Landers

President of Council Paul A. Koomar called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of Bay Village City Hall and the meeting was open to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Appointments to the Charter Review Commission

Mayor Sutherland advised that a Charter Review Commission will be appointed in accordance with Article 13.6 of the Bay Village City Charter. The Mayor stated that she is checking the availability and interest of former Council people and will also need a representative of Council to serve. The Charter Review Commission is composed of a panel of nine members, five of whom cannot hold elected or appointed public office with the city. The Mayor will submit a list of her candidates when the preparations are completed.

Mr. Koomar asked if the appointments will be inclusive of all wards in the city. The Mayor stated that she is looking at spreading it by ward, age group, and gender to be representative of the community.

The Mayor reviewed the process, noting that the Mayor appoints the members, Council confirms the appointments, and the commission has six months to complete their work. The Mayor commented that there are a couple of areas that she will be looking at specifically, having to do with the structure of the administration. It is mandated that there be a Finance Director, a Police Chief, and a Fire Chief. She stated that the charter does not allow flexibility if the city were going to collaborate with another community. The Mayor would like the commission to review and see if it could work better for the needs as they are now, and as they may be in the next ten years.

Mr. Koomar asked if there is a certain timeline for their recommendation to Council, specifically if there is something to be presented for the November ballot. Law Director Ebert stated that issues must be presented to the Board of Election in July. The Mayor noted that the November ballot in 2012 coincides with the presidential election, resulting in a larger turn-out at the polls.

AUDIENCE

The following members of the audience signed in this evening: Kent Silverberg, Karen Dade, Denny Wendell, Patricia Gruber, Nancy Flowers, Gayle Fisher, Russell Thompson, Jim Potter, Pam DeFino, Dick Majewski, Karen Dade

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Review of Fees Charged for Ambulance Transportation

Mr. Clark stated that Council discussed the fees charged for ambulance transportation with Fire Chief Lyons. Mr. Clark commented that the origin of this discussion is two-fold: to try to find some additional revenues for the city for the budget going forward, and also attempting to have a fee schedule that is more reflective of what other cities and communities are doing. Comparisons to the cities of Fairview Park and Lakewood were provided to the Council.

Mr. Koomar commented that as in the past, this has to do with billing insurance companies for the services. There is not a cost currently, nor proposed, to the taxpayers. There has not been an increase in the existing billing policy for over three years.

Mr. Tadych asked about the February 2 date listed in the draft of the proposed ordinance. Mr. Clark stated that the ordinance increasing the fees would be drafted with a March 1, 2012 effective date as more appropriate when considering that deductibles should be met during the first quarter of the year.

Mr. Tadych asked if Fairview Park and Lakewood are the only cities increasing the fee schedule. Mayor Sutherland stated that there are other cities involved; the fee schedules for Fairview Park and Lakewood are the ones that were most recently updated.

Mr. Young stated that the Finance Committee did discuss the life support tiers of service. He noted that the administration of oxygen and Treatment but no transportation (TNT) will not be included. Mr. Young suggested that the administration of oxygen is a reasonable cost at \$20.00 and possibly should be included. Mr. Tadych and Mr. Clark stated that the oxygen is there and should be used without billing. Mr. Tadych further commented that in the discussions with the Finance Committee he thought the \$10.00 per charge for mileage was more acceptable than the \$12.00 per mile that is used by Lakewood.

Mr. Pohlkamp stated that he previously worked with a medical company that also owned a billing company in the late 1980's and early 1990's and even at that time most municipalities were already charging insurance companies for ambulance runs.

The ordinance will be presented on Monday, February 6, 2012.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, STREETS/SEWERS/DRAINAGE COMMITTEE

Mr. Pohlkamp advised that a Public Improvements, Streets, Sewers and Drainage Committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss short term and long term needs, hopefully getting into some of the sewer inflow and infiltration issues that have been discussed previously.

FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

Temporary Appropriation Ordinance

Finance Director Presley advised that these appropriations to be presented by ordinance at the special meeting of Council this evening are appropriations for the month of February since the preparations have not been completed for the adoption of a budget for the fiscal year 2012. The appropriations are one-twelfth of the annual budget, less the proposed transfer of funds.

2012 Budget Update

Mr. Young stated that the Finance Committee has discussed provisions for capital improvements for sewers. Mr. Presley has been asked to provide information relative to using a capital improvement fund through a sewer fee on a quarterly basis, rather than bonding out \$2.3 million for sewer improvements. Mr. Presley advised that the fee of \$15.00 per residence, per quarter, in addition to the current operating fee, would be adequate to pay the \$2.3 million. A corresponding fee for commercial sewer users would have to be calculated based on actual usage. Mr. Young commented that the current sewer fees to residences just cover operational expenses. They do not cover capital improvements. He stated that all other cities have a capital component to their sewer fee structure, noting that the City of Rocky River recently instituted a \$25.00 per quarter capital improvement fee for sewers. Mr. Young stated that the City of Bay Village has not kept up with capital sewer costs that are being driven by some of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates and storm sewer related problems.

Mr. Young noted that additional calculations remain to be done to determine the actual cost going forward for sewer projects that are slated.

Mr. Young advised that currently four percent of municipal income tax revenue is transferred to the Equipment Replacement Fund. The Finance Committee has discussed that using current funds for equipment purchases as opposed to issuing bonds does not make sense, accounting wise, due to the low interest rates. It was suggested that the four percent revenue transferred to the Equipment Replacement Fund might be used instead toward replenishing the rainy day fund, which is now at \$50,000. Mr. Young noted that the Council did a lot of work last year in trying to create a realistic budget but rising healthcare costs and overtime wages due to injuries have been detrimental to the budgets.

Orientation Packet for new Council Members

Mr. Koomar asked Finance Director Presley if he will be ready soon to email these orientation packets to all Council members in the next few days. Mr. Presley stated that it is reasonable that they will be ready this week. After the two new Council members have had an opportunity to review the material, it will be further reviewed at a future Finance Committee meeting.

PLANNING, ZONING, PUBLIC GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Rear Setback Requirements for Lakefront Property

Mr. Miller advised that the Planning, Zoning, Public Grounds and Buildings Committee met this evening to review the matters pending before their committee. Correspondence from Dr. William D. Squires dated January 9, 2012, was reviewed regarding Dr. Squires' lakefront property and the reference to the City of Rocky River's Ordinance Chapter 1153, crossing over to City of Bay Village Ordinance 1153.04. Mr. Miller advised that he needs to discuss Dr. Squires' comments with former Building Director Milburn in order to obtain more factual information.

Mr. Koomar formally referred the matter of rear setback requirements brought forward by Dr. Squires, with consensus of Council, to the Planning, Zoning, Public Grounds and Buildings Committee. Mr. Young suggested consideration be given to the opinion of Mr. Milburn as to the direction in which to proceed. Mr. Miller will report back to Council after discussion with Mr. Milburn.

RECREATION & PARK IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Mrs. Lieske reported that a meeting of the Recreation and Park Improvement Committee will be scheduled in the near future.

SERVICES, UTILITIES & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Refuse Collection Fee – Continuation through 2012 (C.O. 923.01)

Mr. Tadych advised that an ordinance will be presented this evening to continue the refuse collection fee that was started several years ago through 2012. He noted that this is supposed to be a temporary fee so each year it must be renewed, and will be a benefit to the budget. Mr. Tadych commented that this will be the first year he has voted yes on the refuse collection fee, stating that it is necessary and must be done.

MISCELLANEOUS

Deadlines for purchase of public vehicles

Mr. Koomar reminded Service Director Galli of the need to receive information concerning deadlines for purchase of public vehicles through the state bidding process. Mr. Presley advised that the Chevrolet Impalas have a February 16, 2012 cutoff date. The Ford Taurus police vehicles are a 2013 model with a later cutoff date. Mr. Koomar asked Mr. Presley if he would forward a link to a website as a reference point for further information.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Committee Meeting of Bay Village City Council
January 23, 2012

Paul A. Koomar, President of Council

Joan Kemper, Clerk of Council