

# City of Bay Village

Council Minutes, Special Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Dwyer Memorial Center  
President of Council Dwight A. Clark, presiding

June 8, 2020

Present: Clark, DeGeorge, Kelly, Maier, Stainbrook, Tadych, Winzig, Mayor Koomar.

Also Present; Law Director Barbour, Finance Director Mahoney, Police Chief Leasure, Director of Public Service and Properties Liskovec, Recreation Director Enovitch, Community Services Director Selig, City Engineer Bierut, Clerk of Council Kemper.

## AUDIENCE

Kayra Goddard, Alica Goddard, Alex Kamczyc, Paige Swidarski, Clare Banasiak.

President of Council Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Nancy Stainbrook, Councilwoman-at-large.

Mr. Clark welcomed newly installed Police Chief Kathy Leasure to her first official Council meeting as Police Chief. Chief Leasure has been a member of the Bay Village Police Force for 24 years and is well experienced in law enforcement with the City of Bay Village.

**Motion by Tadych** to dispense with the reading and approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held May 26, 2020 as prepared and distributed. Mr. Clark noted that the May 26, 2020 meeting was held via Zoom technology with approximately 75 participants. Much positive feedback has been received on the Zoom meetings of Council, given the fact that residents can listen in from their homes.

**Motion passed 7-0.**

## Announcements

**Mayor Koomar** advised that he has been notified by Jessica Breslin, Bay Village Branch Manager, Cuyahoga County Public Library, that the Bay library is opening in phases with book drops opening again for returns and staff on hand to return calls from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. Ms. Breslin expects to have an update in the near future on the timing of the new library project.

A faxed letter from Pat Andler, 27919 Knickerbocker was sent to the Mayor and Council. Mayor Koomar has sent a letter to Ms. Andler regarding 5G technology with information provided by Building Director Macalla and Law Director Barbour.

**Recreation Director Enovitch** reported that the baseball fields are back in use with fields prepped and Bay Travel Baseball moving forward. Tennis and Pickle Ball Courts are open. City playgrounds will open on Wednesday, June 10, 2020. Small group programming has begun, including tennis, skateboarding, and arts. The pool diving well has been filled and is being brought

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up to the correct temperature. Staff is hoping to fill the main tank on Tuesday, June 9. There were 9000 unique admissions to the pool in 2019.

Mayor Koomar stated that the Bay Men's Club Tournament scheduled for July 4 has been cancelled due to large group attendance, in conformance with the guidelines of the Governor. Mr. Enovitch noted that baseball programs for the three to seven year-old age groups will also not be held this year.

Ms. DeGeorge asked if there has been any changes with the pool features since the information given at the last meeting of Council. Mr. Enovitch stated that the slide and diving well will be open.

All features will be on. The Mayor commented that the smaller features are still under consideration.

Mr. Tadych asked Mr. Enovitch for an explanation of the 9000 unique admissions last summer. Mr. Enovitch stated that this represents the number of residents that were at the pool at least once last summer, but could be repetitive admissions. Mayor Koomar noted that they will try to track the guest admissions a little differently in the future.

The Family Aquatic Center will open on June 26, 2020, as previously announced.

**Director of Public Service Liskovec** advised that paving programs are underway. The contractor is working on concrete repairs and is moving from the Aberdeen/Rexford area to the Knickerbocker section on the west end. They will be progressing from west to east.

Projects beginning next week include the Longbeach Pavement Maintenance project. Letters will be sent to residents this week. The Service Garage Transfer Ramp project will also begin next week. Pre-construction meetings are scheduled, including one for the CMAG Project. The Sunset Area Paving Project will begin right after July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor noted the schedule delay was due to the heavy rains experienced last week.

**Community Services Director Selig** advised that she has created a monthly newsletter, BV Center Connections, to keep in touch with the patrons of the Senior Center. The information will be published electronically and also sent through the mail to those who would prefer receiving a hard copy. Ms. Selig is suggesting websites for the folks who use the computer for their activity source, noting the many types of virtual tours and activities that are available. She is also tapping them into different senior centers that are offering their programs on line. Due to lack of space at the Dwyer Memorial Center during the current reconstruction activities, it is not possible to have an exercise instructor come in for classes. The seniors are being informed of programs at the cities of Westlake and Solon, and many different websites where they can take many sorts of classes. A package of information will be sent monthly to the seniors. The information will include a booklet of chair exercises, word search activities, detailed Zoom instructions, and many resources available to seniors during this time of isolation, which is very challenging, especially for seniors who live alone. Phone contact by seniors has proven to be a favorite during this time.

The senior produce market that was held once per month has evolved into a Cleveland Food Bank Program which distributes produce and dairy products from surplus products purchased by the

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United States Department of Agriculture. Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. a 30 lb. box of produce, and 25 lbs. of dairy products for any Bay Village resident, not income or age based, is distributed through a drive through with one box of produce and one box of dairy products placed in each car by volunteers. The program will last for five more weeks. At the initial give-away on June 4, 120 boxes of produce were distributed. Ms. Selig has reached out to the USDA for additional boxes, since they ran out of produce after one hour on June 4.

Ms. Selig stated that she attended a webinar last week and found an organization in California that has a turn-key operation for calling seniors, includes information as to how to recruit and train volunteers, and what as an agency Bay Village needs to do to be prepared for this kind of service.

The Aging-in-Place Initiative is still underway and a survey will be included in the next sewer bill sent out by the City Finance Department. Information collected will provide the Senior Center with the information they need for the Aging-in-Place in Bay Village as a viable option.

Mayor Koomar commented that a formal send-off for retired Police Chief Spaetzel was not held due to the COVID-19 restrictions, but it is hoped that something can be arranged in the future. A plaque has been installed behind the Police Station Garage in honor of Chief Spaetzel's 35 years of service.

**Police Chief Leasure** stated that the Bay Village Police Department has been very busy the last ten days, beginning Saturday, May 30, when the Cleveland Police Department called requesting assistance via both the SWAT and Mobile Field Force Team. Bay Village supplies four (4) SWAT Team members and ten (10) Mobile Field Force Team members to the WEB unit, so when that was activated those officers were included. During the week, at different times, units were being called in either in downtown Cleveland or the west side of Cleveland. The activity ended with the protest held in Bay Village on Friday, June 5. The department made sure that enough officers were present to handle anything unexpected, such as agitators coming in to disrupt the peaceful protest. They planned accordingly, with the help of the Mayor, the Law Director and the Service Department, to make sure there would be a safe event for the families in Bay Village that came to the protest, as well as the visitors from out of the City. Since May 30, 2020, the Police Department used 390 hours of overtime.

Mrs. Stainbrook asked Chief Leasure if these activities also required coordination and service from the Bay Village Service Department. Chief Leasure stated that it did require that help on Friday, June 5, 2020.

Mrs. Stainbrook asked how the Bay Village Fire Department was involved in these activities. Mayor Koomar stated that Chief Leasure coordinated with the Fire Department to make sure they were aware of how many people were expected at the peaceful protest on May 30, 2020. With it being a very warm day, noting the crowd at Huntington Beach, and the gathering of about 400 people by 4 p.m. in the afternoon, two hours before the scheduled start time of 6 p.m., the Fire Department was kept informed in the event of the need for emergency equipment. The Mayor stated that the planning was done early in the day, and in addition to the Mayor, the Law Director, Service Director, Fire Chief Lyons, Police Chief Leasure, officers and detectives met to overview plans.

Mrs. Stainbrook asked if it was fair to say that there was overtime for the Police Department, Fire Department and Service Department. Mayor Koomar stated that there was overtime for those departments.

Mr. Tadych asked if the 390 hours of overtime mentioned by Police Chief Leasure is all for the Police Department. Chief Leasure stated that the 390 hours was for police overtime. There is hope that there will be reimbursement forthcoming. Mayor Koomar stated that he has served with the Chief of Staff of Mayor Jackson of Cleveland on the DOPWIC Committee, and will reach out concerning the reimbursement question.

Mr. Tadych stated that the help from the Service Department was a good thing to have during the Bay Village peaceful protest. Large trucks blocked intersections.

**Law Director Barbour** had no report this evening.

**Finance Director Mahoney** stated that the May financial reports of the City of Bay Village indicate that Municipal Income Tax receipts were 2% below last year. In the beginning of June, the advance is about \$300,000 less which is 12% below last year for the comparable period of time, and May versus May it is about 50% down, realizing that the income tax filing deadline has been extended from April 15 to July 15. Mrs. Mahoney stated that the financial impact of COVID-19 will not really be known until September. She encourages departments to control spending.

Mayor Koomar discussed CARES funding, noting that the State House and Senate are trying to work out a final bill regarding the distribution of \$60 million in Local Government Funds to offset losses. There is an additional \$800 million at the state level that can still be distributed to cities in one form or another. The Mayor noted that he has been on calls with the State Auditor concerning guidelines. We will also look at holding Capital projects until there is a better sense on the financial impact. The South Trail Project will continue.

The Mayor advised that he was notified by the County that the Small Business Stabilization Fund has awarded five businesses in Bay Village funding, between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The Mayor further noted that he met with restaurant owners to see if they were able to do patio seating. There is a State Liquor Board requirement that if alcohol is being served outside there are fencing and gating requirements to be met. The Mayor stated that he has been working with the Cuyahoga County Health Department and State Representative Dave Greenspan. Both Arrabiata's and Thyme Table have enough space to comply with the State of Ohio Liquor Control Board.

Mr. Tadych stated that he did see something on line about registering for the municipal dollars through the CARES funding. Mrs. Mahoney stated that Bay Village is registered, and the necessary legislation has been certified to the county and the state.

**Motion** by **Tadych** to acknowledge receipt of the May 2020 Financial Statements of the City of Bay Village as prepared by Finance Director Renee Mahoney. Mr. Tadych noted that there have been large increases this year, but, May has turned a little negative. There may be more negative numbers in May and June. The Finance Committee will review financial reports in a Finance Committee meeting at the end of the second quarter.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

**Cahoon Basin Trail. Project and Bid Update.**

**Don Bierut, City Engineer,** advised that bids were opened on Thursday, June 4, 2020 for the path that will run through the Cahoon Basin, from the sledding hill to Lake Road which is approximately 1,100 feet. There were a total of seven (7) bidders. The budget estimate for the project was \$340,000. Bids received ranged from \$208,000 to \$317,000. The process of reviewing the apparent low bid is underway; references and samples of similar projects are being requested to verify that the company is capable of doing the work.

Mr. Clark asked if the low bidder has done business with the City of Bay Village in the past.

Mr. Bierut stated that they have done work for the City of Bay Village, and have done work all over northeast Ohio. Mr. Bierut is just not familiar with them doing this type of work.

Mr. Tadych asked why the estimate of the project was so high.

Mr. Bierut stated that the original estimate was higher. The project was redesigned, and the bid market is competitive this year.

Mr. Liskovec stated that the grant for the project is a 75%/25% grant, with the City of Bay Village responsible for the 25% portion. Time line for the project is 60 to 75 days from start to finish.

**Hydraulic Analysis for Porter Creek**

Mr. Bierut stated that there are two things happening at the same time. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) calculated flood elevations throughout the area. These were adopted by the City of Bay Village in years past as a member of the National Flood Insurer Program. The City is a member and must comply with certain, established rules. Osborn Engineering has done recent calculations to document the flow coming under the existing bridge structure and flow coming through the proposed structure. There is no change from the water today and the water that will come with the new bridge. But, the elevation of the water is different than the FEMA model of 1970. FEMA must sign off on the project before the Ohio Department of Natural Resources can bid the project. FEMA wants to know why the elevations are different. Oftentimes people upstream will make adjustments to their properties with fill or other modifications which cause the water to rise. All of that should be controlled by permit. In a perfect world, a resident will notify the Building Department that they are adding fill. However, many times the resident just does the work without notifying the Building Department. Mr. Liskovec commented that there are a handful of properties that have done this type of work. The ordinance being presented this evening will allow Osborn Engineering to regrade the 1970 model and create a new model to today's existing conditions. The flood plain must be revised for all the properties upstream. This process will take approximately one year.

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Mrs. Stainbrook asked if there is agreement that the funding will stay with the project, even with the delay. Mr. Bierut stated that the funding by the Ohio Department of Transportation for the replacement of the Ashton Lane Bridge will stay in place. The amount of the contract with Osborn Engineering for the hydraulic analysis is \$69,504.

The proposal of Osborn Engineering includes items that will not be included in the project. Mr. Clark asked Mr. Liskovec for his comments regarding these items. Mr. Liskovec stated the intent is to resolve the issue within City of Bay Village city limits. It could potentially extend beyond, but looking further upstream into Westlake it is more of a swamp, wetland area, that is not developed and will not have an impact downstream. Additional items not included in the proposal were reviewed and explained by Mr. Liskovec. Mr. Liskovec will keep Council informed throughout the project.

Mr. Clark noted that this project was originally scheduled for 2021, and has been rescheduled to 2022.

Mr. Liskovec stated that the Ohio Department of Transportation works on a fiscal year calendar. July 1, 2020 is the beginning of their 2021 Fiscal Year. The City would have had from next month to June 30 of 2021. With the push out one year, that will mean that starting next summer to 2022, the project must be completed. The amount being received from the State for construction is \$526,000, and \$57,000 for administrative fees.

Mr. Winzig asked Mr. Liskovec about the excluded item in the proposal of hydraulic analysis of Porter Creek downstream of Ashton Lane, noting that there are homeowners who have had backyard flooding in that area. Mr. Liskovec stated that the intention and the results that should be yielded from the project will show that any problems would be rectified at the bridge itself.

Mr. Clark stated that the City has done bridge restoration work at White Creek, Columbia Culvert, Lake Road, and Queenswood Drive. He asked if this is the last major bridge project.

Mr. Liskovec stated that there are outlying bridges which include the Lake Road Bridge at Porter Creek in Huntington Reservation, similar to the one done last summer. The maintenance of that bridge falls under the responsibility of the City of Bay Village. Naigle Road has a small bridge, where rehab work was done in 2011 when the intersection work was done. Bradley Road Bridge, south of Ashton Lane, is an outlier. The county does the maintenance on that bridge. The Wolf Road Bridge in the center of the City was done in 2000.

Mrs. Stainbrook noted that the ordinance for the contract with Osborn Engineering is set for first reading this evening. She asked the time consideration for passage of this ordinance. Mr. Clark stated that it will be considered for adoption at the meeting of Council to be held June 22, 2020.

**Ms. Stainbrook** introduced and read, by title only, **Ordinance 20-56** authorizing an agreement with Osborn Engineering to perform hydraulic analysis for Porter Creek, and declaring an emergency. (First Reading)

**Mr. Barbour** announced that Ordinance 20-56 is placed on first reading.

**Federal Environmental Protection Agency Administrative Order.**

**City Engineer Donald Bierut** reviewed his memorandum sent to Jon Liskovec, Director of Public Services and Properties dated June 4, 2020 regarding Administrative Orders of Consent received from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”).

The memorandum states that at the Special Meeting of Bay Village City Council held April 20, 2020, Engineer Jeff Filarski and he provided Council with an update of the ongoing conversations with the USEPA regarding the closure of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) within the City. Since that meeting, the USEPA has issued a final Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for the City’s signature. The proposed AOC includes City implementation of corrective measures to its sewer system necessary to bring the City into compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Mr. Bierut explained that on September 29, 2009, the City received an Administrative Order from the USEPA alleging violations of the Clean Water Act. The Order identified four sanitary sewer overflow locations and required a response plan to close the SSOs. Between 2009 and 2013, two of the SSO’s were closed and attempts to close the other two SSOs were unsuccessful. The two completed were completed with the Wolf Road Sanitary Sewer Project, and the two remaining are on Lake Road. Flow monitoring is in place, which began in April and will remain until the end of July.

Mr. Bierut stated that in early 2019 the USEPA contacted the City regarding the status of the original orders. Personnel changes at the USEPA resulted in a lack of continuity and missing information. The City provided background for the original orders, their status, and an evaluation of the data available to close the two remaining SSOs. The USEPA agreed that further study was warranted. On May 13, 2020, the USEPA issued the revised AOC to the City. The City has 45 days to sign and return the AOC to the USEPA. The 45-day window expires on June 27, 2020.

The revised AOC requires the City provide an SSO closure plan within 240 days from the date the AOC is signed by the USEPA that includes hydraulic modeling of the affected areas, a schedule for the design, construction, and implementation of measures to close the SSOs within 5 years of date the AOC is signed by the USEPA, and a post construction compliance monitoring plan to determine if the corrective actions are effective.

Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd. (CVE) will develop a closure document to comply with the AOC requirements. A proposed fee for the closure document will be forwarded to the City. CVE will perform hydraulic modeling of the affected areas. The modeling will incorporate flow data from monitoring devices that have recently been installed by the City. An SSO closure document will be developed that includes the hydraulic modeling, a design, construction and implementation schedule and a post construction compliance monitoring plan. The closure document will be forwarded to the USEPA for their approval.

Ms. Maier asked if there was a previous attempt to close the SSO's. Mr. Bierut stated that there was a pump station installed in 2009. It was an attempt to close the two remaining, and there was a smaller one that was found in the process of constructing. That was not part of the original orders and was eliminated. The pump station put into place did not serve in the capacity for which it was originally designed. In 2015, there were meetings with residents to discuss options.

Ms. DeGeorge asked Mr. Bierut if the physical work previously done did not turn out the way it was thought it would turn out. Mr. Bierut stated that is correct.

Mr. Clark asked Mr. Bierut to comment on other cities that have had similar SSO closure problems. Mr. Bierut stated that the City of Akron is past the point of negotiations. Mr. Liskovec stated that they are subject to stiff penalties for non-compliance. Mr. Bierut stated that these SSOs are all over; it is the way things were done years ago.

The City has 5 years to complete the design, implementation, and construction of the measures necessary to close the SSO's. Because the closure document has not been developed, it is not possible to estimate design or construction costs. The AOC requires that the City prepare a closure document, have it approved, and then take and monitor the corrective actions.

Mr. Clark stated that the Council will look for approval of the preparation of a closure document by Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd. to comply with the AOC requirements on June 22, 2020.

### **Communications**

The following communications have been received:

An e-mail communication from Lis Sobczak dated June 2, 2020, asking several questions:

- Are Bay police taking down BLM (Black Lives Matter) signs?
- What records are kept on traffic stops?
- What authority does Council have over policing?
- When will Council meetings reopen?
- Why are they not being held on line?

(Both Mr. Clark and the Clerk of Council responded with the answers to the last two questions.)

An e-mail communication from Paige Swidarski asking how a resident introduces legislation or an idea for legislation. The Clerk of Council responded to Ms. Swidarski with a copy of Charter Section 12.1, explaining the Initiative process.

A faxed letter from Pat Andler, 27919 Knickerbocker regarding risks pertaining to deployment of 5G technology. (The Clerk of Council tried contacting Ms. Andler because the bottom of her faxed communication was cut off, but she is not listed in the residential directory, nor in white pages. A written communication to Ms. Andler was sent.)

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An email communication received today from Jessica Breslin, Branch Manager, Cuyahoga County Public Library, regarding the phased opening of the Bay Village branch. The book drops are open again for returns, and calls to the library are taken from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. The number is 871-6392.

A request sent to Councilwoman DeGeorge from Elizabeth Palomaki, via email, dated June 7, thanking Ms. DeGeorge for her hard work recently, and asking if it is possible for the City to provide bike racks by the Dover tennis courts, and Cahoon sledding hill, noting the increase in biking recently.

Copies of these communications are available in the Clerks' office.

**Mr. Clark** read a communication he received from resident Rob Grossman, who heads up the Social Studies Department at Bay High School, as follows:

“I was at the rally march on Friday evening. The Bay Village Police Department was absolutely fantastic. It was a very clear presence, and supported in a professional manner. There were many reasons to be a proud Bay Village resident last Friday. The work of our Police Department and Auxiliary Police Department was most definitely one of the sources of pride. Feel free to use my name as well.”

### **Audience**

Ms. Kayra Goddard, Tuttle Drive resident of the City of Bay Village, made the following statement:

“I am here today because I feel that silence would not be appropriate. I have been trying to set up a temporary memorial for George Floyd in Bay Village to provide a place for people to reflect, pay respect, and show solidarity with those adversely impacted by racism. A temporary memorial would send a message of support and compassion to the families that have experienced the adverse effects of racism, and to the minorities of our community.”

“I have spoken to many community members, the police, and the justice department of Bay Village and have been directed to ask you if the community would be able to set up the memorial in a public location.”

“Preferably it would be placed in a public park or near the police station and would last for a week. Routine checks of the memorial would be made in order to ensure that the message remained peaceful. If there were any negative additions to the memorial during the duration that is up they would be removed. After the week has passed the memorial would be cleaned up by volunteers from the community that have offered their help.”

“Thank you for your consideration.”

Mr. Clark stated that this is a unique request, one Council has not seen before. Council has had several statues or representations of residents that have contributed, but have not seen anything

similar to this in the past. Mr. Clark stated he is not sure it is permissible to do something like this on public property, but is open for discussion.

Ms. DeGeorge stated that she would want to know what the memorial looks like and what it says. Ms. Goddard presented the artwork she prepared. She stated the hope that the people of the community would come together and show their respect in an expression of solidarity.

Mr. Clark stated that this is certainly something to think about. We understand that there is racism in the country, no one doubts that whatsoever. The question is, what tradition do you set by doing something like this. Adversely, or positively, but sensitive to the situation. This is not a decision to be made lightly, and will need discussion by the Council and Administration. The last couple of weeks have been earth shattering for all of us.

Mrs. Stainbrook asked if there is any history, from a national perspective, of anything that has been done for any national events, like 9-1-1.

Mr. Tadych stated that the only thing he can recall is the memorial for Amy Mihaljevic. Mrs. Stainbrook noted that was a local tribute.

Mr. Winzig stated that Council did some recognition, independent of any voting, such as putting house lights on or raising a flag.

Ms. DeGeorge asked what material would be used for the memorial.

Ms. Goddard stated that the art work is on a 3 ½ foot wide, and 3 foot tall piece of plywood. The paint is waterproof.

Ms. Goddard has approached the churches. Many have denied her request.

Mr. Clark asked Ms. Goddard if she has given any thought as to where she would like this memorial placed.

Ms. Goddard stated that preferably it would be in a public park, or even near the police station, but most importantly in a safe place.

Mr. Clark reiterated the need for the Council, administration and Law Department to discuss this request further. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Goddard for taking the time and effort in coming forward this evening.

Lis Sobczak, Bruce Road resident, stated that she was a bit heated when she wrote the email included in the communications this evening. But, the basic thing she would like Bay Village to think about is that we were founded with redlining and have laws on the books about single family homes that continues to keep us a predominantly white community. She has lived here for 41 years, and when she was in high school she thought it was strange and it would change. Trying to understand why, Ms. Sobczak thinks it has to do with how we were founded. Our town, going forward in the world, is going to need to become more diverse. We have to become

more than not-racist. We have to become anti-racist and really work for equality for all people in the world. This is a discussion that needs to be had. It would be great for the children in Bay Village to grow up with different races around, different kinds of people that could fall in love with. The world is changing. We cannot stand still. That will not serve us well, going into the future.

Ms. Sobczak stated that she does apologize about not thinking Council had meetings. But, it says on the website that Council was adjourned until further notice, posted 3-30-20. (Subsequent postings were made with agendas for Special Meetings that were called). Ms. Sobczak stated that she has lived in Bay Village for a long time, and her anecdotal evidence is that the policing in the past has been to stop vehicles with people of color in them. I would like the police to be more open about who they stop, and why, not particularly who, but just...Ms. Sobczak stated that her parents moved here in 1979 and when she was getting married her mother wanted to move out of her house and sold her the home. Basically she was given a mortgage and a line of credit without a work history that allowed for the mortgage, but got it anyway because she is a white girl from Bay Village. That is something she is trying to reckon with, and there are probably others in the community also. She stated that this is certainly not the first one to bring this to the City Council's attention, but is something, going forward, our City needs to work on.

Mr. Clark thanked Ms. Sobczak for her comments, and for being a resident as many years as she has been. Hopefully Council can answer some of the questions Ms. Sobczak has asked, and in regard to the points brought out regarding the Police Department, Chief Leasure can help out on that front as well.

Paige Swidarski, Bruce Road, stated that she has been in Bay Village since 1984 with, a short stint in Illinois and California. In light of all of the protesting that has been happening, and how things are going in a more progressive direction, I think we've been tolerant and allowing people of color to live here, but not really inviting and welcoming. Ms. Swidarski stated that she has an idea for all people of color, African-American specifically, a tax-abatement on their property for taxes, to encourage more black families to move here and make Bay Village a more diverse community. Ms. Swidarski is working on an Initiative, and wanted to bring this up.

Mr. Clark stated that when plans are more specific Council would welcome that as well. One of the things that need to be considered is if there is an abatement of property taxes that would involve the schools. The Bay Village Schools primary funding source is real estate property taxes. The City receives about 17% of their total revenue from real estate property taxes. It is not a large amount, but it is significant. Mr. Clark thanked Paige Swidarski for her comments.

Ms. Maier stated that these folks are coming out and talking about a very difficult subject. She stated that it is very difficult for people to come up and talk about an emotional subject like that, and thanked everyone for taking the time to write letters and be here this evening. Ms. Maier stated that she is an urban planner, and there has been a legacy in the entire United States. She stated that most people have never even heard of redlining; they don't understand how that impacted land use and wealth acquisition. There are a lot of things that were done purposely in land developing decisions, over the decades and centuries. We have a lot of work to undo that. Some of it is just understanding what redlining was, and how that impacted people, and still there

is inequity in the way loans are made. You can have someone that has a higher FICO score and much higher income and they are denied a loan. Other people get one. Those are all things we need to reckon with. That is something we have to do locally, but also at the state level, nationally, and really evaluate what these programs were and how they enabled people to flee from the cities, like building the highway system. Ms. Maier thanked the residents who spoke for coming to the Council meeting.

Mr. Clark stated that Council certainly appreciates the comments as well. He noted the large resident participation in the Council meeting held May 26, 2020, conducted through Zoom technology, when there were discussions about the reopening of the City swimming pool.

### **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Clark announced that the next meeting of Bay Village City Council will be on Monday, June 22. Mayor Koomar and Mr. Clark were contacted by the management of the Knickerbocker Apartments and discussed trying to get together after summer recess to take a tour of the renovated Knickerbocker Apartments. The date of September 14, 2020, at 6 p.m. is a placeholder to be guests of LSC Service Corporation, at the Knickerbocker Apartments.

**Ms. DeGeorge** asked if there are any updates on the renovation of the restroom facilities in Cahoon Memorial Park.

Mayor Koomar stated that it is with the state at this point; the Controlling Board has not reappropriated things yet. The bids on the restrooms will probably not be accepted on June 22, due to putting Capital projects on hold. We understand the environment in Columbus. Given the numbers Ms. Mahoney is giving we would like to put a hold on Capital projects and insure that the state money is secure before we go forward. If we need to we can rebid later this summer or in the fall.

Ms. DeGeorge stated that in regard to the report of 33 part time City employees being laid off, she has counted fifteen including the school guards, but is trying to figure out where the others are from. She asked if several are from the Service Department.

Mayor Koomar stated that they have addressed the Service Department by not hiring summer help. There are two open positions that have not been filled. Mayor Koomar offered to have Human Resource Director Demaline send a list of those laid off. The departments would be Recreation, Community Gym, Community Services drivers and transportation coordinator.

Ms. DeGeorge asked if there is any discussion about bringing those employees back in, given that things are picking up.

Mayor Koomar stated that the seasonal positions for the pool will be filled, but the Governor is not actively talking about Senior Centers mostly because they are the most at-risk group. One thing that could be started, potentially, is Senior Transportation for medical appointments. That may be one of the first areas in Senior Services that might be restored.

Ms. DeGeorge stated that Council has had great success with Zoom meetings. It could have been the agenda, but could there be consideration as to how we can resume that going forward? The public seems to respond to being able to be interact with Council at live meetings. A number of people were disappointed that Council is meeting in person tonight. Ms. Maier added that many people were excited about being able to participate through Zoom.

**Mrs. Stainbrook** asked for an update on the new City website. Mayor Koomar stated that they are making progress on the content. Some of the training for technicians was scheduled for the week of June 23, 2020, but will be rescheduled.

Mrs. Stainbrook asked for an update on the School Resource Office. Mayor Koomar stated that they are moving through that process. The Police have shared that the Middle School and Bay High School administration are very happy with the candidate. Former Chief Spaetzel reached out to the Superintendent for the final steps.

Mrs. Stainbrook stated that Project Manager Kerber sent an email about the COPS Grant award. Is that something that can be used for the School Resource Officer? Mayor Koomar stated that it can be used for the salary of a Police Officer up to 75% of wages per year for three years, for the person who will fill the vacancy of the Police Department staff member who will serve as the School Resource Officer.

Chief Leasure explained that the School Resource Officer position comes from within the Police Department. The Police Department will hire a candidate from the Police Officer Eligibility List to fill in for that vacancy created by the police officer going into the schools.

Mr. Clark stated that this was significant work done by former Chief Spaetzel.

**Mr. Winzig** recognized Public Service Director Liskovec and his crew for the work they have done in renovating the interior of the Community House. The first floor, basement and storage area is outstanding. The Service Department team did a really great job, and Mr. Winzig highly recommended everyone take a tour of the Community House to see the restoration. Mr. Winzig asked Mr. Liskovec to please pass along his compliments to the Service Department team who accomplished this work.

Mr. Clark stated that he could not believe the change in the rooms, and the difference made also by the donation of Tonja Coffin's husband of the office furniture.

**Clerk of Council Joan Kemper** commented about the possibility of having future Zoom meetings. Ms. Kemper stated that she has discussed with many of the other Clerks of Council in the State of Ohio and so many of them are going to "hybrid" meetings where the Council has an in-person meeting and at the same time the Zoom meeting for people to participate.

Mr. Clark suggested looking into that possibility going forward.

Special Meeting of Council  
June 8, 2020

In compliance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, Mr. Tadych **MOVED** to convene to Executive Session at 7:31 p.m. regarding Purchase or Sale of Real Property; Personnel, and Litigation.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Yeas – Clark, DeGeorge, Kelly, Maier, Stainbrook, Tadych, Winzig.  
Nays – None.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

Also in attendance in Executive Session were Mayor Koomar, Law Director Barbour, Finance Director Mahoney, Police Chief Leasure, City Engineer Don Bierut, and Director of Public Service and Properties Liskovec.

Council reconvened in an open meeting at 8:17 p.m. Present were: Clark, DeGeorge, Kelly, Maier, Stainbrook, Tadych, and Winzig. There being no further business do discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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Dwight A. Clark, President of Council

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Joan Kemper, Clerk of Council