

## CITY OF BLUE RIDGE MANOR MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2016

### **NEXT MEETING DATE: May 23, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the City of Blue Ridge manor was held on April 25, 2016 at the Middletown Fire Department, Division 2. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Mayor Carla Kreitman presiding.

### **The following were present:**

Carla Kreitman, Mayor

Hans Klose, Mayor Pro Tem

Stan Chauvin, City Attorney

Bob Carter, Treasurer

Porter Lady, Commissioner

Art Sims, Commissioner

Ken Conliffe, Commissioner

Annie Duncan-Ponvert

Sue Lentz

Kevin Adams

### **Approval of March Minutes**

The Commission having reviewed the minutes, Mayor Kreitman asked for any corrections or additions. Commissioner Lady moved that the minutes be approved as distributed, Hans Klose seconded the motion. Motion carried and the minutes were signed as presented.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bob Carter experienced some computer issues and was unable to reproduce the quarterly report in time for this meeting, however did prepare and present the regular monthly reports, including revenues and expenditures as well as the current balance sheet. He reported that with the new AT&T that our franchise fees can be expected to raise a bit, and he also shared that the PVA tax assessments had just been completed and a preliminary report prepared, many of the assessments were significantly higher than the prior year. This is still a preliminary report, homeowners have an opportunity to appeal the current year's assessments. In anticipation of discussion of the budget, Bob also presented a summary report of the assessments from last year and indicated what the amount collected versus budgeted has been. He was asked what percentage of the tax revenues came from commercial versus residential property taxes, and will discuss this next meeting.

Some general discussion was held regarding discounts for prepayment, and what neighboring like-size cities use to establish their budget. Revenues for the city have not kept up with budget expenditures, and the concern of holding ample reserve for future emergency and road issues was mentioned.

Porter Lady moved that the March Treasurer's Report be approved as distributed, Hans Klose seconded, motion carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Kreitman recognized and thanked Annie Duncan-Ponvert for a very successful first ever Perennial Plant Exchange in Hardesty Park. The event was well received, reached some citizens that had never before participated in a BRM event and great gardening hints and plants were exchanged.

The Red Cross Blood Drive date has been moved from April to May 21<sup>st</sup> at the request of the Red Cross. The event will take place in our meeting location at the fire department.

Carla requested an update from Mark Adams with Metro regarding the sidewalk project. Mark indicated there had been some back-ups with the vendor and then weather issues, and the project had stalled but that he hopes they will break ground in the next few weeks.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Having already discussed the assessments during the budget report, Mayor Kreitman requested the Commissioners discuss their ideas for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Art Sims indicated that his concern was that the police patrols, while valuable, have not successfully addressed the concern of speed. He would like to curb the cut through traffic and slow people down, and suggested and recommended that the city look again at speed bumps. He projected that several speed bumps on Blue Ridge Road and potentially one on Radford and one on Afton would assist. He did discuss this with the Fire Chief as previous concerns have been the impediment to emergency vehicles, e.g. fire and ambulance, and felt that those concerns could be mitigated. He will explore the costs of installation of some bumps and striping to include in the next fiscal budget.

Porter Lady reported that current park expenditures have included procuring electricity for the park for future events and now that the work has been inspected, that Arrow is completing the work to fill the trenches etc. He indicated that a light up event for the Park during the holidays will be a new expense for the budget, and also the procurement of the easement to bring water to the park will incur some expenses, hopefully sooner than later. Stan reported that he has prepared the amended deed for HUD to include the easement but we are still waiting their bureaucracy to respond so we can move forward. He is also purchasing the gate for the park entrance.

There were no other items mentioned specific to budget requests. Carla indicated that she and Bob would prepare a draft budget for distribution at the next meeting and further discussion, as soon as the revenue amounts could be guesstimated.

#### Commissioner's Reports

Porter Lady shared the expenses of mowing and front entrance upkeep, and need for mulch in the playground area of the park. A great deal of work has taken place in the park and its beginning to look summer ready.

Kevin Adams raised a concern regarding the dumpsters behind St. Vincent in the shopping area and that there were frequent "dumpster divers" who picked the garbage but in the process created a large unsightly mess for the community. City Attorney Stan Chauvin will draft a letter requesting that the owners of the center address this matter.

There being no further business, Mayor Kreitman moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: