

**COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA  
July 20, 2015  
8:00 PM  
BLUFFTON TOWN HALL**

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MINUTES July 6, 2015

BILLS

ORDINANCE NO. 06-15                      **3<sup>rd</sup> READING**

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AN ALLEY AS REQUESTED BY STEVE AND ALLISON MITTENDORF AND ANDY AND DANIELLE ALTHAUS.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

SAFETY

COMMITTEE REPORTS/ MEETING SCHEDULING

SHANNON CEMETERY DISCUSSION – DARYL HUBER

MEETING DATES

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July 6, 2015	Council	8:00 PM
August 3, 2014	Council	8:00 PM
August 4, 2015	National Night Out	6:00-9:00 PM

Mayor Augsburg presiding. Messrs: Burrell, Johnson, Sehlhorst, Steiner, Talavinia, and Warren present.

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mr. Talavinia to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on June 51, 2015. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Warren, Talavinia, Burrell, Johnson, Sehlhorst, and Steiner. No (0), motion approved.

Mr. Sehlhorst moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the bills as presented. Total non-payroll of \$474,077.63 and payroll of \$48,035.11. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Sehlhorst, Johnson, Burrell, Steiner, Talavinia, and Warren. No (0), motion approved.

Mr. Sehlhorst moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 06-15: AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AN ALLEY AS REQUESTED BY STEVE AND ALLISON MITTENDORF AND ANDY AND DANIELLE ALTHAUS. Roll Call: Yes (5) Messrs: Sehlhorst, Steiner, Talavinia, Burrell and Johnson. No (1) Mr. Warren, motion approved.

The Fiscal Officer announced the following meeting:

July 9, 2015	Finance and Utilities Committees	7:00 PM
July 20, 2015	Council	8:00 PM

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mr. Burrell to approve an additional \$46,900 contract to Beaverdam Contracting Inc. for sewer work on Garmatter Street. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Warren, Burrell, Johnson, Sehlhorst, Steiner and Talavinia. No (0), motion approved.

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Warren to approve Josh Garmatter as a six (6) month probationary EMT. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Steiner, Warren, Burrell, Johnson, Sehlhorst and Talavinia. No (0), motion approved.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Talavinia to adjourn from regular session into the public budget hearing. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Johnson, Talavinia, Burrell, Sehlhorst, Steiner, and Warren. No (0), motion approved.

Mr. Burrell moved, seconded by Mr. Warren to end the public hearing and return to regular session. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Burrell, Warren, Johnson, Sehlhorst, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), motion approved.

Mr. Sehlhorst moved, seconded by Mr. Burrell to approve the 2016 budget as presented. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Sehlhorst, Burrell, Johnson, Steiner, Talavinia and Warren. No (0), motion approved.

Mr. Burrell moved, seconded by Mr. Warren to approve the Mayor's appointments to the Board of Zoning and Building Appeals. The following were appointed: Don Burris (3 year term), Nate Bogart (2 year term), and Deb Weihrauch (2 year term). Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Burrell, Warren, Johnson, Sehlhorst, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), motion approved.

At this time, public input was received in regards to the Shannon Cemetery project. Mr. Ray Mumma spoke about potentially having a ground penetrating radar sample scan performed at the Shannon Cemetery, at no cost to the Village.

Paula Scott, Bluffton resident, spoke about the intersection of College Ave and Main Street and concerns she has with pedestrians crossing there. Numerous other residents spoke of the same concern. Village Administration and the Police Department will be looking into possible solutions.

Mr. Sehlhorst moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson to authorize the Village Solicitor to prepare a contract to allow Ground Penetrating Radar, Inc. to perform a sample scan at the Shannon Cemetery at no cost to the Village. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Sehlhorst, Johnson, Steiner, Talavinia, Warren and Burrell. No (0), motion approved.

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Warren to approve free admission to the swimming pool on August 4 for National Night Out. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Steiner, Warren, Burrell, Johnson, Sehlhorst and Talavinia. No (0), motion approved.

Mr. Burrell moved to adjourn.

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MAYOR

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FISCAL OFFICER

July 6, 2015

## Streets and Alleys Committee Report

Start: 7 PM

Topic 1:

Wenger/Marcum Alley (511 & 517 S. Main St.)

- Recommended Mr. Marcum to go ahead with alley survey.
- Once survey received, a Public Hearing will be scheduled

Topic 2:

Continuing to work on Official Policy & Procedure for Vacating Streets and Alleys

- Updated language from last meeting
  - o PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING THE VACATION OF A PUBLIC ALLEY,
  - o ALLEY VACATION CHECKLIST
  - o PETITION FOR ALLEY CLOSURE/VACATION
- Began talk concerning
  - o GUIDELINES FOR SALE OF REAL PROPERTY OF STREETS AND ALLEYS
  - o CONSENT TO ACQUIRE LAND OR WAIVER OF RIGHTS TO ACQUIRE LAND
    - Solicitor advised to make corrections and/or additions to reflect conversation during the meeting and come up with language that is most reflective for the Village.

Topic 3:

Intersection Cherry & Main St.

- Goal of the Committee is to make necessary safety improvements at this intersection.
  - o Continue to work with ODOT
  - o Contact Superintendent and communicate what the Village has been addressing at this intersection.
- ODOT report of recommendations
  - o No study needed to act ASAP
    - Stipulation only to follow ODOT Guidelines
    - Administrator to explore best and most cost effective options to address safety concerns.
      - Hope is to see Thermoplastic Paint at crosswalk
      - Pedestrian Crossing is State Law signage

Notes from Paula Scott, Resident Bluffton, OH

Cars vs. kids  
by pyzikscott

"Ladies and Gentlemen! In the blue corner we have a real heavy weight, the average car, weighing in at 4,000 pounds. In the red corner, we have little Johnny Doe, a student at Bluffton Middle School...." Who do you think is going to win in the battle of cars vs. kids? On July 6, I gathered with adults and children who want safer conditions for pedestrians at the corner of College and Main in Bluffton, Ohio. We addressed the village council, expressing our fears, asking questions, and urging the village to side with the kids.

I went in feeling pretty clear about why drivers need to yield to pedestrians: because it's the law! Because I'm tired of being ignored by drivers and feeling threatened when crossing the street. To my surprise, I came away with a new view of this situation.

Public comments included:

Children and adults are anxious and unhappy about conditions at College and Main Street.

These residents understand that they could be hurt or killed by a car.

Many drivers are not alert to pedestrians.

Few drivers recognize the pedestrian's right to cross the road when there is vehicle traffic.

Children are often dependent on adults to help them cross at College and Main.

This crosswalk is at a critical location for children. It is

Adjacent to the high school on the west

Adjacent to the public library on the east

The most direct route for individuals and classes going to the tennis courts, football field, and Ricky Matter center.

It is the first marked crosswalk on Main St. coming from the village limits to the south (.7 miles)

Even school bus drivers are not yielding to pedestrians.

Students who are anxious to make it to practice on time (at the football field) are running to beat cars.

Vehicle speeds on Main Street are too fast.

Couldn't crossing guards be used?

Enforcement of right of way and speed laws should be increased.

An environment that discourages walking is bad for our health and safety.

Residents don't understand why controls--a traffic signal and 4-way stop--were removed.

An educational campaign is needed.

Educating those who don't live in Bluffton will be more difficult.

I was excited to see children--from our elementary, middle and high school--at the meeting. Several described their close calls and frustrations. They gave me a new understanding of how inadequate our signs and flashers are and how poor driver behavior affects children the most.

The independence of these kids is really being limited. While we have managed to avoid pedestrian injuries and fatalities so far, our worries have us handcuffed. Do you remember the first time your parents let you walk to school by yourself or bike to the store? The ability to walk and bike around town should be one of the bonuses of living in Bluffton. We really owe it to our children to make conditions safer and to find ways to improve driver behavior.

This meeting should be the start of making improvements to the intersection of College and Main. Since my first contacts with village representatives in May, they have contacted the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and are considering low cost options within the village's control.

Village council and staff comments included:

Recent recommendations from ODOT--such as additional signage and striping--are being considered.

ODOT will be doing another traffic survey in the near future.

State codes do not allow a control signal at this location because of low traffic volume. Cost is not the reason the light was removed in 2007. (It is my understanding that crash reduction is the primary goal in removing "unwarranted" signals.)

Repainting of the crosswalk is currently done every 6 years.

Citations (of unspecified type) are being issued to drivers.

Water bills can be used to communicate with residents.

If new signage and striping do not provide adequate results, other options will be investigated.

How do we know what will be done and when? Mayor Judy Augsburg urged us to return to future meetings. The council meets at 8 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month. The agenda is announced on the Friday before and items can be submitted until 5 p.m. on Thursday.

To change the balance in battle of cars vs. kids, we need your help. You can make a difference by 1) stopping to allow pedestrians to cross the street, 2) urging others to follow state law, and 3) letting the village and Bluffton schools know that it's time to take action.

Who wins in the battle of cars vs. kids depends on all of us.

school zone

pyzikscott | July 8, 2015 at 9:13 am | Categories: Uncategorized | URL: <http://wp.me/pNSvR-fq>

Adjourned: 7:45 PM

July 6, 2015

Recreation Committee

Start: 7:45 PM

Topic: Pool Resurfacing

- Hard to believe that the pool is already 21 years old
- Due for some serious maintenance work, specifically Pool Resurfacing

As soon as 2015 Pool Season concludes:

- Village will gather bids for Pool resurfacing
  - o Concrete repairs, striping, rehab on the bottom of the pool, and installation of a proper coating system.
- Work to resurface the Pool is expected for repair by Fall of 2015
  
- Pool Deck
  - o Continue to maintain and improve slippery surfaces
  - o Work will either be done in the Fall or before the 2016 Pool Season begins

Heating of the Pool

- Group interested in organizing and gathering information on what it would take to heat the pool
  - o Pool used to be heated years ago

Adjourned: 7:50 PM





## **The Shannon Theatre and The Heart of Rock Foundation Offer A Day Out for Special Needs on July 18<sup>th</sup>**

The Shannon Theatre and The Heart of Rock Foundation present A Day Out At The Movies for Special Needs on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> in Downtown Bluffton.

The day will begin with a special “sensory-friendly” screening of the new Universal Studios release, *Minions* to benefit Bittersweet, Inc. Families with loved ones or children with Special Needs or Disabilities can register online for free admission at: <http://heartofrock.org/DayOut> The general public is also invited to enjoy this screening, available on a first come basis, for \$3 admission per person.

Doors open at 9 AM for the screening that begins at 10 AM. The “sensory-friendly” screening will include the house lights raised and the sound lowered to offer a lower stimuli environment for individuals that are sensitive to dark rooms and loud noises.

The day will continue after the movie screening with a Free Concert featuring Musical Guests Jesse Henry, of The Spikedrivers and Bradley Wright, of LiftMaster Garage Band Contest Winner Nashville Crush - who are both Bluffton-natives. Several organizations from the Special Needs Community will also be on hand to distribute information.

All proceeds will go directly to Bittersweet, Inc. – an organization that serves people with Autism. The Shannon Theatre is located at 119 South Main Street in Bluffton.

### **Further Information:**

The Heart of Rock Foundation is a Non-Profit Organization whose mission is to support organizations in the Special Needs Community with their programming and events by connecting them with resources and volunteers. The organization was founded by Bluffton-Native, Shane Geisheimer, and was born out of an effort to create an event for the Special Needs Community that has become to be known as The Heart of Rock and Roll Prom. More information on The Heart of Rock Foundation and The Heart of Rock and Roll Prom can be found online at: <http://www.rockandrollprom.com>

Bittersweet, Inc. is a Non-Profit Organization whose mission is to positively impact the lives of individuals with autism and those whose lives they touch. The organization provides programs and activities that are designed to meet the wide range and abilities of persons from the entire spectrum of Autism Disorders. These activities include agriculture, horticulture, fencing & landscaping, construction, repair & maintenance, produce collection & marketing, animal feeding & care and craft-making & woodworking. Bittersweet Farms was the first farm model for adults with Autism in the United States. Bittersweet has locations in Whitehouse and Pemberville and operates Betty’s Farm in Lima. Bittersweet can be found online at: <http://www.bittersweetfarms.org>

The Shannon Theatre, located in Bluffton, is your best value in Family Entertainment by offering 2D and 3D Shows and both Saturday and Sunday matinees.

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