

Present: President George, President Pro Tem Drummond, Members: Abboud, Hrydziuszko, Kecskemeti, Mercer and O’Gorman

Absent:

Also Present: Village Manager, Rothe
Village Attorney, Ryan
Village Attorney, Kolb
Village Clerk, Brown
Building Official, Townsend
Public Safety Director, Arnold

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President George called the regular Village Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025. Brown called the roll. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Kecskemeti, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed (7-0)

SWEARING IN OF NEW PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

Arnold introduced two new Public Safety Officers, Amanda McNeill and Jordon Franklin. Brown administered the oath of office to new PSOs McNeill and Franklin. Council welcomed the officers and expressed appreciation for improved recruiting efforts.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Tobaben, Orchard Way Court, raised concerns about a police report that wrongly accused his wife, Barbara Tobaben, of suspicious behavior, who Public Safety later determined was not involved. He criticized inaccuracies in the report, questioned how the complaint was handled, and requested an investigation to clear his wife’s name.

Karen Gilbert, Amherst, criticized Hrydziuszko for initiating a false police report against Tobaben. Gilbert spoke in defense of the Tobabens’ character, outlining their long-term residency, community involvement, and volunteer work in Beverly Park. She said the accusation was inconsistent with their behavior and asked Council to condemn the incident and issue an apology to the family.

Pam Rijnovean, Evergreen, stated that she was the individual involved in the sidewalk incident. She stated she was taking photos related to property tax concerns when she was confronted and verbally berated. Rijnovean reported the incident to police and was told it did not warrant further action.

Mark Melendy, Kinross, raised concerns about icy, uncleared sidewalks despite recent pedestrian improvements. He asked whether the Village enforces sidewalk clearing rules and suggested assistance for residents who are unable to clear their walks.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Kecskemeti, be it resolved, that the Council for the Village of Beverly Hills approves the consent agenda.

1. Approve December 2nd, 2025 Council Minutes
2. Review and File Bills recapped as of December 15th, 2025
3. Adopt 2026 Building Department Fee Schedule
4. Approve Fire Bay Vehicle Exhaust System Upgrade

Roll Call:

Motion passed (7-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Rothe gave an overview of the proposed signage for the Public Safety Building stating that the new sign is intended to improve visibility, replace an aging structure and comply with Village sign ordinances. Council and Administration discussed illumination, logo placement, ordinance compliance and landscaping around the monument sign.

Motion by Mercer, second by Kecskemeti, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council hereby accepts the proposal from Metro Signs and Lighting in the amount of \$36,787.00. Funds are available in account #205-900-980.05

Roll Call:

Motion passed (7-0)

APPROVE POLIMORPHIC SOFTWARE PROPOSAL

Rothe gave an overview of the proposed software services offered by Polimorphic, an AI Chatbot that would be trained specifically on the information provided by the Village/website, and CRM software that would allow the Village to manage forms and service requests online. Council, Rothe and John Doyle from Polimorphic discussed monitoring performance metrics and satisfaction, funding source, deployment timeline, training and security, privacy and public sector accountability.

Motion by Abboud, second by Hrydziuszko, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council hereby approves the proposal from Polimorphic as quoted. Funds are available in the professional services accounts in the General Funds: General Administration, Building, and Parks Departments; Public Safety Fund; and Water/Sewer Fund accounts subject to review and approval of the terms of service by the Village Attorney and modification of the trial period to 60 days.

Roll Call:
Motion passed (7-0)

SCHEDULE 2026 STRATEGY SESSION MEETING

The Council agreed to hold the 2026 Strategy Session on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ATTORNEY RYAN

President George stated that after 43 years, Mr. Ryan is retiring as Village Attorney but will continue to assist with Public Safety prosecutions.

President George proclaimed the following:

Village Council Hereby Issues Proclamation Honoring Thomas J. Ryan

WHEREAS, Thomas J. Ryan began his distinguished legal career in 1973, after earning his law degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and joined the firm of Tom Dillon, the attorney who incorporated the Village of Beverly Hills and the first Village attorney; and,

WHEREAS, Attorney Ryan and Attorney Dillon practiced together for several years until Attorney Dillon's retirement in December of 1981, at which time Attorney Ryan assumed the role of Village Attorney for the Village of Beverly Hills; and,

WHEREAS, Attorney Ryan developed a highly respected municipal law practice, representing at various times Bloomfield Township, the City of Clarkston, the City of Keego Harbor, and City of Orchard Lake, in addition to his long-standing service to the Village of Beverly Hills; and,

WHEREAS, Attorney Ryan's professional achievements include serving as President of the State Bar of Michigan during the 2000-2001 term, as well as serving as a Board member and Chairman of the Oakland County Bar Association; and,

WHEREAS, Attorney Ryan has faithfully served as Village Attorney for the Village of Beverly Hills for forty-three years, and has provided continuity, institutional knowledge, and trusted legal counsel through generations of elected and appointed officials; and,

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Attorney Ryan authored more than two hundred ordinances, attended hundreds of Village Council meetings, and assisted in the drafting and interpretation of thousands of resolutions, policies, and legal actions essential to the effective governance of the Village; and,

WHEREAS, Attorney Ryan's calm demeanor, thoughtful analysis, and steadfast presence at Village Council meetings have been hallmarks of his service and have consistently contributed to respectful deliberation and sound decision-making; and,

WHEREAS, Attorney Ryan and his wife Colleen – also a respected attorney – have established a lasting professional legacy within the Oakland County legal community while raising five children and exemplifying a life of service, integrity, and commitment; and,

WHEREAS, Attorney Ryan is retiring after a remarkable career and an extraordinary tenure as Village Attorney for the Village of Beverly Hills, leaving behind a legacy of professionalism, dedication, and public service.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Council of the Village of Beverly Hills hereby expresses its deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to Thomas J. Ryan for his forty-three years of exemplary service to the Village; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Council commends Attorney Ryan for his unwavering commitment to the residents of Beverly Hills, his contributions to the stability and success of Village governance, and his lasting impact on municipal law within the State of Michigan, and extends its best wishes to Attorney Ryan and his family for a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement, marked by continued success, good health, and happiness.

Adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Beverly Hills this 16th day of December, 2025.

Abboud thanked Ryan for his guidance, thoughtful mentorship, and dedication to helping public officials serve responsibly and in the best interests of residents.

Ryan shared some historical context about the Village’s incorporation and the unusual Southfield Township boundaries. He reflected on his start in municipal work in 1978, initially covering meetings while his predecessor was on vacation, and continued attending every first and third Tuesday for 47 years. Ryan praised the dedication of past presidents, council members, staff, and residents, recalling memorable moments like resolving disputes between council members. Ryan expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the community and appreciated the honor and recognition from the Village.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Rothe went over the Manager’s report as provided in the regular Village Council meeting packet.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mercer thanked Tom Ryan for his long and dedicated service as the Village Attorney, noting his record number of meetings. Mercer also stated that from his interactions with Barb Tobaben she may be someone who may inherit the earth. Mercer gave a warm holiday greetings to all, wishing everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays.

O’Gorman thanked Tom Ryan for his guidance, knowledge, and dedication to the Village, praised his candidness, wished him well in retirement, and extended holiday greetings.

Kecskemeti reflected on the Village's accomplishments over the past year and thanked Administration and staff for their hard work. Kecskemeti highlighted bringing the DPW in-house as a major achievement despite recent challenges and expressed appreciation for Director Johnston's efforts. Additionally, Kecskemeti personally thanked Ryan for his counsel, patience, and calm demeanor, acknowledging the value of their time working together and wishing him all the best.

Hrydziuszko welcomed the new PSOs sworn in this evening and expressed excitement about finally having a full Public Safety Department. Hrydziuszko thanked Mr. Ryan for his many years of service, noting his friendly demeanor and willingness to help. Hrydziuszko wished everyone Happy Holidays and looks forward to seeing them in the new year.

Abboud emphasized the importance of Council responding to residents like the Tobabens. Abboud reflected on occasionally disagreeing with Ryan but appreciating his knowledge and guidance. Abboud wished Ryan well and wished everyone a Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

Drummond stated that he will miss the January 21st, 28th and 31st meetings due to travel and apologized for missing those commitments. Drummond thanked Ryan for his long-standing service to the Village and praised Ryan for his steady guidance across zoning, planning, and council matters and noted his consistent focus on the Village's best interests, even in difficult situations. Drummond stated that the Village owes much of its success to Ryan's dedication.

George received emails about the water rates and plans to share the date and materials from a prior discussion that included a third-party water rate study. George highlighted the arrival of a newly purchased plow truck and suggested public communication about plowing standards. George celebrated the swearing-in of the new Public Safety officers. George reflected on the year, praised the Village's accomplishments and suggested a future State of the Village update for residents. Finally, George thanked Mr. Ryan for his long service, calm guidance, and dedication to the village.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Abboud, second by Hrydziuszko, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Village President

Carissa Brown
Village Clerk