

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – PRAYER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Don Atkinson.

Council Members Present: Mayor Don Atkinson, Bob Keogh, Steve Connelly, Mindy Curry, Richard Bingham, and President of Council Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer

Council Members Absent: Louann Artiaga (excused by Mayor Atkinson)

Staff Present: Village Administrator Jordan Daugherty, Deputy Administrator Joshua Hartbarger, Solicitor Kevin Heban, Director of Public Services Steve Pilcher, Police Chief Allan Baer, Fire Chief Jason Francis, Council Clerk Nicole Hartbarger

Guests Present: Jennifer Bingham, Karen Gerhardinger

Council Prayer was given by Village Administrator Daugherty

Motion by Councilman Richard Bingham, seconded by Councilman Steve Connelly to approve the minutes of the July 18th, 2023 Council Meeting. 5 ayes

Motion by Bingham, seconded by Councilwoman Mindy Curry to approve the bills totaling \$36,135.78 dated July 27th, 2023, the Addendum bills totaling \$69,146.84 dated August 1st 2023 and the June 2023 Financial Statements. 5 ayes

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Atkinson asked if there were any people present to appear before Council. There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Atkinson asked if there were any committees to be reported on. There were none.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Atkinson began with kudos to the Administrative team including Public Works Director Pilcher, Village Administrator Daugherty, and Deputy Administrator Hartbarger for the hard work put in to the \$1.8 Million Water Tower grant that the Village was rewarded.

Mayor Atkinson took time to honor citizen Beth Hite. Beth is a long-time member of the community who was involved in a life-changing car accident in October 1995. Mayor Atkinson first invited Carol Asmus to join him at the podium; Carol was one of the paramedics on scene when Beth was involved in the accident. Beth read her victims' impact statement for those at the council meeting. Her statement was very detailed and emotional explaining what happened as the car accident happened along with the grueling months of recovery that followed. Beth's statement detailed the October evening, leaving her brother's house to return home when she was then struck by a drunk driver. All that followed included lights, sirens, paramedics, Life Flight, UTMC, broken bones, internal injuries. She stated how grateful she was and still is for all of the first responders and paramedics on scene from both Whitehouse and Monclova including the Life Squad. Beth's victim's impact statement also went on to explain how the next five months of recovery went. This included induced comas, ICU stays, worried family members. She also had a resulting traumatic brain injury that caused months of confusion; also trips back to the ICU with ongoing issues. Beth needed to have 14 surgeries in total resulting from the accident.

After Beth read her impact statement to the meeting, she went on to comment on the thankfulness she has for her family's unrelenting support, this is why she fought to live. She was lifted in prayer from coast to coast across the US. She told Council and citizens gathered that still to this day she has lasting effects of one person's horrible decision to drive drunk. The emotional recovery is just as hard as physical, she struggles mentally with not being

able to get on the ground to play with grandkids along with other things. Beth commented that she has lived the years of her life since the accident with courage and always “trying again tomorrow.” Beth stated that she did surprise doctors and prove them wrong by living life to the fullest that she can, along with playing piano and educating others.

Mayor Atkinson commented on the fact that he has heard Beth’s impact statement several times as he used to drive her to speaking engagements while working for the Lucas County Sheriff. He presented Beth with a certificate of appreciation from the Village of Whitehouse for making a difference in the Whitehouse and surrounding communities.

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mayor Atkinson asked for any items to report from Clerk Nicole Hartbarger, there were none.

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Atkinson asked for any items to report from Village Administrator Jordan Daugherty.

Administrator Daugherty mentioned that there were three items in his report for the meeting.

First, Daugherty gave a report on the Ohio BUILDS funding that the Village was granted. He mentioned that this was publicized in the Toledo Blade and there were not a lot of communities that received funding; Whitehouse worked hard to earn this funding. Daugherty reminded Council that a new water tower has been on the wish list of capital projects in the budget for five years and the Village has needed to replace for going on 20 years. Daugherty stated that the kudos go to Public Works Director Pilcher for his over 20 years of pushing, planning and strategizing to replace the current water tower. With the hard work to receive the BUILDS funding, 70% of this capital project is now covered with these funds alone. It was also mentioned that this is the largest dollar amount of funding that the Village has ever received. Daugherty is asking for support and approval from Council in order to progress with this project and begin the planning phase for location, etc.

Second, Daugherty mentioned that during the next Committee of the Whole meeting they will be doing a report and presentation on the possible plans for the Route 64 Corridor project.

Lastly, Daugherty let Council know that he was open to adding any new items to the agenda for the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. He mentioned that along with the 64 Corridor project they will be covering possible updates to the municipal code for water and the purchase of a new water telemetry system.

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE SOLICITOR

Mayor Atkinson asked Solicitor Kevin Heban for any items to be reported. There were none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Atkinson asked for Citizen Comments pertaining to Agenda items. There were none.

ORDINANCES

Mayor Atkinson asked Solicitor Kevin Heban for any ordinances to be reviewed or voted on. There were none.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Atkinson asked Heban for any resolutions to be reviewed or voted on. There were none.

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

Department Heads

Public Services Director Steve Pilcher commented that the Village should feel very blessed with the large amount of funding they were granted for the water tower project. He mentioned that the Public Works department will continue forward with previously

discussed projects as we get into the fall season. Pilcher let Council know that the last seasonal, part-time employee will be done on Friday, August 4th.

Police Chief Allan Baer began with kudos to Pilcher for the hard work on the water tower grant funding. Next, he mentioned that there is an upcoming Mad Anthony Bicyclists Rally which could bring 300-400 cyclists and attendees to Whitehouse during the event. Matthew Wagner has started as the newest officer and is filling the last open position that the police department was working to fill. Chief Baer told Council about the Law Enforcement grant writing workshop hosted by Whitehouse Police Department. There were attendees all the way from California who were impressed with the Village. There was also a safety training the Whitehouse Police Department hosted for faith based organizations. There were over 23 different faithed groups/churches that attended the safety training. Lastly, Chief Baer mentioned that they are looking into a new record management software; this is free to police organizations hosted by BCI and the Attorney General's Office.

Council Comments

Several Council members agreed with previous comments from earlier in the meeting regarding how thankful they are to Pilcher and the Administration staff for the large amount of funds that Whitehouse was granted for the water tower project. It was also mentioned how much Council appreciates the vision and drive of the staff in regards to projects for the Village. They make it easy for Council to be able to support.

There was a comment made thanking Mayor Atkinson for bringing in Beth Hite and honoring her in such a way. Her story is impactful to us all and she deserves recognition. There was also a comment made to congratulate Village Administrator Daugherty on his newest baby being born in the last few days.

Quick discussion on the Whitehouse Valley Subdivision retention pond was had. The question was if there was a meeting scheduled to keep this issue in the forefront so it does not get left behind. Solicitor Heban mentioned that he will be reaching out to groups later this week including a possible Zoom call.

It was said to remind all in attendance that the Ohio special election is coming up on August 8th and the deadline to fill out an absentee ballot is today. All are encouraged to vote. Along this line, the Whitehouse Tax Levy was brought up. Several council members mentioned this as a reminder to keep this a priority and attend special meetings as able. The “commercial” for Whitehouse was mentioned and that it is very impressive.

One council member mentioned the previous council meeting and some comments that were made, an email of apology/attrition was sent to staff members; also to remind them that Council support is there for them.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Atkinson asked if there were any Citizen comments to be heard. There were none.

Mayor Atkinson informed council and those in attendance that the Slovenian Ambassador and other Slovenian heads of state will be in Whitehouse for the Dewesoft Open House on August 22nd. He encouraged all who were invited to attend the open house if possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Keogh, seconded by Bingham to adjourn the meeting at 7:24pm. 5 ayes

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Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor