

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Council President Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer.

Council Members Present: President of Council Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer, Bob Keogh, Steve Connelly, Mindy Curry, Louann Artiaga and Richard Bingham.

Council Members Absent: None

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

Guests Present: Katelynn Fawcett, Gabriel Fawcett, Justin McCall, Barbara Knisley, Mary Beth Dematteo, Veronica Kethel, James Conklin, Debbie Conklin, Carrie Tuohy, Jennifer Bingham, Robert Casaletta, Bob Crowe, Neil Raymond, David & Sharon Prueter, Shellie McKnight, Chuck Kethel, Andrea W., Jeff Gibbs, Meredith (online).

Council Prayer was given by Pastor Justin McCall, Zion United Methodist Church

Motion by Councilman Richard Bingham, seconded by Councilman Steve Connelly to approve the minutes of the August 15th, 2023 Council Meeting. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Bingham to approve the bills totaling \$50,302.92 dated August 31st, 2023, the Addendum bills totaling \$193,996.34 dated September 5th, 2023 and the July 2023 financial statements. 6 ayes

AGENDA ITEM: CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Immediately following Roll Call Council President Conklin Kleiboemer informed all in attendance that since the last council meeting, Mayor Don Atkinson had resigned; his resignation letter was submitted on August 17th. She commented that per the Village of Whitehouse Charter, Council President takes on all duties as acting mayor.

A request, prior to this council meeting, was made to add an item to the agenda to discuss the current Council President position. A short discussion of the current Charter and how Conklin Kleiboemer came to be acting Mayor was had.

Councilwoman Artiaga made a motion, seconded by Councilman Connelly to nominate a new Council President effective tonight, September 5th.

Councilwoman Curry called for a discussion on the motion. She is asking the reasoning for request of new Council President since Conklin Kleiboemer has been in this position for going on 2 years. Councilman Bingham stated that in January 2023 only four Council members were present, it was not a full vote. Curry asked why now and not within the last eight months.

Conklin Kleiboemer commented that legal opinion was requested and received. It was commented that Council has had many meetings in full all year. Councilman Keogh commented that we do have two current Council Members running for mayor and not sure if it puts them on equal footing to have one acting as Council President. Connelly agreed stating that there is no factor other than wanting equal footing; not a performance issue. Connelly commented that he has the utmost respect for Conklin Kleiboemer and Bingham who are both running for Mayor but an Acting Mayor not in running might be best, not to disparage others.

Conklin Kleiboemer asked if we have ever asked an incumbent to step down during election period. Curry commented no that it does not make sense for those who may be on ballot. Curry also commented that the Village Charter clearly states that in this current situation the Council President should take over as Acting Mayor.

At this time, Bingham called for a vote, for a new council president.

More discussion; Conklin Kleiboemer stated that she has already registered with the Voting Board and Village to be able to be sworn in as the Acting Mayor, please be aware of this. She also commented that Council did make the decision to place the previous Mayor under investigation. Bingham again calls for vote; Solicitor Heban commented that Conklin Kleiboemer is the current Chair and can hold discussion. Last comment from Conklin Kleiboemer was that council has been told to set aside personal opinions for continuity for council and staff.

Per the previous call by Artiaga, seconded by Connelly, a vote was had to nominate a new Council President, effective tonight, September 5th. Vote by name. 4 ayes; 2 nays (Conklin Kleiboemer, Curry)

Artiaga nominated Councilman Keogh to take over as Council President. A vote was had on this nomination. Vote by name. 4 ayes; 2 nays (Conklin Kleiboemer, Curry)

Councilman Keogh to take over as Council President and Acting Mayor.

SWEARING IN OF ACTING MAYOR

Solicitor Heban swore in Council President Keogh as Acting Mayor for the remainder of the Mayoral term.

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Jeff Gibbs, Director for Run Toledo appeared before Council to discuss the upcoming Christmas 5k to be held on December 2nd, 2023. This is in conjunction with the Village of Whitehouse Holiday celebration. Gibbs is asking for this 5k event to be a repeat of last year with the same routes scheduled throughout the Village.

A motion was made by Artiaga, seconded by Bingham to approve the Christmas 5k to be held in the Village on December 2nd, 2023. 6 ayes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District Meeting – August 21st, 2023

- i. There was a small correction to the previous meetings minutes. Current revenues, expenses and bank account balances were reviewed. There is an expected tax disbursement of around \$106k coming up in October 2023.
- ii. The ongoing audit was recently closed out and completed; very successful there were no exceptions noted.
- iii. The committee discussed some equipment needs and will be reviewing the machinery budget line in detail to see where this could be bolstered and used for the current needs.
- iv. Discussed a request from a family to inter a vault box with personal items.
- v. Members entered into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.
- vi. It was noted that Whitehouse will need a new FTUCD trustee for the upcoming year; Waterville may need a new trustee as well.

B. Tree Commission Meeting – August 24th, 2023

- i. The current Village master plan was discussed and no changes are required at this time.
- ii. The Village has extended the weeks of the Farmers Market.
- iii. Since the last meeting there has been one tree removed due to storm damage.
- iv. The Village is prepping to plant 50 trees as part of the master plan.

- v. A tree commission members spouse unexpectedly passed away and the group plans to plant a tree in his honor at no expense to the Village.
- vi. The next meeting overlaps with the rescheduled Concert Series in September so the commission will be rescheduling their meeting.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Acting Mayor Keogh thanked the committees for their reports. He commented that he understands there is a lot of change going on currently and he appreciates all being patient with him and the changes.

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

Acting Mayor Keogh asked for any items to report from Clerk Nicole Hartbarger. There were none.

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Daugherty reviewed Resolution 13-2023. He stated that this is a grant funded project and that council was provided with a very detailed explanation in their packet for this meeting. He commented that this is an item that has already been authorized and budgeted for.

Motion by Bingham, seconded by Connelly Request Authorization for Legislation Declaring the Official Intent and Reasonable Expectation of the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio, For and On Behalf of the State of Ohio and/or the Ohio Public Works Commission; to Reimburse the Village's Street Improvement Fund for the CL21Z, 2023 Street Resurfacing and Dutch Road Improvements With the Proceeds of Tax Exempt Debt of the State of Ohio, as an emergency. 6 ayes

Daugherty reviewed Resolution 14-2023. He stated that this is a general housekeeping item that occurs three times throughout the year. He commented that this is an item that has already been reviewed and authorized.

Motion by Artiaga, seconded by Bigham to Request Authorization for Legislation Authorizing the Finance Director of the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio, to Transfer Certain Funds for Village Accounting Purposes, as an emergency. 6 ayes

The last item that Administrator Daugherty had was that he has no current items for an agenda of the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting, so at this time there will be not be a meeting held.

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE SOLICITOR

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

ORDINANCES

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

RESOLUTIONS

Acting Mayor Keogh asked Heban for any resolutions to be reviewed or voted on. Previously discussed Resolutions 13-2023 and 14-2023 to be voted on.

Motion by Bingham, seconded by Connelly to accept Resolution 13-2023: Declaring the Official Intent and Reasonable Expectation of the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio, For and On Behalf of the State of Ohio and/or the Ohio Public Works Commission; to Reimburse the Village's Street Improvement Fund for the CL21Z, 2023 Street Resurfacing and Dutch Road Improvements With the Proceeds of Tax Exempt Debt of the State of Ohio at its first reading and declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Artiaga, seconded by Bingham to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of Resolution 13-2023 by title only and declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Artiaga, seconded by Bingham to accept Resolution 13-2023 and to pass said Resolution and declaring an emergency. Third reading vote by name. 6 Ayes

Motion by Bingham, seconded by Conklin Kleiboemer to accept Resolution 14-2023: Authorizing the Finance Director of the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio, to Transfer Certain Funds for Village Accounting Purposes; Formal Verification of Said Transfer at its first reading and declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Artiaga, seconded by Bingham to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of Resolution 14-2023 by title only and declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Artiaga, seconded by Bingham to accept Resolution 14-2023 and to pass said Resolution and declaring an emergency. Third reading vote by name. 6 Ayes

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

Department Heads

Public Services Director Steve Pilcher discussed a few ongoing projects including a waterline fix on Industrial Pkwy and a waterline fix on Field Ave between Logan and Cable to start next week. Road resurfacing will begin soon, waiting on pre-construction meeting. Portions of town in the plan to be resurfaced. The team is waiting for fall to come and those winter prep projects that come along with it.

Acting Mayor Keogh mentioned to Pilcher that people have asked about the fire in fire place in Social Park. He said it has been noted that the fire is going even in hot weather. Pilcher commented that it is on a timer, set from around 8pm to 11pm for ambiance mainly.

Police Chief Baer started with congratulating Acting Mayor Keogh. Chief Baer stated that the Citizens Survey is currently open and ask that as many participate in the survey as possible. This is done every year – it helps the department see areas of doing well and areas for improvement. The survey is a requirement of Ohio Collaborative. Chief Baer said the survey can be dropped off or mailed if need be. Lastly, Chief Baer mentioned that the police vehicle that was in an accident a month ago is still being worked on – may not have striping for a while.

Fire Chief Francis let council know that the fire department is going to an online portal for inspection data – does not cost fire department anything. Will increase compliance for the department and decrease amount of time spent on premise for inspections. Chief Francis

stated that two part time fire fighters recently resigned. They had 7 years and 3 years of service; one is moving and one has taken on a full time role elsewhere. Chief Francis commented that the fire department is looking to hire volunteer fire fighter and part time fire fighter that will bolster the core team up by two.

Council Comments

Several council members commented their thanks to Chief Francis for his hosting of the first Tax Levy town hall meeting at the fire department. It was informative and well received.

Sandra Park and the planned planting of trees was brought up. Per Pilcher and the Tree Commission, the plan is to plant 50 trees here in the near future. The previous discussion of a Disc Golf course was brought up. This was previously discussed for the metroparks area but now Sandra Park has been labeled as a good option for this. It was mentioned that Disc Golf is one of the fastest growing sports in America and it would be well received and used by the local community. Others commented that they would love to support this idea and asked if the planned tree grant planting can be adjusted at all. Pilcher commented that it can be discussed and would need to get the Tree Commission on board with any new plans.

Acting Mayor Keogh commented that he truly appreciates the support with taking the new position tonight. He also stated that it is important that we all do what we can to support and share information on the Tax Levy that is coming up. The next town hall is scheduled at the Police Department on September 26th, 2023 at 6:30pm.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Acting Mayor Keogh asked if there were any Citizen comments to be heard.

Charles Kethel let council know that he is the citizen pushing for and attempting to plan the Disc Golf course at Sandra Park. He said he currently has a general course planned out that includes avoiding property lines. He commented that his mother used to be on the Tree Commission and would be happy to be a liaison with that group if necessary. Councilman Bingham asked Kethel if he'd be willing to come to the next Tree Commission meeting to discuss ideas. Councilwoman Curry thanked Kethel for keeping this idea going as it would be a great asset to the Village.

Motion by Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Curry at 7:10pm to enter into Executive Session, including Legal Counsel and Village Administrators. 6 ayes.

Motion by Keogh, seconded by Conklin Kleiboemer to reconvene council meeting at 7:52pm. 6 ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bingham, seconded by Connelly to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm. 6 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor