

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Acting Mayor Bob Keogh.

Council Members Present: Acting Mayor Bob Keogh, Steve Connelly, Mindy Curry, Louann Artiaga, and Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer

Council Members Absent: Richard Bingham – Acting Mayor Keogh asked for excused absence to be recorded.

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

Guests Present: Wendy Gehring, Tim & Carrie Tuohy, James Cairl, Larry Yunker, Dave Riggenschach, Phil Whaley, Terry Bradfield, Karen Gerhardinger, Julie Studer (online)

Council Prayer was given by Councilwoman Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer.

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve the minutes of the November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 council meeting. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve the bills totaling \$79,370.77 dated November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the Addendum bills totaling \$130,140.00 dated December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 5 ayes

**PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL**

Acting Mayor Keogh asked if there were any persons to appear before council. Phil Whaley took this time to introduce Terry Bradfield to the group in attendance. Whaley let everyone know that Bradfield will be taking over his duties as he gets closer to retirement.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Acting Mayor Keogh asked if there were any committee reports to share.

Report on the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District

- i. Revenue reported: \$5,404.47
- ii. Expenses reported: \$18,740.19
- iii. Balance reported: \$202,113.05
- iv. Expenses were approved with a vote of 3-0; Rod Frey commented that there is still a decent balance even after the large, recent tractor purchase.
- v. Sexton, Rory Hartbarger, reported 50 year to date interments – surpassing 2022 – with 50% of these being cremation.
- vi. Hartbarger offered thanks to Whitehouse and Waterville public works for their help in moving some cement in the cemeteries. He also commented that there has been some tree stump removal work and leaf collection is ongoing.
- vii. Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer shared that the next FTUCD meeting is the Special Joint meeting scheduled for Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> in City of Waterville chambers.

**REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

Acting Mayor Keogh started by thanking all involved in the Christmas celebration this past Saturday. He was impressed with the way the Chamber of Commerce and Village Staff were able to work together to pull off a wonderful event. He stated that it was great to see so many people gathered together downtown.

Acting Mayor Keogh next stated that nominations for the Tax Review Board need to happen at this meeting. He reminded all that it is the Mayor’s responsibility to help set/appoint this

board along with the fact that these need to be non-council and non-employee people. The board is being created to help in the review of any objections to tax filings that come up.

Acting Mayor Keogh appointed Phil Whaley to the Tax Review Board.

Councilwoman Artiaga next nominated Amy Schultz. There was a motion made by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer to appoint Amy Schultz to the Tax Review Board, second by Councilwoman Artiaga. 5 ayes

Councilman Connelly nominated Nick Fall. There was a motion made by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer to appoint Nick Fall to the Tax Review Board, second by Councilman Connelly. 5 ayes

#### **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 Administrator Jordan Daugherty.

Administrator Daugherty started with reminding council that there will be an overhaul of council chambers prior to the January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 meeting. There will be new chairs, comfy and inexpensive. There will be an orientation change to the room, council will be along the wall where they previously were in prior years. He said there will be a change to digital packets and all council members will be assigned Village computers for ease of access to email and online packet distribution. He said these will be some minor operational changes that will hopefully have a great benefit to Mayor and council.

Daugherty reminded all that the organizational change will be talked about during the budget review session in the Committee of the Whole meeting. He stated that the team has just finished the last of the first round of promotional interviews and they are now deliberating these decisions. In the end, these changes will make Whitehouse more efficient and cost effective.

Administrator Daugherty finished up by saying that if all budget reviews are completed in the Committee of the Whole meeting immediately following this Council Meeting there will be no need for Committee of the Whole meeting next Tuesday evening.

#### **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. Previously discussed Ordinance 6-2023 is on the agenda to be voted on.

Solicitor Heban reminded council that this Ordinance is back on the agenda as of today's date from a previous tabling.

Councilwoman Curry stated that she would like to propose tabling this Ordinance to sometime in 2024 after the new council members and mayor have been seated. She stated that this will be three readings spread over three meetings and it should be all same council

not spread over two different sets of council members. Solicitor Heban confirmed that the Ordinance is allowed to be tabled indefinitely. Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer stated that it would be good to table to February 2024 in order for the topic to come back on the

agenda for the new council to review. Solicitor Heban confirmed that there is no limit for the number of times an Ordinance is tabled.

Motion by Councilwoman Curry to table Ordinance 6-2023 until February 2024, second by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer. 5 ayes

### **RESOLUTIONS**

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

### **OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED**

#### **Department Heads**

Public Services Director Steve Pilcher shared that his team is finishing up leaf collection with the pick-up schedule concluding in mid-December. He stated that there will probably be one spot check done in January to pick up any stragglers. Pilcher also shared that the team is wrapping up projects including downtown streets and sidewalk portions. Pilcher let Council and those in attendance know that there was a watermain break in the Village today and the team sprang into action around 3:45pm; by 5pm the water line was back in service. Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer asked Pilcher if there is a boil advisory in effect due to the watermain break. Pilcher commented that yes there is a boil advisory for around 25-30 residents. The team went and spoke to them directly where they could and put fliers on their doors when direct contact was not able to happen. He stated that the team will go back around door to door talking directly to residents or leaving fliers on doors when the boil advisory is lifted.

Fire Chief Jason Francis informed Council that the Fire Department is helping out Lucas County EMA with their hazard mitigation plans. The process reviews natural disasters that have happened in the area and updates plans accordingly. Chief Francis stated that there will be more information coming along with a QR code that will be shared around the community for input on a survey.

#### **Council Comments**

Councilwoman Curry asked Chief Francis what date the current Toys for Tots toy drive goes through. Chief Francis confirmed that it is December 15<sup>th</sup>. He confirmed that the Police Department is currently winning. Curry shared that she loves the friendly competition that happens between the departments for such a great cause.

Councilwoman Artiaga asked Solicitor Heban about the recent marijuana issue that was passed at the state level. She commented that she believed the Village had previously passed a moratorium on the sales of medical marijuana. Heban commented that there are two aspects to consider. There is the criminal aspect – it is currently still criminalized in Whitehouse Village code – if this becomes general state law Whitehouse may need to rescind the criminal code. Heban stated that the second aspect deals with zoning and cultivation of marijuana. He shared that it is currently in Columbus at the state level to develop the licensing process, there will be a requirement to obtain a license for mass growth – personal growth will allow up to six plants. Heban confirmed that we still have time to make decisions, it will be December 2024 before things go into motion from the state level – Council will need to decide on the second aspect of zoning prior to that.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Acting Mayor Keogh asked if there were any Citizen comments to be heard. There were none from citizens.

Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer shared that the buffet food that has been brought into chambers for tonight's meetings are for all to enjoy, citizens in attendance included.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilwoman Curry to adjourn the meeting at 6:52pm. 5 ayes

Regular

December 5,

23

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Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

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Mayor