

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Rich Bingham.

Council Members Present: Mayor Rich Bingham, Louanne Artiaga, Steve Connelly, Dave Riggensch, Carrie Tuohy, and Larry Yunker

Council Members Absent: None

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.

Guests Present: Rob Casaletta, David Prueter, Tim Tuohy, Jennifer Bingham, Mona Snyder, Karen Gerhardinger, Joe & Vicky Rose, Johnathan Yunker, James Cairl, Wendy Gehring, Andrea Riggensch, Isabel Riggensch, Ellie Riggensch and William Riggensch

Council Prayer was given by Jordan Daugherty.

Mayor Rich Bingham appointed Joshua Hartbarger to acting clerk of Council for the January 16th 2024 meeting. Motion made by Councilwoman Artiaga and second by Councilman Connelly. Motion passed 5 ayes.

Judge Hazard Swore in Rich Bingham as Mayor of Whitehouse. Judge Hazard also swore in Dave Riggensch, Carrie Tuohy, Steve Connelly, and Larry Yunker to their perspective Whitehouse Village Council Seats.

Mayor Bingham stated the first order of business was our annual organizational business as per the Whitehouse Charter. Councilman Connelly nominated Councilwoman Artiaga for Council President. Nomination passed with 5 ayes.

Mayor Bingham asked if the current meeting time of 6:30pm was acceptable. All agreed.

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Riggensch to approve the minutes of the December 19th, 2023 Council meeting. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Riggensch to approve the Addendum bills totaling \$54,647.09 dated January 2, 2024. 5 ayes

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Bingham asked if there were any persons to appear before council. There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Bingham asked if there were any committee reports to share.

Report on the December 18th, 2023 Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District

- i. Revenue \$5,003.50
- ii. Expenses \$11,918.10
- iii. Balance \$195,098.45 (compared to \$168k 2022 ending balance)
- iv. Conversations were had thanking staff for keeping the expenses down, goal was to keep the balance healthy and over \$100k which has been accomplished.
- v. Sexton reported on the new tractor working out great, lawn cutting is down for the year. He thanked Waterville Twp's Kim Anderson for help in obtaining a grant for some funding toward digitizing cemetery records. He also thanked Triotech for their support so far in this technical update.
- vi. Motion was brought and passed to give Rory Hartbarger, Troy, and Tiffany Bachman \$500 merit service bonus.
- vii. Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer and Councilman Frey were presented with thank you certificates and plaques for their time and effort within the FTUCD.
- viii. Next scheduled meeting is January 22nd, 2024.
- ix. Adjourn time at 6:21pm

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Bingham appointed Rob Casalleta to Charter Review Commission. Motion made by Councilman Riggenbach and seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve the appointment. Motion passed 5 ayes.

Mayor Bingham appointed Councilman Yunker to Charter Review Commission. Motion made by Councilman Connelly and seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve the appointment. Motion passed 5 ayes.

Mayor Bingham appointed Councilman Connelly to Tree Commission. Motion made by Councilwoman Artiaga and seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the appointment. Motion passed 5 ayes.

Mayor Bingham appointed Amy Shultz to Records Commission. Motion made by Councilman Riggenbach and seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the appointment. Motion passed 5 ayes.

Mayor Bingham appointed Ed Kaplan to Fire Dependency Board. Motion made by Councilwoman Artiaga and seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve the appointment. Motion passed 5 ayes.

Mayor Bingham appointed Councilman Riggenbach as a special appointment to Planning Commission. Motion made by Councilwoman Artiaga and seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the appointment. Motion passed 5 ayes.

Mayor Bingham Appointed Councilman Dave Riggenbach, Councilwoman Carrie Tuohy, and Councilman Steve Connelly to Personnel Committee. Motion made by Councilwoman Tuohy and seconded by Councilman Yunker to approve the appointment. Motion passed 5 ayes.

Mayor Bingham appointed Councilwoman Tuohy to the Spencer Township JEDZ, Waterville Township JEDD, and Monclova Township JEDD Committees. Motion made by Councilman Connelly and seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve the appointment. Motion passed 5 ayes.

Mayor Bingham further discussed a call to the Charter committee to meet as soon as possible. He also stated that he has asked Solicitor Heban to ensure we are compliant with all Federal, State, and local Laws. He would like the changes to be present on the November 2024 ballot.

Mayor Bingham also outlined his approach to our financial situation. He would like an economic development grant for local business growth. Also, a search for business to relocate to Whitehouse. We have the partners to support this. He would also like to see community outreach to understand why people would or wouldn't support a ballot issue. He asked council to help go door to door to seek the information and educate our public. Finally, he would like to engage our youth in the form of Mayor or Council for a day.

Mayor Bingham gave a report on Ardaugh. We have reached out to all Federal, State, and local partners to assist with keeping Ardaugh in Whitehouse. Unfortunately, this was not successful, and the final day will be January 31st. He informed that we would work with the Chamber of Commerce to help find opportunities for those affected by the closure. He let council and Whitehouse know, we will find someone to fill this void.

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mayor Bingham asked for any items to report from Clerk Joshua Hartbarger. There were none.

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Administrator Daugherty informed Mayor and Council:

- The Promotional ceremony will be January 16th at 5:30pm for those recently promoted.
- Please send Bio's and contact information to us for website updates.
- Revenue and Chickens will be on the slate for Februarys committee discussions.

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE SOLICITOR

Mayor Bingham asked Solicitor Kevin Heban for any items to be reported.

Solicitor Heban indicated that the ordinance for the chickens will appear on the agendas as it was tabled indefinitely. This is the same for the refuse ordinance. He also congratulated all elected officials on their positions.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

Department Heads

Chief Francis congratulated all. Annual report is coming.

Chief Baer congratulated Council. He updated an issue with some car break ins. They have a suspect and property was collected. Annual report coming.

Director Pilcher Congratulated all. Leaf pickup is ongoing and tree pickup will be Monday with trash.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Artiaga asked on reports from PD. Chief Baer stated they will be coming. They just switched to a new record management system. She also congratulated Mayor Bingham and fellow Council elect.

Councilman Riggerbach expressed that he is looking forward to working with everyone and congratulated all elected.

Councilwoman Tuohy is looking forward to working will all and congratulations to those elected.

Councilman Connelly asked about the bulk drop-off date. Director Pilcher answered. Councilman Connelly also congratulated all.

Councilman Yunker echoed the congratulations and thanked the public for the opportunity to serve.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Yunker, seconded by Councilman Connelly to adjourn the meeting at 7:29pm. 5 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor