

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, Richard Bingham, and Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer

Council Members Absent: Louann Artiaga – 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, Fire Chief Jason Francis, Council Clerk Nicole Hartbarger

Guests Present: Wendy Gehring, Tim & Carrie Tuohy, Mark & Karey Easterwood, Dan Kleiboemer, Larry Yunker, Dave Riggengbach, David Prueter, Rob Casaletta, Reeve Hardern

Council Prayer was given by Pastor Shawn Bellner of Cedar Creek Church.

Motion by Councilman Bingham, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve the minutes of the December 5th, 2023 council meeting. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilwoman Curry to approve the bills totaling \$549,925.04 dated December 14th, 2023, the Addendum bills totaling \$70,460.40 dated December 19th, 2023 and the November 2023 Financial Statements. 5 ayes

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Report on the December 5th, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting

- i. Two budgetary topics were covered during this meeting, all topics were covered and the Committee did not require a second meeting to finish the topics.
- ii. First topic reviewed and discussed was the Employee Payscale as part of the proposed 2024 budgets.
- iii. Second topic reviewed and discussed was all line item budgets and amounts for all departments within the Village.

Report on the December 11th, 2023 Joint Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District

- i. Time was spent congratulating and thanking Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer along with Waterville Councilman Rod Frey for all of their hard work getting FTUCD up and running and to the point it is at now. These two FTUCD members are finishing up their terms as of 12/31/2023.
- ii. Whitehouse nominated Councilwoman Louann Artiaga to take over as the Whitehouse representative for FTUCD. This nomination was passed unanimously.

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

At this time Acting Mayor Keogh again thanked Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer for all of her hard work and dedication to the FTUCD.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Acting Mayor Keogh started by sharing that he attended the December 7th Tree Commission graduates ceremony. Asked Public Works Director Pilcher to give our thanks to those Whitehouse employees who attended to learn more for our community.

Acting Mayor Keogh also shared that he was part of the team of judges for the recent Holiday Decorating Contest, several awards were given out to residents and businesses.

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 explained to Council that at this time there is a need to request authorization for several topics, three of which were discussed and reviewed during the December 5th Committee of the Whole meeting.

- A. Request Authorization for Legislation for the 2023 Annual Amended Appropriations (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilwoman Curry to request authorization for legislation to accept the proposed 2023 Annual Amended Appropriations, as an emergency. 5 ayes

- B. Request Authorization for Legislation for the 2024 Pay Scale Ordinance (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilwoman Curry to request authorization for legislation to accept the proposed 2024 Pay Scale Ordinance, as an emergency. 5 ayes

- C. Request Authorization for Legislation for the 2024 Annual Appropriations (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilman Bingham to request authorization for legislation to accept the proposed 2024 Annual Appropriations, as an emergency. 5 ayes

- D. Request Authorization for Legislation Prohibiting the Cultivation of Marijuana; Processing of Marijuana; Marijuana Wholesalers; Marijuana Retailers and Retail Marijuana Dispensaries in the Village of Whitehouse (as an emergency)

Before a motion was made, there was some discussion and questions:

Councilwoman Curry asked Solicitor Heban why this is being requested as an emergency and not the standard three voting periods. Solicitor Heban shared that this state law became effective recently on December 7th, it is changing daily in Columbus at the state level. He stated that passing as an emergency helps stop changes from slipping through at the Village level during the stretched out voting time.

Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer asked if this decision at the Village level would stand no matter what is decided at the state level. Solicitor Heban shared that he is still unsure at this time, most municipalities are doing this stop gap, safe guard measure to get control of the situation as it is now.

Councilman Keogh asked can we change. Solicitor Heban commented, yes we can always go back if needed; could do some zoning regulations, etc. in addition. He also stated that from a police perspective, the state attorney general advised just today that ‘this may change tomorrow’.

Councilwoman Curry asked for confirmation that this motion is just for retailers. Solicitor Heban shared that it includes cultivation/growers, but does not affect personal growth on own property; that decision may take a year for recreational. He said we have already prohibited a medical marijuana growth (large scale).

Motion by Councilman Bingham, seconded by Councilman Connelly to request authorization for legislation for Prohibiting the Cultivation of Marijuana; Processing of Marijuana; Marijuana Wholesalers; Marijuana Retailers and Retail Marijuana Dispensaries in the Village of Whitehouse, as an emergency. 5 ayes

E. Request Authorization for Legislation to Transfer Certain Funds for Accounting Purposes (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilwoman Curry, seconded by Councilman Connelly to request authorization for legislation to Transfer Certain Funds for Accounting Purposes, as an emergency. 5 ayes

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.

Mark Easterwood - 6163 Forest Edge: Mr. Easterwood shared that he came to the meeting tonight to share his thoughts and experience with medicinal marijuana. He stated that the cultivation of marijuana near and dear to him in recent years. He has lived with severe Crohn’s Disease for 25 years, and now includes severe arthritis throughout his body. Easterwood shared some of his history: 2012 back surgery was required, some complications; 2019 knee surgery with complications, 7+ surgeries after; PET scan for cancer check; over 48 meds a day – does not like taking opioids as they change his personality. He has chosen to use medical marijuana and it has given him a new hope on life and improved symptoms. He shared that the medical marijuana is about quality of life; he is asking Council to please remember those who are benefitting from the medical marijuana.

Councilman Keogh shared that we are glad Mr. Easterwood is still with us, and a thank you for sharing his story and educating Council. Easterwood commented that they have had to

do a lot of research and get questions answered and he would be willing to help continue to educate Council and those who need it.

Councilwoman Curry commented that the Village legislation cannot touch personal resident’s growth and use.

ORDINANCES

Acting Mayor Keogh asked Solicitor Kevin Heban for any ordinances to be reviewed or voted on. Previously discussed Ordinances are on the agenda to be voted on.

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilman Bingham to approve **Ordinance 19-2023: Annual 2023 Amended Appropriations Ordinance**, as an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilwoman Curry to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Ordinance 19-2023** by title only and declaring an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilwoman Curry to accept **Ordinance 19-2023** and to pass said Ordinance and declaring an emergency. Third reading vote by name. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Bingham, seconded by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer to approve **Ordinance 20-2023: An Ordinance Establishing Pay Classifications, and Benefit Steps for Employees of the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio; Repealing Ordinance 8-2023**, as an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilwoman Curry to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Ordinance 20-2023** by title only and declaring an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilman Bingham to accept **Ordinance 20-2023** and to pass said Ordinance and declaring an emergency. Third reading vote by name. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Curry, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve **Ordinance 21-2023: Annual 2024 Appropriations Ordinance**, as an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilman Bingham to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Ordinance 21-2023** by title only and declaring an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilman Bingham to accept **Ordinance 21-2023** and to pass said Ordinance and declaring an emergency. Third reading vote by name. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Curry, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve **Ordinance 22-2023: Prohibiting the Cultivation of Marijuana; Processing of Marijuana; Marijuana Wholesalers; Marijuana Retailers and Retail Marijuana Dispensaries in the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio**, as an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Curry, seconded by Councilman Bingham to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Ordinance 22-2023** by title only and declaring an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Curry, seconded by Councilman Bingham to accept **Ordinance 22-2023** and to pass said Ordinance and declaring an emergency. Third reading vote by name. 5 Ayes

RESOLUTIONS

Acting Mayor Keogh asked Heban for any resolutions to be reviewed or voted on. Previously discussed Resolution 19-2023 to be voted on.

Motion by Councilman Bingham, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve **Resolution 19-2023: Authorizing the Finance Director of the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County,**

Ohio, To Transfer Certain Funds for Village Accounting Purposes, as an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Resolution 19-2023** by title only and declaring an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, seconded by Councilman Bingham to accept **Resolution 19-2023** and to pass said Ordinance and declaring an emergency. Third reading vote by name. 5 Ayes

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

Department Heads

Public Services Director Steve Pilcher shared his congrats to the Police and Fire Departments for their very successful toy drive, he stated that the real winners are the kids who benefit from this challenge. He went on to comment that the Public Services department is finishing up year end projects, waterlines are completed. He stated they are mostly done collecting leaves but will complete a few more routes to pick up any last piles that were put out. Next they will be working on planting winter trees. He wished all in attendance a Merry Christmas.

Police Chief Allan Baer shared his congrats to the Fire Department for winning the Toy Drive challenge; almost 3,000 toys brought in by both departments together. He stated that the police department is wrapping up some year end things, their annual report should be ready for the second meeting in February.

Council Comments

Councilman Connelly shared his thanks to Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, Acting Mayor Keogh, and Councilwoman Curry for their friendship, advice, and guidance.

Councilwoman Curry shared that it has been her pleasure to be an elected official since November 2015, and ending her 8th year of service. She stated that she has had a lot of eye-opening experiences, learning government and procedures, etc. She shared that she is glad the statue is still in Whitehouse Park, only historical piece, will now never be removed from its location, and they all had a hand in that. Curry commented that it was great being able to get the park updated, able to make several things in the Village ADA compliant, including the swing in the park. She finished with a comment that it was great serving with all employees of the village, and she will miss them dearly.

Councilwoman Curry took a moment to present to Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer a certificate of perfect attendance for all 8 years of her Council service – Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer has never missed a meeting. Councilwoman Curry commented that this is a huge accomplishment. Curry lastly wished Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

At this time Councilman Bingham made a motion to utilize same procedure for open council seat, put out notification immediately with a submission deadline on January 4th, make decision by the following council meeting, seconded by Councilman Keogh. 5 ayes

Councilman Bingham asked Councilman Keogh, Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, Councilwoman Curry to come to the podium. Councilman Bingham shared that it has been an honor to serve with these three over the last 6 years – they are passionate in their beliefs and mostly about Whitehouse – they have changed Whitehouse for the better. Some of these changes over the years included: Veterans Memorial, turn signal at Finzel and Weckerly, the FTUCD, Fire Co-Op, downtown streetscaping, exercise equipment, new playground equipment, school support, local library support, Whitehouse Social park, shelter house updates, DeweSoft expansion, new distillery coming to create more jobs.

Councilman Bingham shared comments directly to Councilman Keogh; he remembers six and a half years ago running for council for first time, there was a heated meeting talking about privatizing trash collection, Councilman Keogh stopped Bingham to ask ‘are you sure you want to get involved’ giving a warning/question. Bingham says this stuck with him for last six years, Keogh was always willing to approach and talk about the process from the beginning.

Councilman Bingham shared comments directly to Councilwoman Curry; he stated she is the nicest person to debate with when there is difference of opinions, have disagreed but always professional, that will be missed.

Councilman Bingham shared comments directly to Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer; he said there have been some heated debates in chambers, in person, on the phone over the years but his takeaway from that is the passion in Conklin Kleiboemer’s beliefs and to want to do the right thing – Bingham shared that she has done that, the right thing, and that will be missed.

Councilman Bingham presented certificates of appreciation to Councilman Keogh, Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer, Councilwoman Curry for their dedication and years of service to the Village of Whitehouse.

Councilwoman Conklin Kleiboemer shared her thanks. She states that she offers gratitude to the residents of Whitehouse, along with fellow council members. She shared a thank you to previous council members as well. Conklin Kleiboemer shared thanks to Clerks, department heads and staff. She shared a story from years ago, during a meeting a resident yelling at Council to ‘do the right thing’. She said her thoughts were ‘I’m about to’ – Conklin Kleiboemer said when we are here, we are doing the right thing, even when those things are hard. She finished up her comments that from perspective, things have really worked out over the years.

Councilman Keogh commented that being on Council has been a challenging and rewarding experience. He said he has been a resident for over 40 years and always proud to be here. He shared his thanks to everyone.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

Acting Mayor Keogh shared a quick comment to the newly elected Council Members – a welcome and a thank you to being at the last several meetings, being involved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Keogh, seconded by Councilwoman Curry to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm. 5 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor