

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

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

Council Members Present: Dave Riggerbach, Carrie Tuohy, Steve Fine, Steve Connelly and Larry Yunker

Council Members Absent: Louann Artiaga – excused by Mayor Bingham

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

Guests Present: Rob Casaletta, Tim Tuohy, Sheri Luedtke, Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer, Stephen Bond, Jason Graven, Kevin McNutt

Council Prayer was given by Pastor Stephen Bond of Community of Christ Church

Motion by Councilman Riggerbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the minutes of the March 5th, 2024 council meeting, with suggested correction. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the bills totaling \$31,537.06 dated March 14th, 2024 and the Addendum bills totaling \$139,723.16 dated March 19th, 2024 and the January and February 2024 Financial Statements. 5 ayes

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Bingham asked if there were any persons to appear before council.

A. Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer from FCAPC to address Council
Whitehouse Resident, Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer – 10934 Lone Oak Court – addressing Council as a representative of the Family Child Abuse Prevention Center. She commented that print outs were provided to all for info on FCAPC along with their upcoming gala, etc. Conklin Kleiboemer began with an overview of FCAPC; they educate people on abuse; how to avoid and recognize it, along with prevention. She explained that FCAPC is mostly funded by grants and donations – there are some hand pay situations and some insurance does cover, but not much. Conklin Kleiboemer stated that it is the 50th anniversary this year for FCAPC and the goal is to highlight the program; the upcoming gala will include testimonials and success stories coming out of the program.

Conklin Kleiboemer explained that the Child Advocacy Center is a ‘one stop shop’ for a child who has experienced abuse – the area is very child focused i.e. colorful, lowered seating, etc. Reporting and filing of reports on child abuse is the hardest part as it can be traumatizing for a child to recount any abuse experiences. The FCAPC has a Nurse Practitioner on staff, a doctor on call, a medical exam room available – the goal is to be all in one area not having to pass the child around to different locations. This center exists to fill the gaps between law enforcement, courts, long term counseling, etc. Conklin Kleiboemer shares that the Child Abuse prevention program works hand in hand to educate students on keeping themselves safe and recognizing abuse when it happens – this program reaches almost 50k households; early intervention also exists to work with families and the younger, higher risk children. Conklin Kleiboemer shares that the FCAPC works with victims but also works with perpetrators; it is a whole household approach. This group works specifically on behaviors that are abusive – focusing on the source on where this abuse is happening. Some are court ordered, some is the person realizing they need help.

Conklin Kleiboemer comments that Whitehouse has past board members with the FCAPC along with Whitehouse clients. She explains that new this year is the long-term services program; this follows the clients through whole healing journey which can be a long time.

This is open to all regardless of ability to pay; would need medical diagnosis for insurance to be able to contribute or pay for services. Conklin Kleiboemer explains that this is a service to the community; they cover all of Lucas County – these dollars are dedicated to all residents including those in Whitehouse. She shares that the FCAPC is currently reaching out around the county for donations; the Village of Whitehouse could be on record with some level of support with a donation. The FCAPC has 36 employees; they are a \$3 million agency. Conklin Kleiboemer comments that donation funding does not go toward the gala.

Mayor Bingham asks Conklin Kleiboemer what are you looking for council to consider; she responds that she would like council to consider a sponsorship level donation amount – ‘superhero’ levels; \$1,000 donation in one year funds five children in the FCAPC program. Councilman Connelly asks what is our allocated budget for these kind of charitable asks. Administrator Daugherty commented that the approved budget is \$7,500 for community support. Councilman Connelly comments that he would support \$1,000 donation to start with the thought to revisit later in the year. Councilman Fine felt that the suggested amount was \$250 from previous discussions. Councilman Yunker agrees it is early in the year and for that reason should stick with lesser amount, would suggest \$500. Mayor Bingham commented that we can revisit later – all council members agree.

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Fine to donate \$500 to the Family Child Abuse Prevention Center from the Village of Whitehouse. 5 ayes

B. Request for the Operation Stronger Together 5K for June 30, 2024

Jason Graven was present to speak to Council. He is the founder of Task Force 20, an organization that funds physical fitness for veterans including gym memberships and supporting healthy and active lifestyles. He shared that they have held this 5k race the past three years in Whitehouse. Graven shared that the race starts near Generals Ice Cream and goes down Wabash Trail and back. Typically brings in 150 or so people. Graven graduated from Anthony Wayne in 1998, along with other board members graduating and living here in the Whitehouse and Anthony Wayne area.

Mayor Bingham commented that the race requires two police officers for a charge of \$200; he is asking if Council would support waiving the fee because it is a non-profit for veterans. Councilman Yunker asks could we use the charitable fund that is budgeted to pay for that as the requests come in. Administrator Daugherty commented that it is not true fund accounting but could definitely keep track of it that way. Graven says if this takes away from other community efforts he would prefer to pay and let Whitehouse keep that giving fund for others. All council members agree to take out of charitable fund and not require payment of \$200.

Motion by Councilman Yunker, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve the use of Village Park for the Operation Stronger Together 5K on June 30th, 2024. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Yunker to waive the \$200 payment from Task Force 20 and to take it out of the budgeted charitable fund. 5 ayes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Report on the February 22nd, 2024 Tree Commission Meeting

Councilman Connelly shared that the meeting was called to order at 7:27pm.

Councilman Connelly shared that old business discussion began with the disc golf course at Sandra Park. There was a memo drafted for tree commission withdrawing support of the disc golf course. Chuck Kethel input comment during the meeting and suggested that he could provide additional protection for the trees, and shared that the design was created to

avoid the trees, looking to minimize damage. They plan to invite Stephanie from ODNR to the upcoming tree commission meeting.

Connelly shared that the tree inventory was reviewed – there has been removal of large maple in village park and one on Eastview. Trees in Westwyck have been trimmed. Suggestion to plant Arbor Day trees in village park to replace some that have been removed. Whitehouse Arbor Day is first week of May – will contact teachers to find best day to schedule event. Project ideas for growth award, reached out about a composting seminar.

Connelly reported that Chuck Kethel would like recommendations for trees to plant on south side of Sandra Park for protection of houses on that side of park from disc golf course. Councilman Fine asked with enhanced fencing being talked about, would that be sufficient for tree protection; Councilman Connelly says yes.

Resident Sheri Luedtke commented that Arbor Day celebration is April 26th at 1:30pm in the park near pickle ball courts with a rain date of April 29th. This is 75th year of Arbor Day celebration. Mayor Bingham asks Luedtke – regarding the trees and disc golf, how can we compromise and meet in the middle with tree commission and state; Luedtke states the tree commission changed their position of support of the disc golf course due to the comments by Stephanie from the state regarding the pulling of the grant if she knew it was a disc golf course.

Report on the March 7th, 2024 Charter Revision Commission Meeting

Councilman Yunker shares report from the meeting.

Councilman Yunker shared that Solicitor Heban presented set of revisions to the charter based on the prior meeting. The group in attendance set forward reviewing those revisions, section by section. While going through this process, two additional sections were found needing revision and updated wording – mayor vacancy and deadline for filing for office – will ask Solicitor Heban to update wording on these sections. Yunker shared that they will be consolidated to one document with all updates included – document was provided to council as part of tonight's meeting packet. All updates to charter are included in the packet – advised by Solicitor Heban that we don't have to wholesale accept or reject all updates – can be done section by section.

Councilman Yunker requests that the charter updates review be put on April Committee of the Whole meeting agenda. Councilman Rigenbach asks if we will be mostly done with survey work by that Committee of the Whole meeting – or do we need that April meeting for survey. Yunker comments that we can move back to May if needed. Mayor Bingham comments we don't have to rush this but we want to make sure we have enough time to get council fully reviewed and in agreement before it needs to be presented to the public.

Rob Casaletta comments that the topic of discussion is section 5 where some members of charter commission were approached by council members regarding this. Several council members have approached saying it will not pass with current language. Casaletta shared that the previously passed discussion was that Administration can't easily be responsible to seven people i.e. council members and mayor. Casaletta cautions council to understand section 3 which is legislative responsibilities of council along with section 4 which is mayor responsibility, then on to section 4. He shared that we have until August 1st to get to board of elections to get on the ballot.

Councilman Fine comments that the provided diagram is helpful, but is it just informational or part of charter. Solicitor Heban says it is info, not part of charter. Councilwoman Tuohy commented that all need to start asking questions now. Mayor Bingham asks Solicitor Heban to attend the April Committee of the Whole meeting.

Report on the March 12th, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting

It was suggested that this full report out be saved for next meeting since Councilwoman Artiaga is not in attendance.

Administrator Daugherty is asking if council wants to take action on any ideas from the March 12th meeting; he suggests that most urgent would be the electric aggregation that was discussed. Daugherty gives brief overview of process to all in attendance.

Councilwoman Tuohy asked do we have to do some research first on what happens with those already on an aggregation plan. Councilman Fine comments that he researched and said they would not receive notice about the opt out change; they would have an option to change but would not be forced to break their current contract – people who already have contracts should not even get a letter that states they will be shifted over by default. Administrator Daugherty reminds all that there is a whole administrative public information roll out process of this after it gets through the ballot process. Councilman Fine comments that the advantage of community voting is that community members now will have the change as the default without any extra steps.

Motion by Councilman Riggerbach, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve discussed electric aggregation for authorization to prepare legislation. 5 ayes

Administrator Daugherty gave a quick summary of the revenue proposal provided by Kleinfelder and comments that this is nothing urgent for this particular meeting.

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Connelly to talk about Kleinfelder decisions during the May 7th, 2024 council meeting. 5 ayes

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Bingham begins his report by informing council that Public Works Director Steve Pilcher has given his notice on a retirement day. His last day will be March 14th, 2025, after 35 years of service. Bingham comments that council and administration have a year to discuss what the go forward plan is; would love to be able to hire from within. He states that we have time to build up employees and plan ahead.

Mayor Bingham shared that the Easter Egg hunt was extremely well attended, guessing around 300-350 people. He commented that himself and council got to talk to a lot of people – lots of positive energy for talking there. He shares his thanks to many groups including but not limited to the boy scouts and the legion, Pythian Sisters, Whitehouse Fire Department and Whitehouse Fire Company, and several community members for their time. Specific thank you to Eric Leonard for being the bunny and fire department staff who showed up. Bingham shared that he is looking forward to next year with some expansion, making it even bigger.

Mayor Bingham reminded all of the upcoming event “coffee with mayor and council” on Saturday April 27th, 8:30-10 at Copper Press Roastery. The Mayor will be shooting a promo video to put out on social media next week to promote this event.

The next reminder from the Mayor is the “Mayor and Council for a day” events. April 18th is the next meeting at school with staff and Deputy Administrator Hartbarger for planning purposes. May 2nd at 1:30pm is Stations Day at village council hall, May 7th council meeting will include an introduction of mayor and council for a day students and May 17th at 2:15pm

at the school there will be kid council meeting in front of the student body. There will be at least two issues to be voted on; this time frame fits in with their government studies.

Mayor Bingham commented that he is working on signs for the Cherry Fest trailer. He stated he will be buying some candy and will take other donations as well. The previously discussed 'Team Whitehouse' polos now have provided design options – Deputy Administrator Hartbarger confirms a sample will be on its way. He stated that names can be put on as well. The cost will be between \$56-60 without name with the heat transfer only with front and back. He shared that it is \$36 for embroidery option with nothing on the back but can add name to the front for an additional \$8. Mayor Bingham asks since paying for individually, what is opinion; all council agrees on embroidery option. It is also agreed to add names on all.

Mayor Bingham reminds council that the roll off collection in June they will offer help for elderly and disabled on a case-by-case basis. Decisions for this help will be made by Public Works Director Pilcher, Administrator Daugherty and Deputy Administrator Hartbarger. Councilman Riegenbach asks can he volunteer to go help with pick up if need be – Pilcher says they will probably just stick to village employees for safety purposes.

Lastly, Mayor Bingham comments on the Kleinfelder contract and proposal that was reviewed during the last Committee of the Whole meeting. He shared that he had a few main points. First, going with the contract is important, with the main reason being we need the community to keep growing – this will allow us to do that. Secondly, he believes it will save taxpayers some money; if we get these grants we can push the revenue issue further down the road, and can ask for more tax money on our terms, not when we are backed into a corner and absolutely need it. He feels this is something we should move forward with.

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

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

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Daugherty commented that the Committee of the Whole schedule for April, at this point has two or three topics. First, is the first shot at review of the charter updates. The second item is health insurance renewal process; there is a May 1st renewal date so a very tight timeline on this – bringing in a consultant who has been here for 18 years and will summarize in detail but council needs to make quick decision to meet the May 1st deadline. The third topic will be an equipment proposal process; administration plans to use remainder of covid funds for this.

A. Update on Swanton Street Bids (project previously approved by Council-see attached bid summary)

Administrator Daugherty shared that the previous council approved this project and process. He commented that the engineer of record is B&J as they had lowest bid and were the most responsive; going forward if agreed with recommendation – asking to be authorized tonight for emergency.

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Connelly to recommend acceptance of B&J Swanton Street bid proposal. 5 ayes

Mayor Bingham quickly showed council the door hangers that were left by the AW District for the recent levy drive – he thinks this is a good idea to include all info on a hanger to leave when no one is home to talk to while council is doing residence canvassing.

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE SOLICITOR

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

Solicitor Heban asks that when reviewing ordinances, to please consider tabling Ordinance 2-2024 as it is still not clean enough and will require some more updates.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

ORDINANCES

Mayor Bingham asked Solicitor Kevin Heban for any ordinances to be reviewed or voted on. There is a second reading for Ordinance 2-2024.

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Riggensbach to indefinitely table **Ordinance 2-2024: Amend Chapter 186 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Whitehouse.** 5 Ayes

RESOLUTIONS

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

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

Department Heads

Public Works Director Pilcher shared a reminder that unlimited pick up is Friday and Saturday this weekend from 8am-4:30pm Friday and 8am-12pm Saturday. He shared that this is the first time we've done two days with the drop off now in place of pick up. Pilcher shared that they had a pre-construction meeting today for the pedestrian bridge project and work is planned to start this coming Thursday with clearing of trees and prepping. The current schedule shows completing by mid-June, weather permitting.

Fire Chief Francis shared with council that the fire department received a \$12,000 grant through State Fire Marshals office; will be purchasing electric positive pressure fan to reduce CO into houses and businesses. He said they will also be purchasing thermal imaging cameras.

Police Chief Baer shared that tomorrow is last night for citizens police academy, with graduation and trying out lasers and tasers. He said that the department looks forward to hosting another soon.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Tuohy shared that she is excited about the momentum of these meetings and thanks everyone for doing a good job.

Councilman Connelly shared that he and Councilman Fine spent some time over the weekend working out the logistics for the survey, going over options and discussing the best way to move forward.

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to enter into an executive session at 7:55pm to discuss a matter of pending litigation. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman Connelly to reconvene the council meeting at 8:19pm. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Yunker to enter into an executive session at 8:19pm to discuss a matter of personnel. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggensbach, seconded by Councilman Connelly to reconvene the council meeting at 9:18pm. 5 ayes

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

Whitehouse Resident Rob Casaletta shared that he is a member of the executive board for United Way of Toledo and he has been to the FCAPC that was presented on by Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer earlier in the meeting. He shared a photo where the kids make a handprint and they explain that hands are not for hitting they are for good. Councilwoman Tuohy comments that this picture says a lot.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Riggerbach, seconded by Councilman Connelly to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm. 5 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor