

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

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

Council Members Present: Louann Artiaga, Dave Riggengbach, Carrie Tuohy, Steve Fine, Steve Connelly and Larry Yunker

Council Members Absent: None

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

Guests Present: Karen Gerhardinger, Tim Tuohy

Council Prayer was given by Municipal Administrator Jordan Daugherty

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve the minutes of the May 21st, 2024 council meeting. 6 ayes

Councilwoman Artiaga asks what is included in the ‘adjustments’ field on the bills awaiting approval. Administrator Daugherty states that he will get full details from staff and share those by email to all.

Motion by Councilman Riggengbach, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve the bills totaling \$37,712.19 dated June 13th, 2024 and the Addendum bills totaling \$121,616.64 dated June 18th, 2024 and the May 2024 Financial Statements. 6 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 June 11th, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting (COW)

Councilwoman Artiaga shared that the first item on the COW agenda was to continue discussion on proposed changes to the Whitehouse Charter. She shared that from that discussion there were some modifications to be discussed with Solicitor Heban. This included questioning filing guidelines, etc.; they also talked about requirements for Council meetings and what updates should be required.

Artiaga shared that an Executive session to discuss possible selling of Village property to Brian Carroll was held.

Lastly, Artiaga commented that the Committee discussed the remaining COVID Funds that do need to be spent soon. Looking to continue the practice of spending on items that will lessen strain on the general fund including computer systems and a police cruiser. Also discussed some downtown and State Route 64 beautification projects. The committee also discussed updating the dock in the small quarry or looking at an observation deck set up.

Report on the June 18th, 2024 Records Commission Meeting

Records Commission secretary, Jennifer Herman, is currently compiling the minutes for this meeting. This report will be shared at the next council meeting.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Bingham began his report with a thank you to all who helped out at the Cherry Fest. It was a successful event and it was great to talk with a lot of community members.

Bingham comments to Council and Administrators that he understands that Rite Aid in Waterville will be closing. Asking if there is any way we can reach out to Chamber regarding the thought of a pharmacy being in town. He comments that for some, the closest pharmacy will now be in Maumee as Kroger is not always an option. Artiaga comments when the Apothecary in Whitehouse was being sold/closing, the owner had at one point talked about opening back up in the future. She shares there may be some of his former employees who would be interested in practicing in town. Administrator Daugherty comments that he and Deputy Administrator Hartbarger have good contact with Matt Sapara at Mercy, he will be a good contact to get information on, he will be the best route. Mayor Bingham comments there are several places in town here where it would be a possibility to bring a pharmacy. He appreciates staff reaching out to Sapara and looking into options.

Mayor Bingham brings up the topic of curb side pick-up. He shared that several residents, during Cherry Fest, voiced concern over the no curb side pick-up option at all anymore. Some felt this was retaliation because of the tax levy not going through; Bingham says this is not the case, but that is the perception. He did ask Daugherty and Public Works Director Pilcher if in September we can have a curb side pick-up instead of the roll off/drop off. Pilcher says he contacted ARS to ask if we can do the same weekend as drop off was scheduled, they did say it was possible, Sat Sept 28. The cost is \$180/hour for truck and helpers, and then \$65/ton of picked up materials. Pilcher says based on previous curb side pick ups it runs around \$9,500. Councilwoman Tuohy comments that she talked to residents at Cherry Fest and at least three commented that money was found and the Village still took away the curb side pick-up, she says they felt it was taken away to show what could happen. Mayor Bingham comments that people were commenting on a \$3MM find but there are plenty of expenses that need to be covered with that money – there is budget that this additional carry over that was found is there to cover. Artiaga asks Daugherty are we, by law, supposed to have certain amount of carry over. Daugherty says no, there is no law requirements, but the state does start watching when you get close to a deficit. Daugherty also comments, it wasn't that the Village found money, there was an estimate set for a \$2MM carry over; but then additionally Department Heads tightened up on their budgets that were allowed to be spent, investments for the year came back considerably higher than expected along with more income tax income than expected. Artiaga comments that she doesn't think people understand that we will be a City the next census, we will be responsible for taking care of the State Route through town, collective bargaining, etc. that will be more expenses and required budget spend than what we have today. It is commented that this additional money does not change the overall trajectory of deficit spending. All of Council agrees to schedule the payment for a September curb side pick up instead of the current drop off.

Motion by Artiaga, seconded by Connelly to schedule the September 28th, 2024 curb side pick up from ARS for the estimated \$9,500. 6 ayes

It is asked, going into next year do we want to pull this from general fund to do curbside or do we want to assess fee to residents, which is an estimate of \$11.11 for two pick-ups, need to consider this going forward. This estimate would be for two pick-ups instead of all drop off, around \$1 per month. Council asks Pilcher how many were using the pick-up service. Pilcher says we had 110-130 use drop off, do not have numbers for curbside pick up, but could be upwards of a third of the population, Artiaga agrees that 30% sounds right. Councilman Fine says he likes how previous Council made trash pick-up similar to an enterprise fund where it is self-funded, similar to utilities. Councilman Riggensbach asks what the current refuse fee is – does it make sense to just add a dollar to this fee. Daugherty says he will pull in a rate and fee schedule to review and will include the

updated refuse for two curb side pick-ups. Daugherty comments this discussion can be in October when reviewing rates that are then finalized in December for budgets.

Mayor Bingham begins a discussion on the survey that was sent out to residents. He comments, as of this morning, 382 people took the survey, 352 that live in the Village. 50% are 55 or older. 70% have no children in their households. Bingham is looking to get some signs out at the intersection, will be passing out flyers at the home AW football games prior to game from 6-7. He comments the more we have take the survey the better feel we will have. Goal is still around 30%. No Council members have issue with signs being made for major intersections. Riggensbach asks is it cheaper at this point to send a mailer to every house. The signs made can be a few hundred dollars where, per Daugherty, a mailer could be upwards of \$3k. Maybe do signs first and see what response we get and then talk about a mailer. Riggensbach asks if door hangers are ready, Hartbarger says do we want both Access Whitehouse app and survey on the hanger, all of Council agree to both. Artiaga asks can we put a flyer in the water bills that are already mailed out monthly, Hartbarger says we did put a notification on the water bill but were not able to use the QR code as it was too small. Pilcher says the company that handles our billing does charge a fee for adding in a flyer but can look into those amounts. Councilman Fine asks for Councilman Connelly to comment on response rate so far. Connelly comments that there are about 100 of the responses that did not fill out the demographics so it is hard to track if it is people without kids. Connelly agrees to send out a flyer in the water bill if possible, but we are already at the point of looking really good, from a sample size perspective things won't change much even with more responses.

Bingham shared the disc golf course is looking to open in October or November, there are three sponsors so far for holes, do need six more. It is \$350 to sponsor the hole and there will be signs placed for each hole.

Bingham shared that he and Artiaga are going to the July 17th, 2024 trustee meeting in Providence Twp. He comments that the Concert in the Park for June is this Thursday, will still go on even with the heat. He shared he will be attending the Safety City graduation this coming Friday at the primary school. He reminds all that the roll off/drop off is Friday and Saturday this week.

Other upcoming events include Founders Day on July 5th, Library anniversary celebration this coming Saturday, June 22 and Ice Cream with Mayor and Council on August 17th from 1-3pm.

Bingham shares they are slowly working on the ditch issues that were discussed during the last meeting. Reviews happening between himself, Daugherty, Hartbarger and Pilcher. Finding out some ditches are swails and figuring out how to handle the difference.

Mayor received two complaints last week. First was the tornado siren going off on the first Friday of the month at 12pm. He commented he did have to explain to resident that the Village has nothing to do with that, it is Lucas County EMA. The second complaint was from a gentleman regarding lack of crime data on the Village website – he shared the Village did change software to save \$12k per year which is what drives the change. He commented there is an app called WENS that can be downloaded to find out this information instead of the Whitehouse website. Staff will reach out to this individual to inform him of this information.

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

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

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

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

Daugherty begins by asking for clarity on door hangers for survey, are we not ordering. Mayor Bingham says lets hold off for now and try the water bill flyer first. All of Council agree.

A. Request Authorization of Charter Amendment Ordinances (3)

Daugherty comments that Council needs to request authorization of the previously discussed charter amendments including primary requirements, absence of mayor, and council meeting requirements.

Solicitor Heban comments that the procedure is, in general, three readings, then if signed by Mayor then takes effect in 30 days. If not passed as emergency, it will pass during the 2nd July meeting then 30 days after which is past the August 1st cutoff date. When it is an emergency and the Mayor signs it becomes effective immediately, not needing the 30 days to take effect. He shares that with charter amendments we do not have to worry about the referendum. Heban confirms if we want it on the ballot this November, it will need to be as emergency during the third reading. Fine comments he did ask about the numbering and titling of the ballot issues, Heban says that is done by BOE, but they will not be identical titles. Fine asks about dates. Heban shares he put in Oregon date, which is latest in Lucas County, and then count back 60 days and that is when petitions would be due. Fine asks a clarifying question on dates; say petitions due July 4, what if there is Council vacancy on July 5. Councilman Yunker comments the BOE requires you to state if you are running for an expired term or unexpired term, if vacancy comes after petition due date, then the unexpired term vacancy would have no one running. Fine is asking if we can update the primary language for this change. Heban says might not make it through the Secretary of State language check. Fine asks question about declaring vacancy. Heban says if Mayor leaves with no resignation, etc. this allows the Council to declare the vacancy with no malfeasance issues. Fine concerned that it wasn't in the previous discussions but now does see the wording. He asks can we insert a word or two into that language where it qualifies where this declaring of vacancy can actually be used.

Daugherty says if Council is ready, they need to authorize each proposed change separately.

Motion by Riggenbach, seconded by Connelly to request authorization of Charter Amendment Ordinance 7-2024. 6 ayes

Motion by Riggenbach, seconded by Tuohy to request authorization of Charter Amendment Ordinance 8-2024. 6 ayes

Motion by Riggenbach, seconded by Connelly to request authorization of Charter Amendment Ordinance 9-2024. 6 ayes

Daugherty says he met with Artiaga and they are working on dates for a Finance Committee to meet quarterly. He comments they are looking to have two meetings prior to appropriations so the Committee can be fully informed. Working this week on calendar and municipal actions. Artiaga says she met with Daugherty and expressed the wishes of Council to have a Finance Committee formed and to start meeting; standard to meet quarterly and will have updates to all during Committee of the Whole meeting. Tuohy commented that she thought they discussed having a full Finance Committee meeting. Artiaga commented she made proposal for a full Finance Committee with regular meetings to Daugherty and he came back with a counter of quarterly meetings. Connelly commented the goal is to help

establish quarterly reporting, but would need prior/more often Finance Committee meetings to establish those quarterly reporting requirements. Tuohy asks Heban what the rules would be to establish a Finance Committee, Heban says whatever Council sees fit. Mayor asks who would pick the three members of the new committee. Heban says that is Council responsibility. Riggenbach asks are we talking about a full on Finance Committee or are we talking about working groups. Connelly comments they talked forming Committee but felt immediate need to establish transparency for quarterly reporting. Riggenbach agrees, create a full Committee with hopes of not needing for too long or too much. Mayor Bingham

comments we need three people. Riggensbach, Connelly and Tuohy volunteer to make up the new Finance Committee. Per vote, all in favor to approve these members.

REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR

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

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. He shares there are three ordinances ready to be voted on.

- A. Ordinance 7-2024: To Place On the Ballot at the Next General Election a Charter Amendment to Change Article XIII, Nominations and Elections for the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve **Ordinance 7-2024** to be read by title only, first reading, declaring an emergency. 6 ayes

- B. Ordinance 8-2024: To Place On the Ballot at the Next General Election a Charter Amendment to Change Article III, The Council, Section 3.08, Meetings, For the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Yunker to approve **Ordinance 8-2024** to be read by title only, first reading, declaring an emergency. 6 ayes

- C. Ordinance 9-2024: To Place On the Ballot at the Next General Election a Charter Amendment to Change Article IV, Mayor, Section 4.05, Vacancy and Resignation, For the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve **Ordinance 9-2024** to be read by title only, first reading, declaring an emergency. 6 ayes

RESOLUTIONS

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

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

Department Heads

Public Works Director Pilcher shares there is a delay in manufacturing the pedestrian bridge, it is now due here mid-July, they are currently pouring foundations. This will have to sit for a bit while the concrete cures. Fine asks about a completion date. Pilcher says around end of October for full sidewalk. Pilcher will get with Daugherty and Hartbarger to present plans to have ceremony to open and name it. Artiaga comments she did talk to Tiffany Eckert, Andy Eckert's wife, and she has some ideas on what plaque could have. She has suggested raising funds to put a soldiers cross on the bridge, same that sits in Veterans Memorial Park; Pilcher says he believes there should be room.

Police Chief Baer shared that this coming Saturday there is a Toledo Roadrunners Club Multisport race event back in park behind Village Hall. For around 5 hours during the day there will be some traffic being stopped, etc. Event is previously approved by Council. Tuohy shared with Baer that she put a picture of Officer Schumann and self on Facebook, and got a really nice comment from a resident – the resident's husband passed and Officer Schumann went out and did a face to face visit and wanted to let Tuohy know how much it meant to her that Schumann stopped out. Tuohy also shared that the next day, driving to work saw Officers Scheuerman and Kasick changing a tire, wanted to give them a shout out for how much they do. Chief Baer says it is very nice to hear all of these good things.

Council Comments

Mayor Bingham shares his thanks to Clerk Hartbarger and her family for their help in passing out flyers during the Cherry Fest parade.

Councilman Riggensbach asks question on demographics for survey shares that he has used a resource before, and has proven accurate, city-data.com and it outlines the estimated number of people per household.

Councilman Connelly comments on survey that 1) do have 18 respondents who want to be contacted, how to split those up but do need to do that and 2) establishing some sort of cut off, do want to cut off at some point for purposes of summarizing. He feels they are seeing a good story to tell so far with responses. He suggests end of next month after we see responses from a few more pushes for responses. Fine asks do we want to talk about the follow ups; it is decided to split up over the Council and Mayor.

Councilman Yunker shares a follow up on Riggensbach’s comment, can also use census.gov for some breakdown on household set up.

Councilwoman Artiaga shared that she asked Deputy Administrator Hartbarger about Access Whitehouse app and if we can list where weather shelters are. Hartbarger says he is in the process of adding. She also asks about air conditioners, are they still available and did we put that out there; Hartbarger says yes it has been shared, he says 3-4 people have called and inquired.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Connelly to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm. 6 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor