

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

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM by Mayor Rich Bingham.

Council Members Present: Louann Artiaga, Dave Riggerbach, Carrie Tuohy, Steve Fine

Council Members Absent: Steve Connelly and Larry Yunker

Staff Present: Municipal Administrator Jordan Daugherty, Deputy Administrator Joshua Hartbarger, Solicitor Kevin Heban, Council Clerk Nicole Hartbarger

Guests Present: Karen Gerhardinger

GENERAL

Discussion of Primary Dates To Be Incorporated in the Final Ballot Language for the Charter Amendment to Article XIII, Nominations and Elections for the Village of Whitehouse

It is stated we currently do not have a quorum with two council members absent – quorum is required due to the ballot language needing to be passed as emergency.

Solicitor Heban suggests reviewing the new information. He shares that everything was dropped off and approved by the Board of Elections (BOE) but they are questioning the date that is provided in this suggested amendment. There are two others in Lucas County that have September dates – but their rules do have 21 days where they can finalize the results after voting. Riggerbach asks what date makes it work for Whitehouse. Heban says BOE asking for all Lucas County municipalities to be in May; first Tuesday in May. BOE asked Heban to bring this back to council's consideration for anything from May to August for it to fit in with suggested go forward. If we do a May primary the date would go from current at first of September to March. This only deals with the primary, not the standard election. It is commented that all petitions should be pulled as if a primary is occurring, so this would be pulling in January and turned in by beginning of March. Riggerbach comments that if it is in line with the state requirements, it makes sense. Mayor suggests we need to get the word out because of it being such a big difference than what Whitehouse is used to – January from June/July. Riggerbach comments he doesn't think it is a cost decision, but more do we want to align with the state or push back on some time. If we follow the state we will save on any special primary that Whitehouse would have to hold on their own. Fine confirming what Riggerbach says, saying there are a few options, change to be compliant but it can be due May or June instead of March. Riggerbach says either way, we do have to educate people on new timelines and due dates, so why not just align with the state. Mayor is concerned with military people who would have to mail back petitions, making sure it gives them enough time to return – Heban confirms yes this would be ok. Heban suggests that others in Lucas County have eliminated primaries, that is an option as well to just eliminate. Daugherty and Artiaga comment they believe last year was the first year for a primary in quite a long time, if ever. Others do not remember one before last year. Heban says most other municipalities do not do a primary. Heban comments that we will be back to this same discussion in a few years when we are close to becoming a city.

Tuohy suggests, along with Riggerbach, to align with the state to not have to consider too much more in the future. Daugherty says since we are revisiting in a few years, why don't we default to the state for now and review in future. Artiaga agrees, along with Fine, to default to the state and have May dates – petitions would need to be pulled early in the year in January.

Motion by Councilman Riggerbach, seconded by Councilman Fine to request authorization for legislation to insert May as the primary date and to eliminate sections 13.01, 13.04, and 13.05 of Village of Whitehouse Charter. 4 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to place **Ordinance 12-2024** on the special meeting agenda. 4 ayes

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to read **Ordinance 12-2024** by title only. 4 ayes

Heban asks Council to consider at this time to have Riggenbach vote now as to his decision on waiving second and third readings, his decision for passing as an emergency along with decision to adopt Ordinance 12-2024.

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to allow Councilman Riggenbach to provide voting decisions on waiving second and third readings, passing as an emergency along with adoption for Ordinance 12-2024. 4 ayes

Heban asks Councilman Riggenbach his vote to waive the second and third readings for **Ordinance 12-2024**. Riggenbach votes yes.

Heban asks Councilman Riggenbach his vote to pass **Ordinance 12-2024** as an emergency. Riggenbach votes yes.

Heban asks Councilman Riggenbach his vote to adopt **Ordinance 12-2024**. Riggenbach votes yes.

Heban comments that if Council chooses, they can release Councilman Riggenbach from chambers.

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to release Councilman Riggenbach from council chambers at 6:55pm. 4 ayes

Councilman Connelly joins the special meeting in council chambers at 7:09pm.

Heban comments that we are still in an open meeting. He explains to Connelly that we released Riggenbach after he voted on Ordinance 12-2024. Heban recaps for Connelly discussion that happened prior to his joining. Informs discussion was to update ordinance to May with 60 day petition period.

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Ordinance 12-2024** by title only. 5 ayes (4 ayes plus previous aye from Riggenbach)

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve **Ordinance 12-2024** by title only, declaring an emergency. 5 ayes (4 ayes plus previous aye from Riggenbach)

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to adopt **Ordinance 12-2024, as an emergency**. Third reading vote by name. 5 ayes (4 ayes plus previous aye from Riggenbach)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm. 4 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor