

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 Riggerbach, Carrie Tuohy, Steve Fine and Larry Yunker

Council Members Absent: Steve Connelly (joined via Teams remotely)

Staff Present: Municipal 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

Mayor Bingham excuses Steve Connelly from being in the meeting in person in council chambers.

Guests Present: Dalton Nicely, David Hammack, Bruce Robertson, Tim Tuohy, Karen Gerhardinger

Council Prayer was given by David Hammack from Cedar Creek Church

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the minutes of the July 16th, 2024, and July 30th, 2024 council meetings. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the bills totaling \$223,263.89 dated August 15th, 2024, the Addendum bills totaling \$1,853,266.24 dated August 20th, 2024 and the June 2024 Financial Statements. 5 ayes

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Bingham asked if there were any persons to appear before council. Two people are on the agenda.

- A. Dalton Nicely, Prospective New Business Owner and New AW Wrestling Coach Meet and Greet

Nicely thanks Mayor and Council for allowing him to join and speak at the meeting and shares a thank you Administrator Daugherty for putting him on the agenda. He shares that he is the new varsity wrestling coach at AW; he was previously at Evergreen as a coach. Nicely comments that he would like to get involved more in the AW community, currently has a financial planning business out of Wauseon – would like to grow and be more involved in this area. Councilman Riggerbach asks are we going to be good this year at wrestling; Nicely comments that the team will definitely build up over time.

- B. Request for Village Meadows Block Party for September 21, 2024

Whitehouse Resident Andy Diffenderfer comments that he is here to speak on behalf of the Village Meadows subdivision where they are looking to do block party, looking for permission to close down Whiddenmill Street in the neighborhood from 2-9pm on September 21st, 2024. He comments that they do have permission from neighbors already. It is asked of Public Works Director Pilcher and Police Chief Baer if they see any issue with this request; Pilcher and Baer have no problems.

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve the closing of Whiddenmill Street in the Village Meadows subdivision on September 21st, 2024 from 2-9pm for a neighborhood block party. 4 ayes (Councilman Yunker abstains from voting as he is a resident of Village Meadows subdivision)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Report on the July 16, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting

Councilman Connelly shares that the meeting started at 8:14pm and all committee members were present; minutes were approved from July 9th, 2024 meeting. The group reviewed goals and objectives of the finance committee, and reviewed Administrator Daugherty's standard report and asked for additions and revisions to the standard to be reviewed at next meeting.

Report on the July 25, 2024 Tree Commission Meeting

Councilman Connelly shared that the meeting started at 7:35pm.

Old business the group talked about the need to carve out section to update inventory this year. Thank you sent to Craig Bauer for the demonstration. Master plan needs to be updated in Village Meadows area for storm damage. They discussed one pager possibility regarding invasive pests that are showing in the area. Also discussed was Facebook ideas to share information.

New business included discussion having high school students participate in tree commission, proposal was approved and will be working with schools to find a few students to work with the commission. Conversation was had around use of leftover COVID funds, \$40k. Question to Administrator Daugherty and administrative staff on the idea of having a story walk put together for children in the park area, could be less than \$1k or so based on research.

Report on the August 5, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting

Administrator Daugherty shares that the group met for the first meeting of the month at 6pm. Purpose was to look at final plat design and arch features of property on Waterville Swanton Road for Hertzfeld's. All were pleased with design after it had made its way through staff. Commission was unanimously supportive of the plans. Daugherty shares there are very nice looking renderings, will be some lease space available if there are any people or businesses interested.

Mayor asks if there are drawings that can be shared with Council – Daugherty says yes they are around, we can find them and share.

Report on the August 7, 2024 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting

Deputy Administrator Hartbarger shares this was the first meeting of the year. Three board members present – first item was election of officers. Next the group approved previous meetings minutes. Discussion occurred on appeal 1-2024, it was a pole type construction after discussion motion made to approve the appeal and it passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayoral Appointment of Laurie Mauro to the Tree Commission

Nomination by Mayor Bingham of Laurie Mauro to sit on the Whitehouse Tree Commission. Laurie could not make it this evening but is aware of nomination.

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to accept the nomination of Laurie Mauro to the Whitehouse Tree Commission. 5 ayes

Mayor Bingham shared that ice cream with Mayor and Council went well, saw at least 50 citizens or so. Great conversation, people showed up and were talkative about things going on in the Village.

He shares that he would like to do another coffee with Mayor and Council in November. All Council supports this idea, possibly first weekend in November. Riggenbach suggests November 9th. Artiaga suggests prior to election, November 2nd, early in morning. Open to coffee locations, including Buzz – Deputy Administrator Hartbarger to look into the location and time.

Mayor Bingham comments that curbside pick-up is upcoming on September 8th, 2024 please spread the word that it is curbside this time around.

On the topic of taking the issue of marijuana grow facilities to the citizens, Mayor Bingham has received a lot of positive feedback where citizens are happy they can have a say in this decision. Artiaga asks if any negative comments on the issue itself, Mayor so far says no. Tuohy says a few mentioned they were against it. Riggerbach says he heard comments about what is the difference between growing marijuana or producing/making alcohol that is already allowed in town – both are legal at this point. Riggerbach asks is the ballot being written so people know what a yes or no vote means. Heban says yes, it is not enacting a law it is an issue that is being decided on. Heban will look at the ordinance to get the actual description. Mayor Bingham says the vote does not change the moratorium, but it is getting the opinion of the citizens on how the moratorium should be handled. Fine says this is a great example of why we need to make sure we have the citizens well educated on the issues on the ballot.

Mayor Bingham shares there are good results on survey so far; 708 that have taken it. Artiaga asks for a breakdown of age groups that have taken the survey. Mayor says he will be holding signs at the first football game coming up this Friday. Signs regarding the app and filling out the survey. Tami at Look at Me did the signs at cost – thank you to her for the support.

Mayor Bingham shares details about upcoming events. Northwest Ohio mayors meeting in Pemberville, recreational marijuana will be discussed. Deputy Administrator Hartbarger and Chief Baer will be attending as well at 6:30pm. Trick or Treat October 31, a Thursday. Fine asks if it would be worthwhile to do something at the Halloween event. Tuohy asks haven't we always done this. Hartbarger confirms yes the Village hands out hot dogs and chips, it will be at the shelter before the main trick or treat time. Mayor asking for candy to pass out as well. December 7th is the planned holiday celebration in town.

Mayor Bingham shared that people are asking about Swanton Street where updates are made, there is no grass. There is a power pole with really long grass, Pilcher says waiting on Edison to replace pole and then that will be cleaned up.

Lastly, Mayor Bingham shares that the grand opening of new distillery in town is on September 6th, Friday, at 4pm.

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 Municipal Administrator Jordan Daugherty.

Request Authorization for Legislation Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the 500K Gallon Water Tower Project to Maguire Iron (as an emergency)

Daugherty comments this is not the first time water tower has been discussed; but now do need council to take some action. He shared that staff has followed the public bid process; lawyers did review and found best bid – ended up being below engineers estimate. Tuohy asks do we do lump sum payment on the project. Daugherty confirms it is broken down into smaller payments.

Motion by Councilman Riggerbach, seconded by Councilman Fine to request Authorization for Legislation Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the 500K Gallon Water Tower Project to Maguire Iron, as an emergency. 5 ayes.

Daugherty asks if now is a good time to talk about conversation had with Councilman Fine. He shared that once all ballot issues passed and were ready to go, Fine contacted Daugherty on preliminary ideas on how to educate the public on the issues that will be out there to vote on. Daugherty shared that staff will put together draft ideas and will be discussed at September Committee of the Whole. Fine comments that if drafts are sent early, he is willing to take ideas or suggestions from all members and make updates and send back to admin

staff for their updates and review. Riggensbach asks Karen Gerhardinger if the Mirror still does layouts of local ballot issues, she said yes and deadline is early October to get those out. She will start working on those within the next 3-4 weeks.

Operations Report Summary

Deputy Administrator Hartbarger says almost 600 users registered for Access Whitehouse app so far, around 50 or so signed up for the email only option. He shares they are about 75% complete on the permits portion, updating their files while working on getting these live into the new system.

Hartbarger shares with Council that on September 9th they will close the village offices for an administrative training day for professional development.

REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR

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

Solicitor Heban commented for the record that Councilman Connelly is here virtually.

Heban asks to consider entering in an executive session regarding ORC 121.22G3 to talk about pending litigation.

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Riggensbach to enter into executive session regarding ORC 121.22G3 after citizen comments. 5 ayes

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 Ordinance 13-2024 is ready to be voted on.

- A. **Ordinance 13-2024:** Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the 500K Gallon Water Tower Project to Maguire Iron (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve Ordinance 13-2024 to be read by title only. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggensbach, seconded by Councilman Yunker to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of Ordinance 13-2024 by title only. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve Ordinance 13-2024 by title only, declaring an emergency. 5 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggensbach, seconded by Councilman Fine to adopt **Ordinance 13-2024: Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the 500K Gallon Water Tower Project to Maguire Iron**, as an emergency. Third reading vote by name. 5 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

Fire Chief Francis shares that July stats are provided in packets for tonight's meeting. EMS reform went live on August 5th and has gone well so far for the region. EMS policy board meeting recently occurred and Chief Francis was voted in as chairperson, working on agendas and quarterly meeting dates. Citizen Fire Academy has one person signed up so far.

Police Chief Baer comments that the statistics report from July has been provided. He shares that every year citizens survey goes out, has been successful every year. Average around 120

responses, does provide a gauge on how the public feels the department is performing. This will begin on September 1st, in years past it has been 4.3-4.7 stars out of 5.

Public Works Director Pilcher shares his team is currently involved in fire hydrant inspections and will be moving on to fire hydrant painting. Storm water utility repairs that have surfaced since all the rain this year are being worked on. He shared that during the summer there was four part time help with watering and mowing, two have gone back to school, one will be done on Friday, one left through fall – have placed a help wanted add to get one more seasonal/part time person. He comments that the bridge is in, looks very nice, still some concrete work to finish up and some seeding and mulching. Once final completion list is made, can move forward with naming ceremony of the bridge. Riggerbach asks is there any chance of clearing the brush, is there a safety concern with the steep drop off. Pilcher says there will be railing and will look into clearing brush.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Tuohy comments on the notices in water bills for app and survey; says that people don't always see notices because of electronic payment, etc. and should not necessarily be the only way to get information out to residents. Fine agrees, should not be only way for sure. She shares that she had comment from a citizen there was lawn care company parked at roundabout that almost caused accident, wasn't Village of Whitehouse staff; she suggested to call police/Village to notify. Tuohy comments that they have talked about setting price/funding limitation for Administrator – can this be added to Committee of the Whole meeting agenda; Heban confirms this would be ordinance and can be discussed.

Councilman Fine says thank you to Deputy Administrator Hartbarger and others who helped with the ice cream, including Mark Schriefer for all advertising work. He also thanks Hartbarger for the work on Access Whitehouse app, it is great.

Councilman Yunker comments it was a great event this last weekend with the ice cream, thank you out to Generals Ice Cream who helped make that happen.

Councilwoman Artiaga inquires about the W3 meeting held a week or so ago; Hartbarger says it was an update – only topic was EMS reform and how that was going. She shares a community announcement, the library starting up series of classes first Monday of every month, first one in September is Football 101 – held at 6:30pm.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Riggerbach at 7:23pm to enter into executive session pending litigation ORC 121.22G3. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Riggerbach to reconvene council meeting at 8:39pm. 5 ayes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to adjourn the meeting at 8:39pm. 5 ayes