

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 Riggenbach, Carrie Tuohy, Steve Fine, Steve Connelly and Larry Yunker

Council Members Absent: N/A

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

Guests Present: Rev. Warren Clifton, Tim Tuohy, Karen Gerhardinger, Katie Ireland

Council Prayer was given by Reverend Warren Clifton, Hope United Methodist Church

Mayor Bingham asks to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

Motion by Riggenbach, seconded by Artiaga to amend the meeting agenda to include an Executive Session. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve the minutes of the September 17th, 2024 council meeting. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve the bills totaling \$13,492.59 dated September 26th, 2024 and the Addendum bills totaling \$66,461.68 dated October 1st, 2024 and the August 2024 Financial Statements. 6 ayes

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Bingham asked if there were any people to appear before council. There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Report on the September 16th, 2024 Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District Meeting

Artiaga shares that the meeting began with a financial report sharing that recent revenue and expenditures leaving a current bank balance of \$324,886.50.

Artiaga shared that it was noted that the DNR who cleans stones will be back to do more cleaning. The group talked of ordering signs, Sexton Rory Hartbarger had a draft of sign language, it was discussed and approved. They voted to purchase trash cans, spend on some updates at Wakeman Cemetery, and vote to purchase signs. Artiaga shares they reviewed a safety equipment grant, but it was found out the district cannot apply. Several current members including Kim Anderson, Mary Duncan and Louann Artiaga terms end next year, three-year terms – looking to have someone in the line and attend meetings toward end of year to get caught up on items and take over. Suggesting to Mayor and Council to take this into consideration, could call special meeting to have new members approved early. Next meeting is October 21st, 2024.

Report on the August 29th, 2024 Tree Commission Meeting

Connelly shares that the first item discussed was the Tree City Growth Award, all items accomplished to keep tree city status. He shares there will be updates and review of public tree inventory going on. The group discussed at the Whitehouse Farmers Market having a tree commission table. Connelly comments it was reported a few trees were affected by severe weather, around 50 trees removed that needed to be. He shares that James submitted

American Bloom packet; the award being announced next month. Last he shares that he has forwarded an idea of a story line/tour in Whitehouse Park to the Administrator.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Bingham begins by asking Chief Baer about the community police survey; Chief Baer confirms it did end yesterday.

Bingham shares that as of yesterday, around 787 taken Whitehouse Village survey with some disqualified. Same ranges of ages and household make up as previously reported. Connelly suggests some review and numbers collecting with current data – comments that they can leave it open but good to crunch numbers now. All decide to close on October 15th.

Mayor Bingham asks Administrator Daugherty to share Administrative details through October and November. Daugherty comments that the November 12th Committee of the Whole meeting is where decisions will start to be made to impact the budget – survey could affect some of these decisions. He comments that the schedule has been shared with all council members – asks for month of December to share known absences from meetings; little tolerance for error, if there is no budget approved, they do have to go into temporary appropriations which can be difficult – generally get through all discussion in one meeting.

Bingham shares there is a Swan Creek ditch project internal meeting next week. Planning to reach out to other state representatives, will be more than likely after the end and after election season. He comments that he is still planning on holding signs at Friday football games, 2 more home games this year. Bingham comments that the video for ballot issues explanations is out and has been shared on social media.

Mayor Bingham reminds all of upcoming events. The Fire Department awards banquet is at the Legion October 26th at 5pm – need RSVP, Chief Francis will make phone calls if necessary. New restaurant in town, Acapulco, grand opening tomorrow at 11:30pm. Grand opening for Adventure Distilling still on hold, working on final dates. He comments the curbside pickup went really well. Fire prevention week is week of October 6th. Flu shot clinic coming up in October for all within village. Drug Take Back day is on October 26th from 10am-2pm. October 31st Trick or Treat, planning to be at the shelter house 4:30-6pm to pass out candy and hot dogs. December 7th is holiday celebration, details being worked out now.

Bingham shares that he has received a few complaints. First, the building on corner of Waterville and Providence street, appearance – Jacob Barnes has been in contact with business owner, owner is working on some insurance claims, has been good communication – owner has applied for 64 beautification grant. Second with the TC Energy substation, there is reported weeds and high grass. In contact with TC Energy who is planning to send out crew to clean up. Complaint included high grass/mowing issue, Whitehouse crew does keep large band mowed on either side of trail – there is some area of natural habitat. Mayor asking could we mow a bit of it down – Pilcher says it would be fine if that's what Council wants to do. Mayor asking Council to take a look at the Wabash Trail/Heller Road area and share their opinion on mowing down some more.

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.

Agenda Items for October Committee of the Whole Meeting

Daugherty shares that next Tuesday is the next Committee of the Whole meeting. A few workshop items to be discussed including remaining Covid funds, just under \$40k – some

ideas will be included in packet, but staff is taking ideas for spending, need to commit the spending by end of this calendar year. He shares that Artiaga has mentioned the wish list in the past, this is a time staff is asking council members for their vision/ideas/project platform

that they would like to see happening in the village. There are two requested items to add to the agenda including administrative spending limit and council term limits. Mayor Bingham asks how much pickle ball courts are – Daugherty and Pilcher comment it would be more than the \$40k for new.

2025 Appropriations (Budget) Process

Daugherty comments that this topic was previously discussed during the Mayor’s report.

REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR

Mayor Bingham asks Solicitor Heban for any items to report. 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. There were none.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Bingham asked Solicitor Kevin Heban for any resolutions to be reviewed or voted on. Resolution 11-2024 is ready for council action.

- A. **Resolution 11-2024:** Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Resolution 11-2024** to be read by title only. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve to suspend the rules and have the third reading of **Resolution 11-2024** by title only. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve **Resolution 11-2024** by title only, declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Yunker to adopt **Resolution 11-2024: Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor, as an emergency.** Vote by name. 6 Ayes

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

Department Heads

Fire Chief Francis shares that today was Jeff Hibbard’s last day with the department; had retirement open house, around 100 people or so throughout the day. He shares that department heads have interviewed for the open full-time position – Lexi Dorner was selected and is going through the required health physical process. Chief Francis shares that the fire department is having an open house on October 9th, next Wednesday from 6-8pm; hot dogs and chips will be available, fire extinguishers and smoke detector raffles throughout the time.

Police Chief Baer shares nothing to report tonight, will have a lot more on the October 15th meeting.

Public Works Director Pilcher shares his team has completed this season’s fire hydrant painting, downtown was last section for this year. Moving on to prepping for leaf collection, map will go out shortly, via email blast – starts October 21st and run through zones A-F and repeat as needed through week before Christmas or so. Pilcher shares the disc golf supplies are here; Mike Hill is coordinating with Kethel to make sure things get installed correctly.

Council Comments

Riggenbach asks question regarding scholarship to high school grads, would like conversation if there is a way to reenact and have part of discussion regarding appropriations. Daugherty says this amount is encapsulated in community funds, \$1k of that can be used – but last few years hasn’t been done. Tuohy says spreading info through the new app will be helpful; Daugherty adding to list for review and discussion.

Fine comments to Daugherty now that we have the approved contract with Kleinfelder, when will discussions start. Daugherty says he met with Greg Teleki yesterday, will get admin things rolling so work sessions can begin and be efficient. Daugherty comments we are getting into heavy season with budget, January will be a much better time to get Council/Mayor sessions going.

Connelly shares that he is meeting Friday with Mrs. Blakely at the high school. Talking about some students interested in the open tree commission position.

Artiaga mentioned that we have talked about looking at Council roles, asking that topic to be added to a Committee of the Whole agenda in the future as well. She also asks do we have a copy of the parks master plan that was approved years ago and can be shared with Council – looking for sign at front of park to be updated/replaced.

Riggenbach asking to not lose sight on interest in DORA. Heban says a draft will be created and shared with Council soon. Daugherty shared that some permit owners in the past have been against it with concern of income being taken away from food sales, etc. Heban shares should be ready in 2-3 weeks, Tuohy suggests revisit in January after budget season. Heban says liquor license owners do not have to consent to participating/providing.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

Motion by Riggenbach, seconded by Tuohy to enter into an executive session regarding ORC 121.22G3 at 7:08pm. 6 ayes

Motion by Artiaga, seconded by Tuohy to reconvene the council meeting at 7:31pm. 6 ayes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm. 6 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor