

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

Meeting called to order at 6:34 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

Guests Present: Tim Tuohy, Nan Myers, Karen Gerhardinger

Council Prayer was given by Council President Artiaga.

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

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve the bills totaling \$83,812.86 dated January 3rd, 2025 and the Addendum bills totaling \$34,017.70 dated January 7th, 2025. 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 January 7, 2025 Public Hearing-JEDD Amendment

Councilwoman Artiaga shares that no public comments were made and the meeting immediately adjourned.

Report on the January 7, 2025 Public Hearing-Zoning Text Change

Councilwoman Artiaga shares the only comments made were a question from developer Charlie Grass confirming when voting will occur on the topic. No other questions.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Appointment of Board and Committee Members

Mayor Bingham confirms with Council that they have had time to review the appointments of Board and Committee members that he is appointing. All have confirmed they have reviewed.

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve Board and Committee appointments as presented by Mayor Bingham, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach. 6 ayes

Mayor Bingham shares he has an upcoming meeting with Lucas County library to be able to share more information with residents. He believes citizens will have some input on design. Meeting is Friday at 2pm.

Bingham shares the disc golf course has been up for a while, fully complete in spring with signs and diagrams. There has been 70 rounds of golf already played there based on website tracking information. On the Swan Creek Ditch project, there was a meeting today with Marcy Kaptur's office. They seem to be receptive to assisting and helping with this project and topic. They did suggest TMACOG for funding and help. Bingham shares they are still

meeting with other local representatives as they can. May not be able to get all funding but hopefully will get some that will reduce tax burden.

Mayor Bingham shares that Coffee with Mayor and Council is March 15th at Whitehouse Bakery and Coffee Shop. Other upcoming events include Easter Egg hunt on April 12, meetings upcoming for planning. Station day for Whitehouse Primary third graders will be early May then kid Mayor and Council to follow. Bingham asks all to start thinking about and planning for Cherry Fest in mid-June; plans on inviting the Governor again. Asking if there are any other changes or thoughts from Council.

Mayor Bingham shares he has had one phone call from a resident. Question about the tax payer funds being used for donations. The resident asked why there isn't a committee to determine how much and to whom the donations go. Tuohy comments this was brought up last time to form a committee. Suggests a committee of citizens to suggest where donations should go, then final approval to go through Council. Fine asks for discussion at COW next week.

Mayor attending TMACOG meeting next week, ditch project will probably be brought up.

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

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

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Bingham asks Administrator Daugherty for any items to report.

Administrative Update on RITA Non-Filer Letter

Administrator Daugherty shares that there have been 1,200 letters sent out to non-filers that are currently on the RITA records. This is a benefit of RITA that they can recognize and send out these non-filer letters and it is not a responsibility of staff. Daugherty wanted Council to be aware in case questions do come up. Artiaga asks how far back they go; Daugherty suggests he is not sure how far back they go with this particular letter. Riggenbach says he has heard comments on back to 2019, so it could be five years.

Daugherty shares that an additional COW has been scheduled for January 21, immediately following the regular council meeting. There is a group of homeowners to discuss a street issue with Council, from Rue Du Lac.

Next, Daugherty comments that the regular monthly financials have been shared along with some updated versions. Council has two weeks for review and to ask questions and then approval.

Daugherty shares some details on the meeting with Kaptur's office. He comments that former Mayor Angie Kuhn was VP of TMACOG, really helped to get Whitehouse on the map in that department. Previous Mayor Atkinson did a great job getting involved with and including other, non-Whitehouse, elected officials. Daugherty shares that Paula Hicks-Hudson shared that they, as elected officials, absolutely want to hear this information, she suggested that Whitehouse keeps pestering elected officials to get answers and help on this topic. Daugherty asks how do we unify for collective good, this is important especially for this next Tuesday thinking about economic targets. Commends all for interaction with representatives, it does work.

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 asks 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.

A. **Ordinance 17-2024:** Authorizing the Amendment of The Zoning Code of the Village of Whitehouse (3rd Reading)

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve **Ordinance 17-2024** to be read by title only. 6 ayes

Fine asks to discuss passing this ordinance as an emergency. He comments it would move forward quicker, there has been public hearings and chance to comment, no reason to delay any further.

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve **Ordinance 17-2024** by title only, declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Fine, seconded by Councilman Connelly to adopt **Ordinance 17-2024: Authorizing the Amendment of The Zoning Code of the Village of Whitehouse.** Third reading vote by name. 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 that his team has wrapped up leaf collection for the year, transitioning over to preparing for tree trimming and cleaning up after storms as they arrive. He appreciates everyone's donations and efforts for the toy collections. Just under 120T for the two days last weekend for drop off, will have drop-off this coming weekend as well on Friday and Saturday.

Police Chief Baer shares that the Police Department annual report including all statistical data will be presented on in March.

Fire Chief Francis shares that year end activity is about 2% down in statistics, will have final next Council meeting.

Council Comments

Connelly asks for clarification. Comments he does not intend to run for Council next year, asking for the date that people do need to turn in petitions to get on the ballot. Heban will get a confirmation date. Connelly is asking for awareness to be raised, there is a vacancy and do want people to know that. Mayor comments we will share on social media as well.

Fine asks about the walking bridge dedication, asking to discuss during one of the upcoming Committee of the Whole meetings to get that on the calendar. Mayor Bingham comments it may be slightly delayed because funds are working on being raised to purchase signage for the bridge. Daugherty shares this was talked about earlier today on what type of memorial should be used – there are customized memorials such as Veterans Memorial Park, when it comes to streets this is more of a standard memorial marker. These are things that will be asked of and run by Council to make decisions. The end goal is to bestow the right honor, an additional idea is to use the state highway memorial for all to recognize more from a distance. Artiaga comments this does continue to set precedence, what to include and where to draw the line. Daugherty suggests putting the topic on calendar for February Committee of the Whole.

Tuohy comments that the charter states we have an annual organizational consideration for Council every year at this meeting. She comments that it is a big honor to be sitting up on the Council seats – blessed to have great people involved. She wants to make sure all get a chance to put their best foot forward.

Tuohy nominates Dave Riggensch as new Council president. She feels that it is nice for everyone to get a chance to sit in that seat if they want to. Heban comments that with that nomination, now others have the ability to nominate as they wish. Fine nominates Louann Artiaga as she has done a great job in the seat.

Vote by name on Riggensch as council president. 4 ayes, 2 nays

Riggensch voted in as Council President with a majority vote.

Connelly thanks Artiaga for all hard work as council President in the last year – he comments it does not reflect on any actions from the last year, but change is good, hopes the same for next year to continue to allow others. Mayor thanks Artiaga as well, it has been a transitional year. Big things coming up to get Riggensch up to speed on. Riggensch says thank you to all for their votes of confidence. He shares his thanks to Artiaga for all her hard work over the last year.

Artiaga comments that we work very hard to make the village attractive, flowers, signs, etc. A few areas in town could use some sprucing up, alley near Social/Veterans Park – garage on this alley needs some updates and clean up. She has suggested to owner a mural at the back of the building, owner is open to that, but the conversation was two years ago. Asking how Council would feel about approaching him on this topic again. Fine asks Heban if there is any issue of Village putting artwork on private property, Heban says it is fine if there is agreement with owner and Council approves. Artiaga brings up murals on Cycleworks, needs some clean up, it has lasted twice as long as expected. The last area is the alley near Whitehouse Motors, could be another area for a mural and clean up. Asks for the topic on Committee of the Whole sometime in near future.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Bingham asks if there are any citizen comments to share. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Fine to adjourn the meeting at 7:13pm. 6 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor