

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

Council Members Absent: Dave Riggensbach (excused by Mayor)

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, Clerk of Council Nicole Hartbarger

Guests Present: Grant Hubley, Hannah Fischer, Nan Myers, Sister Rose Moser, Mandy Tilton, Tim Tuohy

Council Prayer was given by Sister Rose Moser of LIAL.

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve the minutes of the January 21st, 2025 council meeting. 5 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Yunker to approve the bills totaling \$51,185.16 dated January 31st, 2025, and the Addendum bills totaling \$63,764.33 dated February 4th, 2025. 5 ayes

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Bingham asked if there were any people to appear before Council.

Request for Whitehouse Primary 5K/1K Run and Walk

Mandy Tilton is present representing Whitehouse Primary Parents Club who hosts the race every year. She is seeking approval for the race that includes support from Police Department, this has already been reviewed and approved by them. This is the 17th year for the race; requesting that the fees be waived for any use of Police and Fire as this is benefitting a non-profit group.

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the Whitehouse Primary 5K/1K Run and Walk with the fees waived. 5 ayes

Request for Great Black Swamp Festival of Races

No one present representing the event. Deputy Administrator Hartbarger shares this is a repeat event that has been approved in years past. This has been reviewed and approved by Police Department. This group did not ask to waive any fees.

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve the Great Black Swamp Festival of Races. 5 ayes

Request for Operation Stronger Together & Veteran Resource Fair

No one present representing the event. Deputy Administrator Hartbarger comments that this is a repeat event that has been approved in the past. This group did ask in conversation with staff to waive any required fees if possible. Administrator Daugherty confirms that Council has waived fees for this particular event in the past.

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve the Operation Stronger Together & Veteran Resource Fair with the fees waived. 5 ayes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Report on the Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District Meeting

Artiaga shares that this meeting was canceled due to illness and she will have a report in the near future.

Report on the January 21st, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Tuohy reporting in Riggerbach's absence. She shares the main topic was discussion of public vs private road status for Rue Du Lac subdivision. It was decided that the Village will pay \$2,500 for required engineering study to figure out what needs to be done to get the road up to public street standards. Tuohy comments there was also an executive session regarding economic development.

Report on the January 23rd, 2025 Tree Commission Meeting

Connelly shares that during the meeting the group confirmed members for this year, a new member has been added. They elected officers for the Commission for the year. Will be working on one third of the trees from the street planning. During the meeting, James shared that there will be a two-day visit from American Bloom. Storybook Walk boards are in, a few books have been ordered. Connelly comments that the tree master plan was updated. The group is planning a spring seminar that will be on rain gardening. There was a resident that attended meeting – Eric Vaculik indicated a sweet gum tree had been planted in front of his newly built residence, asking if it would be possible to have a different option. Mayor asking Pilcher how hard to move the tree; Pilcher says it is up to Tree Commission for their recommendation on what type of tree to plant there instead.

Report on the February 3rd, 2025 Planning Commission Meeting

Administrator Daugherty shares that there is a proposed sub development, during this meeting a preliminary review was done on the 33-unit townhouse set up in Whitehouse Square, 2 story, square feet of each unit will be between 1,500-2,000. Beautification planning does call for this type of home in that zone, commercial is also planned for this area. The same developer does own a few other parcels in that area, and they do seem very open to getting some commercial development in that area. Daugherty shares 4 or 5 variances were requested, nothing being overly significant. Planning Commission approved with unanimous vote. This allows the developer to move forward with finalizing plans and working on construction, they do continue to work with Village staff through this whole process. Daugherty does confirm these are ownership houses, not rentals; \$350-400k price range. Yunker asks if there is any water retention area planned, Daugherty confirms yes there will be and it will be maintained. Fine asks about commercial development, is he planning to add to this development and parcel – Daugherty confirms not to this particular one, but it will be a future consideration with this developers other two parcels that he owns along SR-64. Yunker asks for confirmation on the water retention area, since owner owned units, will there be an HOA in place to maintain retention pond – Daugherty confirms that yes that was discussed, developer is experienced in this and has had seamless transition of developer owned to HOA.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Proclamation

Grant Hubley an Anthony Wayne FCCLA member is present. Requesting a proclamation be read to designate February 10th to February 14th as national FCCLA week in Whitehouse. Grant shares that he is a junior at AW, FCCLA national vice president. Hubley shares that he was elected to the national executive council after hard work of essays, interviews, etc. Has traveled with FCCLA to work on leadership topics. Many responsibilities as a national vice president including empowering students to make a difference in their communities through service projects and continued community dedication. He shares his thanks all for supporting student leadership.

Mayor Bingham reads proclamation for Family Career and Community Leaders of America.

Appointment of Board of Zoning Appeals

Recommendation by Mayor Bingham that Nan Myers be appointed to the BZA. Fine comments that she has already proven what she can do for the community and thanks her for that.

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve the appointment of Nan Myers to the Board of Zoning Appeals. 5 ayes

Mayor continues his report mentioning the TMACOG meeting that he and Deputy Administrator Hartbarger attended. Lots of communities are experiencing the same stresses as Whitehouse. The State of Ohio has passed legislation that Villages can be dissolved if they do not meet certain criteria. Not an issue for Whitehouse but can be for much smaller communities.

Mayor comments that survey results are finalized. He will provide a copy to Gerhardinger for article in The Mirror. Regarding the Swan Creek Ditch project, a meeting has been requested by Sabecki and will be February 13. He shares that staff is meeting with TARTA officials this week, discussing some options.

Reminder of Coffee with Mayor and Council upcoming. Easter Egg Hunt will be changed to a new date to not conflict with Waterville, new date will be planned at the next meeting. Station Day at Village Hall and Kid Mayor with Council should be within the first nine days of May, finalizing dates with the school. Cherry Fest parade invite sent to Governor; have heard he is considering attending.

Mayor Bingham shares one complaint regarding ARS missing a residence on Finzel road, this has been handled by staff. Mayor asks Pilcher about house at the corner of Dutch and Finzel, can we investigate cost of a guard rail, this house has been hit several times. Baer comments it is a tough issue to resolve.

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.

Administrator Daugherty shares a heads up on agenda items for next Tuesday's committee of the whole meeting. One topic will be the bridge dedication for Sgt Andy Eckert, staff has talked with Tiffany Eckert. Another topic will be bid results on grant funded equipment for Fire department, Council will receive memo. Daugherty shares that charter topics will be added as well. Riegenbach may have more to add.

Daugherty shares that with Fine's help we are moving forward with granting aggregation. Fine comments that there is an aggregation group in Northwest Ohio, they did have a presentation, and it seemed very favorable. If we choose to work with this group, Fine says they will be very helpful throughout the process. Daugherty comments we do have this one good candidate, and staff will probably look at one more COG option – should be fully implemented this year.

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 02-2025:** Establishing an Automatic Increase of the Compensation For the Clerk of Council for the Village of Whitehouse (Second Reading)

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Ordinance 02-2025** to be read by title only, second reading. 5 ayes

Artiaga asks about the previously approved pay increase for this year for the Clerk of Council position. Daugherty will look into this topic.

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 crews have been clearing trees in the Village Meadows subdivision, Bradford Pear trees. Trees will be replanted when the weather is cooperative. Staff is getting ready for next round of storms that are coming. Winter maintenance and equipment work has kept the department busy. Yunker asks if plan is to take out all Bradford Pear trees – Pilcher confirms currently the trees that take the brunt of the wind will be removed first.

Police Chief Baer shares that statistics will be available next meeting.

Fire Chief Francis states that the statistics will be at next Council meeting. He also shares that early last year he received a call from Monclova Fire about Kawasaki ATV, asking if Whitehouse would like it before they scrap it. Francis comments that the Fire Department staff has worked on it themselves then used JAM in town and now have a fully functional ATV. Fine shares kudos on the cost savings.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Tuohy asked for any council comments.

Yunker asks about skipping the week of garbage pickup, is this in our contract that cold weather can stop for a week instead of shifting the day. Daugherty and Pilcher will review. Tuohy asks if we got credit for that week.

Connelly comments on survey results. With assistance from Fine it was finalized – several pages of results, asking Mayor to provide a summary in his thoughts of the results. Asking Council if they feel it is appropriate to craft a summary to share. Connelly shares a question on the charter, will it be split into pieces of issues to be addressed or will it be one large update. Yunker comments previously went section by section with the review, says can structure that way again; do not yet know what sections Council wants addressed. Heban shares he does have some language on term limits as previously requested, not aware of any other specific topics yet. Fine comments that there were a few topics from last year that were set aside. Yunker will go back through last year's notes.

Artiaga states that she was asked if there is going to be a State of the Village address from the Mayor. Mayor comments in his several years here he has only seen it once, will consider it. Artiaga comments that RITA has sent out around 1,200 letters – residents are getting hit with subpoenas and penalties which are very high. Asking Council to consider an amnesty period to pay penalties on the old, unfiled returns. Tuohy comments has seen the same issue,

people do not realize they have to file the return with RITA. Artiaga comments she is seeing the actual issue where the returns were filed but RITA does not recognize them as filed. Daugherty comments that RITA does not have final say, the Village will always err on the side of working with people. Heban comments other jurisdictions Council's will waive penalties based on the situation – Mayor asks if that is by individual situation or can it be a group – Heban comments better to do on an individual basis. Yunker asks what the process is to get penalty and interest waived – Daugherty comments that a phone call to the Village and will work with the individual.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to adjourn the meeting at 7:28pm. 5 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor