

**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 Riggenschach, 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, Clerk of Council Nicole Hartbarger

Guests Present: Nan Myers, Tim Tuohy, Rob Casaletta, Elliot Tramer, Angela Boudouris

Council Prayer was given by Pastor Shawn Bellner of Cedar Creek Church.

Motion by Councilman Riggenschach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the minutes of the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 council meeting. 6 ayes

Riggenschach asks about the financial report with final numbers; Administrator Daugherty says that will be available after finalizing year end very soon. Tuohy asks about bills paid to Jacob Barnes – paid \$3,300 plus mileage asking about reports from him with status of properties, updates, complaints, etc. Deputy Administrator Hartbarger says in the new status report there will be some of those details provided. Daugherty confirms this amount is for two months; Tuohy says wants to make sure we are getting our reporting for what we are paying this contractor.

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Yunker to approve the bills totaling \$60,887.57 dated February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the Addendum bills totaling \$107,540.29 dated February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and the December 2024 financial statements. 6 ayes

**PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL**

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

**Elliot Tramer from Whitehouse Tree Commission**

Mr. Tramer shares that he appreciates Mayor and Council time. He introduces himself as the new chair of the tree commission replacing Sheri Luedtke. Tramer comments he has been a member for 17 years, almost the whole time the commission has existed. During last council meeting it was announced Whitehouse received the growth award again. Growth award is for activities over and above the requirements to be a Tree City USA. In Northwest Ohio – 19 counties in this region with over 50 municipalities that are Tree City USA. Whitehouse is one of the nine of those municipalities that received the growth award. Whitehouse ranks second among 50 communities. Bowling Green is currently number one. Tramer says he appreciates Council and Mayor work in contributing to this award with their support. Angela Boudouris, a new member of the tree commission, is here as well. Sheri Luedtke was founder of Tree Commission and served as chair up until this point – Tramer feels this should be recognized; request that Council considers a resolution of appreciation for Sheri's services to Whitehouse.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**Report on the February 11, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Council President Riggenschach shares that the committee discussed the new pedestrian bridge dedication; name to be Sgt. Andy Eckert Memorial Bridge – approved and moved forward with tentative date of May 8<sup>th</sup> for the dedication. Charter review discussion included term

limits for Council and Mayor along with hiring and firing authority for Mayor. Riggensch shares the next topic was the Village survey, will be soon putting results out to residents through the Whitehouse website including some commentary. The committee approved going out to bid for the SCBA equipment and Marcs Radio equipment supported mainly by grant funding obtained in house by fire department employees. Brief discussion on how to revive historic Reo Fire Truck, possibly for Cherry Fest parade.

## **REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

### **Appointment to Tree Commission**

Mayor Bingham begins his report by nominating Angela Boudouris as a committee member to the Whitehouse Tree Commission.

Boudouris shares that she is a resident in Whitehouse, on Oak River Lane, since 2001. Comments that she loves the area and is active in the Metroparks doing volunteer research. She hopes to be an asset to the Tree Commission; looking forward to serving.

Motion by Councilman Riggensch, seconded by Councilman Fine to appoint Angela Boudouris to the Whitehouse Tree Commission. 6 ayes

Bingham shares an update regarding Whitehouse Library, they met a few weeks ago. This week there will be soil samples and environmental studies taken in the park areas. Library team plans to have open house around March 20th at the current Whitehouse Library, there will be no formal presentation but will have Lucas County staff to answer questions. There will be a formal presentation will be later.

Bingham confirms with staff that the community survey results will be online as well as on the Whitehouse application.

Councilman Fine set a meeting with Deputy Administrator Hartbarger, Mayor Bingham, Administrator Daugherty and himself with the TARTA board; Mayor appreciates Fine doing this. Fine says TARTA does provide service to Whitehouse, it does have to be scheduled/requested and they can take you within a zone including Maumee, Holland, Toledo Airport. Not a lot of people seem to be aware of this for Whitehouse. They are looking to provide more service for this area. Current service is like uber where they will pick you up at your house. They are wheelchair accessible. Fine also shares if you are 65 or older or have a disability, they will take you directly to where you need to go. It is a shared ride service, where they will pick you up but there may be others along for the ride as well. The Muddy Shuttle will be brought back to Kroger in Waterville along with Walleye game transportation; \$3 each way for this service.

Bingham shares the Swan Creek Ditch meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> with the County. Mayor and staff will be meeting with Theresa Gavarone same day.

Coffee with Mayor and Council will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> at Whitehouse Bakery. The Whitehouse Easter Hunt March 29th at 9am, there were some conflicting events and schedules that pushed the event back to this date. Format will be the same as last year but now including bounce houses and balloon animals; this event will be at the Legion. Expect to close the parking lot at the legion for safety reasons – egg hunt itself will start at 10am. Next planning meeting for this event is on March 5th 6:30pm.

Bingham shares that Station Day is upcoming, would like several to be involved if possible along with Kid Mayor and Kid Council at Whitehouse Primary. Judge Hazard will be involved.

Bingham shares that he is working on the State of the Village address, have accomplished a lot in one year that he would like to share. Looking forward to giving this in March.

## **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. There were none.

**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 (Third Reading)

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Ordinance 02-2025** to be read by title only, second reading. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilman Connelly to adopt **Ordinance 02-2025: Establishing an Automatic Increase of the Compensation For the Clerk of Council for the Village of Whitehouse.** Third reading vote by name. 6 Ayes

- B. **Ordinance 03-2025:** Authorizing the Award of a Purchase Contract for SCBA Equipment to Fire Safety Services (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve **Ordinance 03-2025** to be read by title only. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Ordinance 03-2025** by title only. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Yunker, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Ordinance 03-2025** by title only, declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to adopt **Ordinance 03-2025: Authorizing the Award of a Purchase Contract for SCBA Equipment to Fire Safety Services, as an emergency.** Third reading vote by name. 6 Ayes

- C. **Ordinance 04-2025:** Authorizing the Award of a Purchase Contract for Motorola Radios to P & R Communications (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve **Ordinance 04-2025** to be read by title only. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Yunker to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Ordinance 04-2025** by title only. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Ordinance 04-2025** by title only, declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to adopt **Ordinance 04-2025: Authorizing the Award of a Purchase Contract for Motorola Radios to P & R Communications, as an emergency.** 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 is pleased to announce two staff members passed required testing for EPA Water I operators licenses; big asset to the department. Broke ground on elevated storage tank on Industrial Parkway, will see progress. Working on winter operations such as dealing with snow and ice storms. Artiaga comments that Chamberlains have asked why their end of street is last to be plowed when they are open earlier in the day; Pilcher comments no purposeful slight, focus is safe passageway as can be done.

Police Chief Baer shares that the monthly stats are available. Police Citizens Academy now accepting applications; would love to have as many residents as possible, can accept up to 24. Getting applications for safety town, have around 20 so far and can take up to 40. Worked with Boy Scouts this evening to award them forensics badge, worked on fingerprinting.

Fire Chief Francis shares that stats have been shared for the month of January. They have one fire fighter currently participating in EMT class, so will have another volunteer with this license in the next year. Fire Department has been asked to oversee EMS services at the Toledo Air Show that is upcoming.

Pilcher comments about January drop off; 133 on first weekend and 72 on second weekend - just under \$2k – there was some bad weather second weekend. Does compare closely to last year but slightly less.

### **Council Comments**

Council President Rigganbach asked for any council comments.

Connelly asks if all are good with the survey results intro. Asking to go with what is presented. All in agreement.

Rigganbach asking when are candidate petitions due – confirmed as March 7th. Asking about a petition signing day/event for those interested in running for Council. Asking if that would make sense to tag on to a Tuesday Committee of the Whole meeting for anyone who wants to come in. Next Committee of the Whole is after the due date, suggesting the first Council meeting in March. Administrator Daugherty asking if want outside of the public meeting; confirms yes, just asking some to stick around after to sign.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilman Rigganbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to adjourn the meeting at 7:03pm. 6 ayes

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Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

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Mayor