

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF SMITHVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

MAY 17, 2022

The Council of the Village of Smithville met in regular session on Tuesday, May 17 2022 in the Village Hall. Mayor Tom Poulson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Members present at roll call were Matt Haas, Tricia Mullins, Joseph Reed, and Scott Thorn. Solicitor Jason Groh, Clerk of Council Becky Dannemiller, Assistant Office Manager Belinda Taylor and Fiscal Officer Pam Keener were also present. Also in attendance was Chief Warren Caskey. Guests in attendance were Daniel Yarnell, Jennifer Talmon, Brandon Talmon, and Bryce Buyakie.

Mullins made the motion to accept the May 5, 2022 minutes, Reed seconded, and Council unanimously approved the May 5, 2022 minutes.

The Mayor recognized visitors who wish to speak to Council. Officer Dan Yarnell stood and addressed them as an officer stating he was thankful for being able to serve the Village as he was a part of the community, having graduated from Smithville and living here again. He was sad to be leaving and would miss the kids at the school. As a member of the community, he feels disturbed by what he labels a "witch hunt" by the Village and feels there are staff here with more questionable values than his. He has a child in the Green Local School system and feels none of that was considered. Yarnell stated Chief Caskey has a reputation that precedes him for coming into departments and hunting to fire personnel. He said this is a sad situation. He praised prior chiefs, Funk and Barnett, for the great things they did for the department and what they brought to Smithville.

Jennifer Talmon spoke to Council addressing how much the kids at the school loved Officer Yarnell and the loss would be devastating to the school. She stated all the kids, staff, and parents love Officer Yarnell.

At 7:05pm, Mullins made the motion to enter into executive session pursuant to R.C. 121.22 (G) (1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, or compensation of a public employee. Thorn seconded the motion, and Council unanimously approved. Invited into the executive session were Fiscal Officer Pam Keener, Council Clerk Becky Dannemiller, Assistant Office Manager Belinda Taylor, Solicitor Jason Groh, and Chief Warren Caskey.

At 7:27pm, Mullins made the motion to exit executive session and enter back into regular session. Reed seconded the motion, Council unanimously approved.

Chief Warren Caskey read the recommendation to terminate Officer Daniel Yarnell from the police department.

Haas made the motion to terminate Daniel Yarnell from employment in the Smithville Police Department effective immediately, Mullins seconded the motion, and Council unanimously approved.

There was nothing under old business.

New business.

Ordinance 2022 to Increase Water and Sewer Rates: Council reviewed the spreadsheet with new water and sewer rates and read the ordinance, which reflected increases over the next five (5) years and annual increases thereafter. Thorn questioned the 7/1/2022 effective date to which Becky explained the bills reflecting this new rate will be run on 8/1/2022 as we bill in arrears. Mayor Poulson stated with the new water lines in 2022 and hopefully in 2023, the increased rates are needed. After those water lines are replaced, most of the aged lines in the village will have been replaced, along with the new water tower, and the WTP renovation done ten (10) years ago. The rates to be set aside in the Water Capital Improvement and Sewer Capital Improvement Funds

are 20% and 25%, respectively. Mullins made the motion to place this ordinance on 1st reading, Reed seconded the motion, and Council unanimously approved.

The Mayor presented the C.T. Consultants proposal for the engineering and design of the North Milton Street Water Line Replacement Project. This is a project to be submitted to OPWC in September 2022 for funding in July 2023. When the engineer cost estimate comes in, the Mayor and Pam will discuss other funding so the project can be done sooner and not have to wait through another winter. We have experienced four (4) water breaks on this line since the new tower went on-line. Mullins made a motion to enter into a contract with C.T. Consultants for engineer and design of the new water line on North Milton Street, Thorn seconded the motion, and Council unanimously approved.

Resolution #2022 Enter into a Contract with T.R. Snyder Construction for the Fairlawn Avenue Sidewalks. The bids came in approximately \$30,000 less than the cost estimate. As there was no quorum due to absences, this matter was tabled until a meeting can be scheduled.

Liaison Reports: Thorn stated the guys were experiencing some mechanical issues but were good. He also stated we have no utility locator which is a tool we can rent, but not always in an emergency situation. The cost of a new one is approximately \$3300. Adam will look for grant money through *Safe Communities* or *811* to help defray the cost. Reed stated he had nothing except the plans for the Memorial Day parade are going forward. The rainout plan for the parade is using the Wilbur Berkey Fieldhouse. Haas reported there had been some vandalism in the park restroom and concession back room over the weekend. There was quite a mess in the restroom stalls and it was determined we need a better way to secure these buildings in the park. The memorial service for Nate Butcher is scheduled for Monday, 5/23/22 at 5:30pm by Field #1. Adam will have the plaque hung by that date. The park committee is still working on an idea to honor Mike Turner. In John's absence, the Mayor stated John and Adam had completed the drive-through of the streets and determined Anna Drive, East Center Street, and the utility patch area on Northeast Street were to be repaired in 2022. Tricia had nothing in finance.

Reed made the motion to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids for the 2022 Street Repairs, Haas seconded the motion, and Council unanimously approved.

In the Mayor's reports, he states the new tower contract is being finalized. The old tower site demo has been completed with the reclamation of the seeding of grass. The parking lot issue brought to our attention by Mr. Dunn needs addressed by the engineers, the inspector, and Mr. Dunn.

The Mayor reported the sewer line cleaning and CCTV'ing has been complete. C.T. Consultants is in possession of the report and will create a work report for the village to determine how and where to begin the repairs.

The property at 523 N. Summit Street paperwork has been gathered and the Solicitor will submit to the Wayne County Prosecutor's office for review and charges.

Reed made the motion to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$31,755.14, Mullins seconded the motion, and Council unanimously approved paying the bills.

Mullins made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm, Thorn seconded, and Council unanimously approved.



Scheduled meetings:

- Council Meeting, June 7, 2022 @7pm
- N. Mill Street Waterline Bid Opening, June 10, 2022 @11am
- BPA Meeting, June 13, 2022 @6pm
- Council Meeting, June 21, 2022 @7pm

Becky Donnepiller

Clerk

Tommy R. Patton

Mayor