

MINUTES OF SMITHVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

June 4, 2024

The Council of the Village of Smithville met in regular session on Tuesday June 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall. Mayor Tom Poulson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Members present at roll call were Larry Allen, Matt Haas, Nathaniel Duenke, Joseph Reed, and Patrick Finn. Additionally Fiscal Officer Pamela Keener, Solicitor Jason Groh, Police Chief Hartman, and Office Assistant Amy Hescht were in attendance.

Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2024 meeting. Finn seconded the motion. Roll call: Allen, yes, Haas, yes, Duenke, yes, yes, Reed, yes, Finn, yes. The minutes were approved.

There were no visitors or correspondence.

Chief Hartman presented the monthly police report. Chief Hartman also discussed a grant application for the Village from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation to cover body armor vests for officers. Smithville is able to get approximately 75% covered resulting in a savings of more than \$8,000.00 for the Village.

Reed made a motion to approve the BWC grant application. Finn seconded the motion. Roll call: Haas, yes, Duenke, yes, Reed, yes, Finn, yes, Allen, yes.

Old Business:

Discussion surrounded the Green Local Schools lease. The Mayor is anticipating a revised lease agreement from the District.

New Business:

The Village received the appraisal back from CGS. A copy was distributed to all council members.

Chief Hartman explained the need for an additional full time officer position to provide appropriate police coverage to the Village. Fiscal Officer Keener provided various scenarios relating to the existing income tax rate and credit. Council discussed how to generate new revenue, include ideas of increasing the income tax rate, reducing the income tax credit, and property taxes. Members of Council expressed an interest in having a public session to discuss the situation with Smithville residents to obtain their input.

The Mayor introduced a Memorandum of Understanding with Kropf Wagner Law Firm, LLP to provide delinquent utility collections. Allen made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into the MOU with Kropf Wagner Law Firm, LLP. Haas seconded the motion. Roll call: Duenke, yes, Reed, abstain, Finn, yes, Allen, yes, Haas, yes.

The Mayor advised that Warren Caskey submitted his resignation as an official advisor to the Village. Mr. Caskey had previously served as our interim police chief, and was retained as an advisor to the Mayor and department after the promotion of Chief Hartman. Mr. Caskey felt confident that his services were no longer necessary and remains willing to assist if needed. Reed motioned to accept the resignation of Warren Caskey. Finn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Reed, yes, Finn, yes, Allen, yes Haas, yes, Duenke, yes.

Councilmember Haas advised Council that the Smithville Girls Track Team won the Division III State Track Championship last week at the State Track meet held in Dayton, Ohio. A Proclamation recognizing and honoring the team was discussed. Finn made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute a proclamation recognizing and honoring the Smithville High School Girls Track Team. Duenke seconded the motion. Roll call: Reed, yes, Finn, yes, Allen, yes Haas, yes, Duenke, yes.

Liaison reports:

Streets/Sidewalks: Finn advised that the previously discussed sidewalk repairs had occurred

Fire: No report.

Police: No report

Veteran's Memorial: No report but the Mayor mentioned the Memorial Day Parade was successful.

Park/Trees: Haas advised that fencing repairs would occur this coming week and that light repairs have been completed.

Equipment: No report.

Finance/Personnel: No report.

Mayor's Report: The Mayor advised council that the office is still working through some past utility billing issues but that new bills have been generated and sent out. The water meter reader is still not properly programmed, but they are working with the provider to get this remedied. The Mayor also advised that the 523 N. Summit property had sold and that the new owner was working on making some of the necessary improvements. Lastly, the Mayor mentioned that the sewer re-lining project was still not complete.

Allen motioned to pay the bills in the amount of \$49,070.24. Duenke seconded the motion. Roll call: Finn, yes, Allen, yes, Haas, yes, Duenke, yes, Reed, yes. The motion carried.

At 8:21PM Reed made a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to R.C. 122.21(G)(3) for (3) Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. Haas seconded the

motion. Roll call: Allen, yes, Haas, yes, Duenke, yes, Reed, yes, Finn, yes. Invited into the session were the Mayor, Solicitor Groh, Chief Hartman, and Office Administrator Amy Hescht.

At 8:25PM reed made a motion to return to regular session. Haas seconded the motion. Roll call: Haas, yes, Duenke, yes, Reed, yes, Finn, yes, Allen, yes.

There being no further business of council, Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Duenke Seconded. Roll call: Duenke, yes, Reed, yes, Finn, yes, Allen, yes, Haas, yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Approved: 6-18-24

Amy Hescht
Clerk

Thomas R. Johnson
Mayor