

# MINUTES OF SMITHVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

October 15, 2024

The Council of the Village of Smithville met in regular session on Tuesday October 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall. Mayor Tom Poulson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Members present at roll call were Larry Allen, Nathaniel Duenke, Joseph Reed, Matt Haas, and Adrienne Karlen. Additionally, Office Administrator Amy Hescht and Solicitor, Jason Groh, and Brandon Falcone were in attendance.

Haas made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2024 meeting. Reed seconded the motion. Roll call: Allen, yes, Duenke, yes, Reed, yes, Karlen, yes and Haas, yes. The minutes were approved.

The Police Chief introduced Brandon Falcone to council. Chief recommended Brandon Falcone to be hired for the full-time police position.

Duenke make a motion to go into executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G) (1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Reed seconded the motion. Roll call: Duenke, yes, Karlen, yes, Reed, yes, Allen, yes and Haas, yes. Invited to executive session were Mayor Poulson, Solicitor Groh, Chief Hartman, Amy Hescht, and Brandon Falcone.

Reed made a motion to return to regular session. Duenke seconded the motion. Roll call: Duenke, yes, Haas, yes, Karlen, yes, Reed, yes and Allen, yes.

Duenke made motion to hire Brandon Falcone to the full-time police officer position effective October 15, 2024. Karlen seconded and all agreed.

Brandon Falcone was sworn in and took oath of office. The Mayor presented him with a pin and badge.

**Police:** Police Chief reported 354 incidents and 75 reports. Five reports ending in charges, 39 traffic stops and 19 violations. The vest grant has been submitted and we should have reimbursement within the next 60 days. New Tahoe has arrived and detailing will be ordered in December. The Chief was approved for CPT training grant and the hours spent in training will be reimbursed. Blue Line Solutions placed temporary cameras in the school zones. Radar units have all been tested. Chief accompanied Zoning Administrator to house on south Summit. Two of the cruisers will need new tires before winter and flashing stop lights have been ordered for intersection of Summit and Prospect.

## **Old Business:**

Traffic visibility – Wayne County posted notice at residence and will discuss with resident.

Five-year capital plans to be submitted to Fiscal Officer by October 18, 2024.

Need to continue working on 2025 appropriations measures. Mayor, Fiscal Officer, and Council President to meet to discuss 2025 salary ordinance. They will reserve the first fifteen minutes for street departments needs for the 5-year plan.

**New Business:**

**Credit Tax Reduction Ordinance** was presented by Solicitor Groh for second reading. Council passed second reading. Fiscal Officer Keener did check with RITA on the lead-time needed to implement the change effective January 1, 2025. A copy of the ordinance will be given to RITA for review as well. RITA will send out a postcard to residents informing them of the change. Office Administrator to follow up with RITA legal on the response.

Council approved removing Amy Hescht from 6-month probation effective October 29, 2024. Duenke motioned, Haas seconded, and all agreed.

Zoning proposed a new fee schedule, an ordinance will need to be drafted to implement the new rates.

**Liaison reports:**

Streets/Sidewalks: No report.

Fire: New cameras and there were 90 calls last month.

Police: No report.

Veteran's Memorial: No report.

Park/Trees: Planning to shut down drinking fountains earlier this year, working on the bottle filling station. Working with Green Local Schools and street department to install Girls Track Signs. Next meeting is October 22.

Equipment: Dump truck repaired and skid steer is still in shop for hydraulic repairs.

Finance/Personnel: Annual reviews to be done in October.

Solicitor completed Sunshine training October 2, 2024 for all employees.

**Mayor's Report:** Nothing new for the sump-pump amnesty.

ARCAP lead study due to EPA tomorrow.

2024 OPWC project cannot complete all footage in the proposed area due to no manholes. The Mayor spoke with Chris at CT Consultants and he proposed replacing another area to get the total planned footage.

GPD Group plans to attend the November 5, 2024 meeting to go over study results. Eldorado & Center Street residents will be sent a letter to attend the meeting as well.

Well field generator project is being worked on by CT Consultants. We have had to follow-up twice so far and the project has been assigned to someone else to fast track, but they did get an extension.

2025 OPWC project is within funding. Smithville was ranked third. Mayor received confirmation that 17% of the total feet included in the sanitary sewer relining projects has been completed so far, and 26% complete by the end of 2024. Previous 2 OPWC projects scopes did not include engineering cost, but future ones will be scored both ways to see which ones gets more grant money.

Zoning code needs to be reviewed as it related to Airbnb and Bed & Breakfasts.

Brightspeed contacted village about permits needed to install fiber optic lines. The Mayor spoke with them about issues being resolved before requesting permits again.

Wayne County Agricultural Security Area sent notice of hearing for area surrounding the Village. Mayor will support and attend.

Sewer plant has had several issues with pumps. A new one was placed on order. Second pump needs repaired, but they will try to use parts from down pump.

Karlen motioned to approve the bill list totaling \$34,551.31. Allen seconded. Roll call: Reed, yes, Allen, yes, Karlen, yes, Haas, yes, & Duenke, yes.

Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Duenke seconded. Roll call: Duenke, yes, Reed, yes, Allen, yes, Karlen, yes, and Haas, yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Approved: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Amy Hascutt  
Clerk

Thomas R. Palmer  
Mayor

