

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – January 13, 2025
7:30 p.m.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

2024 Council President Eric West called the regular meeting to order and lead with the Pledge of Allegiance.

West stated that Mayor Walls would not be in attendance due to personal illness.

Present: Council Members: Eric West, Dorance Thompson, Steve Numbers, Stacey Cook, Joe Bailey, Dylan Lauck were present. Also present: Fiscal Officer Taylor West, Police Chief Nathan Fried, Fire Chief Rick Miller, Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser and Solicitor James Hearn.

It was moved by Bailey and seconded by Numbers to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2024, Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

West asked for nominations for the 2025 Council President. Thompson nominated Eric West, seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 5-0. E. West abstained.

West had **Resolution #2504 appointing James F. Hearn Senior as the Village Solicitor for 2025**. Numbers motioned to accept the resolution; Bailey seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

West asked for a motion to accept the Rules of Council as written, with no changes being made for 2025. The motion to accept the Rules of Council was made by Thompson and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 6-0.

West asked for nominations for 2025 Village Engineer. Jaidr Kohlrieser recommended Choice One Engineering. Lauck made a motion to accept Choice One, seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 6-0.

West asked for a Prevailing Wage Coordinator. Bailey nominated Eric West, seconded by Numbers. Motion passed 5-0. E. West abstained.

West asked for 2 representatives for the Auglaize County Regional Planning Commission for 2025. Thompson made the nomination to appoint Bailey and Lauck. It was seconded by Cook. Council voted to approve Bailey and Lauck 4-0 with Bailey and Lauck abstaining.

West stated the Mayor has been the Village's representative to the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council. Bailey made the motion to keep Mayor Walls and Dorance Thompson on the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council. Motion was seconded by Numbers. Council accepted Mayor Walls and Thompson 5-0 with Thompson abstaining.

West asked for two representatives for the Volunteer Firefighters Dependent Fund. Thompsom and Numbers volunteered to represent the village. Motion was made by Bailey and seconded by Cook. Council voted to approve Thompson and Numbers 4-0 with Thompson and Numbers abstaining. Fire Chief Rick Miller stated that Charlie Chapman, John Bayliff, and David Reichelderfer were the Fire Departments representatives.

West presented **Resolution #2505, appointing Randy LaMarr Jr. to serve as magistrate of the Village of Cridersville Mayor's Court for 2025 and declaring an emergency.** West said that Mr. LaMarr served as magistrate for 2023 & 2024. Motion to approve was made by Lauck and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 6-0.

West stated that the 2025 Committee assignments were out per the Mayor's assignments. The chairman for each committee is as follows:

Streets & Sidewalks – Dorance Thompson

Utilities & Surface Water – Joe Bailey

Parks & Recreation – Stacey Cook

Finance – Eric West

Properties & Equipment – Steve Numbers

Planning & Annexation of Land – Dylan Lauck

Safety – Mayor Walls

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole:

Utilities & Surface Water: Bailey reported Ohio Rural Water was in to help locate a water leak issue that has been problematic for some time. What was found was that the leak looks to be a private issue, and individuals have been notified of their options to try and resolve this issue. Our administrator is monitoring the situation and assisting through this process as able. Village Administrator Kohlrieser stated this leak is between the trailer park and the Village Café and the village is working with the solicitor to see what can be done because the village is losing substantial amounts of water from the leak. Solicitor James Hearn Sr. stated he believes under Title 61 the village does have authority to intervein in the situation and for the issue to be addressed, however, it is unclear what the legal actions are yet due to looking at more verbiage. Village Administrator Kohlrieser stated it seems that Ohio Rural Water located the leak under the concrete patio, and the water is coming up through the patio cracks but also saturating the ground.

Planning: Lauck stated our village administrator, along with our fiscal officer, are about halfway in completing the setup with TextMyGov which is the texting service that residents can opt-in with and get notifications and important information. Also, the variance hearing that took place on Dec. 10th, was approved by the zoning board of appeals for building of a shed.

Finance: No Report

Park: No Report

Streets: Thompson stated we are having some issues with semi-truck traffic on the corner of N. Gay Street and North Street. When the weather breaks, we will look at what can be done to try and fix the issue of these trucks cutting the corner and causing issues. Thompson commended the Village Street Crew for the great job they did this past weekend with the snow we received. Thompson also asked as a courtesy if village residents could move their cars off the street to allow the plows to get the streets cleared easier.

Properties: No Report

Safety:

Fire:
Chief Miller reported that there were 82 EMS calls and 8 Fire calls for a total of 90 calls for service for the month of December for a total of 960 calls for the year 2024, which is another new year run total record for the Fire Department.

The Fire Department has placed David Reichelderfer, John Bayliff, and Charlie Chapman on the Fire Fighter's Dependence Fund in addition to Steve Numbers and Dorance Thompson.

The Fire Department was able to give Cridersville Elementary School a \$500.00 donation to their Right to Read program from the annual Pancake breakfast with Santa.

The Fire Department was able to pass out Helping Hands to 40 local families the week after Christmas on Main Street. The Fire Department was able to supply two full meals and toys for the kids to each family.

Chief Miller thanked Police Officer Chiles for helping on EMS calls and that the fire department greatly appreciated anytime when a police officer can help on runs.

Chief Miller also stated the tanker is in a government bid in Oklahoma, there is a group from New York actively looking at the Rescue vehicle, and at this time there is no one interested in the ambulance.

Chief Miller also stated that there have been some changes in the 2025 Officer listing which include:

Fire Chief – Rick Miller
Assistant Chief – Ben Eley
Assistant Chief – Matt Kohler
Captain – Garry Cress
Captain – Matthew Green
Fiscal Officer – Joe Schimpf
Department Secretary – Sharon Kill
Assistant to Secretary – Erin Werner

Village council thanked the fire department for all that they do to serve the community of Cridersville and stated that we are lucky to be a village with both Fire and EMS services in town.

Police:

Chief Fried reported there were 183 calls for service last month with a total of 12 tickets issues for the month and 22 warnings. Chief Fried stated there were 1,856 calls for service for the year 2024. Chief Fried also mentioned there 183 tickets and 335 warnings written for the year 2024. In the month of December, Mayors Court brought in \$1,968, bringing the 2024 total to \$22,145 compared to the 2023 total of \$17,915.

Chief Fried wanted to thank Back-the-Blue for supplying John (Donnie) Chiles with a new vest and for the new door security system that is currently being installed for the Police Department. Chief Fried stated the system is 90% installed and there will be codes and key fobs issued to allow access to the police side of the building. Chief Fried also said he wants to start locking the door between the council chambers and the police department hallway for safety concerns.

Chief Fried has also looked at having officer issued cellphones and an office phone for the police officers that are on duty. CGIS states that there cannot be one phone that the officer on duty has that rotates due to security issues. Chief Fried said he was not sure what option would be best; however, it would be less expensive to go with a landline phone. Chief Fried is also looking into an outside emergency phone. The fire department has one and New Bremen does as well. He would like this phone to ring in the office and then ring to the dispatch line. The police department would have to pay for the phone outright and then TSC would install and hook the phone up with a monthly charge. Fire Chief Rick Miller stated that because it is a 911 emergency line, there should be no monthly charge involved. Council suggested that Chief Fried get back in touch with TSC to gather more information about fees and a safety committee meeting would be scheduled. The Safety Committee meeting has been arranged for Wednesday January 29, 2025, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Chief Fried announced that at 12:30 p.m. on January 14th he would be holding Coffee with a Cop at Otterbein and all are welcome to join. Council also thanks the police department for all that they do for the community of Cridersville.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

West introduced Resolution 2506, authorizing the Village Mayor to enter a Contract and Lease with the Cridersville Fire Department. West said this is for the annual contract with the Cridersville Volunteer Fire Department stating they will provide the Village with fire and rescue services for 2025 for a fee of \$44,000.00 to be paid in four equal quarterly

installments. Motion to accept the resolution as read and declaring an emergency was made by Numbers and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

West introduced Resolution 2507, authorizing the Village Mayor to enter a Contract with the Village of Buckland. The Cridersville Volunteer Fire Department will provide the Village of Buckland with EMS services for 2025 for an annual fee of \$1,200.00. Council member Thompson asked the last time the fire department raised the rate for the services to Buckland. Chief Miller stated that they dropped the contact amount from \$1,500 to \$1,200 roughly ten years ago when Buckland was in some financial trouble. Chief Miller stated he told Buckland this year that the rate may potentially increase next year. Chief Miller added that the fire department soft bills the residents of Buckland on any runs they must make. Last year the fire department responded to 16 EMS calls for service in Buckland. Motion to accept the resolution as read and declaring an emergency was made by Numbers and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

West introduced Resolution 2508, a Resolution to amend Resolution #2501, Making permanent appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Cridersville, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency. Fiscal Officer West stated the amendments were made due to having more funds because of paying off the cruiser early in the ARPA fund, and to appropriate the \$2,000 that was donated by Otterbein after the 2025 appropriations were passed in 2025. Motion to accept the resolution as read and declaring an emergency was made by Bailey and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 6-0.

West stated that at the end of the year meeting the village council overlooked giving Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser a raise. West stated that he takes blame for Jarid being overlooked. West made a motion to raise Jarid to \$81,000 salaried for the year 2025. West stated that Jarid has brought in roughly \$900,000 in grants to the Village of Cridersville for the year 2024 alone. Motion was seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0.

Other:

Village Administrator Kohlrieser stated the following community events have been put into place:

Annual Garage Sales are May 10th

Community Clean-up Day will be May 17th from 8:00 a.m. to Noon (This event is free to only village residents)

Stacey Cook added the following community events have been put into place:

Easter Egg Hunt – April 5th

Food Truck & Jeep Invasion – Saturday April 26th @ Fire Station

Fireman’s Jamboree – Friday July 11th & Saturday July 12th @ Fire Station

Halloween Festival (Parade) – October 27th @ 5:30 p.m. (Main Street)

Trick – or – Treat – October 30th

Christmas Tree Lighting –December 1st

Christmas on Main Street –December 13th

Cook added there will be additional community events that will be relayed later. She also stated this will be the 75th year of the Cridersville Lions Club and they are working on getting other events together.

West opened the floor to visitors

Boy scout Troop 162 attended the village council meeting. The troop asked how do you get to be a member of council. West replied to the current council at one point as all appointed, meaning that there were vacant seats and any village citizen over the age of 18 who has lived within village limits for at least a year can apply with the current mayor and council members for the position. Once the term ends that the resident is filling, if they want to run for re-election then they must go down and register with the Board of Elections and then get enough signatures on a petition of village residents who are registered to vote. Cook added that not all council members run for election at the same time, and the village staggers their elections that way three council members run every four years, causing a potential change over only three council members every two years. West added it is staggered that way if all the council members were replaced, it would not set the village back on issues that were addressed in the year prior to the election. West also

explained if you miss the deadline at the Board of Elections to get on the ballot, then you must be a write in on the ballot.

Council thanked Troop 162 for attending the meeting and thank the members for being boy scouts. Scout Master Brian Musselman stated there are four categories that the boy scouts must complete to work to become an Eagle Scout including community, national, world, and society.

Angela Knotts, resident of 313 West Main Street, asked if the representatives for the different area organizations had to be council members and if you had to be a member of council to be on a committee set by the mayor. Cook answered that you must be on council to be assigned as a representative and to be on the committees that are assigned by the mayor. Knotts also asked why resolutions and ordinances are passed by emergencies mostly. Lauck explained that it allows for the resolution or ordinance to take effect immediately. If resolutions or ordinances were passed without emergency, it would take at least three months of reading before they could be put into place. Lauck gave the example of if we need to appropriate more money to funds, that will need to be done quickly so those funds could be spent on projects such as the police cameras, compared to making department heads wait three months before the funds are there to allow them to purchase. He also explained that when the water/sewer late penalty was changed from \$10 to 10% that was a three-reading event, allowing the residents to come and see what was going on or voice their opinions on the matter before it took effect. Knotts also asked if the Fire Department or the Village Hall would rent out their signs to individuals for notifications such as birthdays. Knotts explained that John Bayliff would be turning 89 on January 20th. Chief Miller said they do not normally post items like that on their sign, however, in this circumstance they would.

Thompson made a motion to go into an executive session regarding personnel matters with council, fiscal officer, police chief, village administrator, and the village solicitor possible action to be taken. Motion was seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0. Executive session began at 8:42 p.m.

At 9:44 p.m. the police chief was excused from executive session

Motion to adjourn from executive session was made by Cook and seconded by Thomspson at 10:05 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

Council President West stated that Mayor Walls was informed on January 6th that Fiscal Officer West had turned in her two weeks' notice due to taking a job with the Village of Minster starting on January 20th. Council members thanked West for all that she has done over the past two years with the Village of Cridersville. Motion was made by Lauck to contract West on a bi-weekly basis at her current pay rate until both parties agree to move on as an independent contractor. Council asked that she continue to come to council meetings, run revenue, expenses, payroll and be apart of the hiring process for the fiscal officer position in the evenings. West is to set her own hours and may work from home if needed. Council stated they would like to get the job posted ASAP with the pay range being \$45,000 to \$70,000 based on experience. The motion was seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0 with West abstaining. Fiscal Officer West thanked the Village of Cridersville for giving her the opportunity to be the Fiscal Officer for the village. Council gave West the okay to post the job opening as soon as January 14, 2025 as they know they are competing with the private sector for accounting positions.

Council member Numbers stated that it is important to make sure there is documentation of conversations with village employees moving forward. Solicitor Hearn stated that there are procedures and policies that fall into place when looking at village administrator positions and moving forward. Numbers added that he is worried the Village of Cridersville, and the council are getting a bad reputation due to lack of effort from village departments.

Motion to adjourn was made by Lauck and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 6-0.

Taylor West, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor