

**VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – December 11, 2023**  
**7:30 p.m.**

Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rick Walls, Council Members: Stacey Cook, Joe Bailey, Dylan Lauck were present. Council members Dorance Thompson and Steve Numbers called into the meeting. Council member Eric West arrived at 7:34 p.m. Also present: Fiscal Officer Taylor West, Police Chief Nathan Fried, Fire Chief Rick Miller, and Solicitor Angela Elliott. Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser arrived around 8:45 p.m.

It was moved by Cook and seconded by Bailey to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed 5-0. West was not present at the time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Committee of the Whole:**

**Utilities & Surface Water:** Bailey reported our administrator has been working on trying to find a good air compressor replacement for a couple tanks at the wastewater plant. We have it narrowed down to a couple and trying to fine tune what is needed before we place the order for the new one. As many residents know, but for those that do not, the village is now setup to offer residents auto withdraw payments for their water and sewer bills as well as offering paperless billing for those that do not wish to receive a paper bill anymore. Residents can now look at their account and track their usage. Paying online is still available as well. This new billing software has been well received by our office staff and are very pleased with how this software is working. To date, within just the first month of installing these new features, we currently have 48 accounts signed up for auto withdraw and 23 accounts signed up to receive their bill via email. If other residents are interested in signing up for one of these new options, please contact our water/sewer office for further information. Our village administrator also attended a webinar regarding another round of funding through Ohio Department of Development Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program and has been in talks with engineers regarding an application.

**Planning:** Mayor Walls stated there was no report.

**Finance:** West stated the village received and installed the two AED defibrillators that our village administrator received a partial grant for in the purchase of those two units. One defibrillator is mounted inside the Village Hall hallway area and one defibrillator will be for our maintenance personnel.

**Park:** Cook reported Spieles Nursey was in and planted a few trees for the Historical Society, one in Legacy Park and a bicentennial tree in Delong-Pioneer Park. Also, the broken double pergola swing in Legacy Park has been replaced. Cook added that the Garden Club purchased Christmas blow ups that have been placed in Legacy Park for residents to view during the holiday season. Cook stated that the Reichelderfer family lit the tree located in Legacy Park in honor of the late June Reichelderfer.

**Streets:** Thompson stated Buehler Asphalt came in and completed a few patch repairs, one on Keldan and a couple on Dupler at a cost of around \$6,700.

**Properties:** Numbers reported Village administration has met with TSC representatives regarding a new phone system for village offices and since has instituted this new phone system within all departments. So far, the staff has liked the switch to the new system and will end up saving the village an estimated \$3,000/year with this new system.

**Safety:**

**Fire:**

Chief Miller reported that there were 81 EMS calls and 10 Fire calls for a total of 91 calls for service for the month of November for a total of 868 calls for the year of 2023 as of December 1st.

The annual Pancake Breakfast was a success again this year. Due to the success of the event, the fire department will be able to make a nice donation to Cridersville Elementary School for the Right to Read program. The Helping Hands program will be able to help 21 families in need this Christmas. Chief Miller added that the program will be taking on more elderly families this year and the handout will either be this Saturday or next weekend.

The new chassis has been paid for and is still being built in South Dakota. Additionally, Chief Miller was able to get an extension of 6 months on the \$50,000.00 grant the department received for a new ambulance. The fire department is currently looking for an ambulance to purchase.

Chief Miller stated the fire department currently has 30 volunteers and is looking to add more members to the department.

Council member Cook thanked the fire department for all their help with the holiday activities that take place around town.

**Police:**

Chief Fried reported there were 197 calls for service last month with a total of 28 tickets issues for the month along with 46 warnings. Chief Fried applauded Patrolman Herzog for adding 2 DUIs to the monthly total.

Chief Fried stated that the grant the Village applied for through a grant writer was not submitted, therefore the Village will be reimbursed for the costs of using the grant writer. Currently, the police department has applied for an AED grant to add 2 additional AEDs to the department. Chief Fried would like to look into using Lexipol as a grant writing company for the future. The new equipment that has been installed in the cruisers is working well and the police department is pleased with how everything is working.

Chief Miller and Chief Fried are working together to make EMS medical kits to be placed in the cruisers for medical response calls. Chief Fried also stated the rumor regarding an infant death was not due to police non-response. The Village of Cridersville did have an officer on duty who was able to respond to the call.

Chief Fried added the male who was caught stealing from properties in Meadowbrook back in the summer has been sentenced to 119 months of jail time.

The department is still looking to hire more part-time officers in the future. The department is currently finishing background checks and hopes to have them completed by the end of the week.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Walls introduced Ordinance 1705, an ordinance establishing certain rates of pay, health and hospitalization insurance, sick leave, paid holidays, and vacation for all non-elected village employees for the year 2024. The third of three readings.** Mayor Walls read the ordinance by title only. Motion to pass was made by Bailey and seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 5-1 with Cook voting no.

**Mayor Walls introduced Ordinance 1709, an ordinance to amend ordinance numbers 1606, 1608 and 1668 of the codified ordinances of the Village of Cridersville regarding municipal income tax and declaring an emergency.**

Mayor Walls read the ordinance by title only. The motion to pass the ordinance was made by West and seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0.

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2470, a resolution accepting annexation agreement and declaring an emergency.** Mayor Walls read the resolution by title only. The motion to pass the resolution was made by West and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2471, a resolution to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Cridersville, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.** Mayor Walls read the resolution by title only. The motion to pass the resolution was made by West and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 6-0.

**Other:**

Mayor Walls stated the renewal cost to be a member of WAEDC for 2024 is \$5,000.00 Mayor Walls asked for a motion to allow the Village of Cridersville to rejoin for 2024. Motion was made by Bailey and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 6-0.

Village Administrator Kohlrieser stated that there is pipe laying in the fields that are owned by Crossroads which is a good sign. Additionally, Kohlrieser has received an updated proof for an upgrade to the sign located outside of the Village Hall. The quote for the new sign is roughly \$37,000 including installation. The proof of the new signage will be sent to the council members and discussed at the January meeting.

Additionally, Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser asked for council to approve a 3% wage increase for all staff in the Water and Sewer Departments for the year of 2024. Motion to approve the 3% wage increase for Water and Sewer staff was made by Lauck and seconded by West. Motion passed 6-0.

Police Chief Rick Miller stated that Roland (Rolly) Stemen has passed away at the age of 92. He was currently residing in Virginia at the time of his passing. There will be a service held later to honor Rolly in either May or June. Chief Miller has stated that the fire department would like to pay their respects by taking Engine 1 (the last engine Rolly was apart of) to Gomer, Ohio where Rolly will be buried with his late wife.

Chief Fried asked to go into executive session regarding personnel matters and Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser asked to go into executive session regarding legal issues regarding real estate.

Motion to go into executive session regarding personnel matters and potential legal issues regarding real estate with no action to be taken was made by West and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0. Village Council and administrators went into executive session at 8:47 p.m.

At 9:34 p.m. a motion to come out of the executive session regarding personnel matters and potential legal issues regarding real estate with no action to be taken was made by Bailey and seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by West and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

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Taylor West, Village Fiscal Officer

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Rick Walls, Mayor