

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – August 14, 2023
7:30 p.m.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

The Regular Council meeting was held at Tower Park.

Present: Mayor Rick Walls, Council Members: Stacey Cook, Steve Numbers, Dylan Lauck, Joe Bailey, and Dorance Thompson. Also present: Fiscal Officer Taylor West, Police Chief Nathan Fried, Solicitor Angela Elliott, and Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser. Eric West was not present at the time of roll call. Fire Chief Rick Miller was not present.

It was moved by Bailey and seconded by Numbers to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed 5-0. West was not present at the time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole: West reported that there was a committee of the whole meeting on July 31, 2023, where each department shared ideas for updates to better the Village.

Utilities and Surface Water – Jarid is looking to have water and storm water studied completed using a county grant as well as looking to have a lift pump replacement. The department was granted \$725k from the Department of Development to help fund part #2 of the East Main Street project, which converted a 12-inch tile to a 15-inch tile in the sanitary sewer.

Planning – Jarid stated the plans are coming together – to start the Crossroads Project later this fall. They anticipate the road to be dug this fall with the Urology Clinic being started in the Spring of 2024.

Parks – Stacey had concerns about the park conditions, but those concerns have been taken care of by village crews. Joe Bailey would like the parks to be taken care of better as well. Resident Peg Bailey stated that she would like to get a group of people to work on the baseball fields allowing residents to be able to play on them. A group discussion from the council concluded that one or two of the diamonds should be playable for residents year-round. There was also some discussion regarding using the parks for the April 8, 2024, eclipse. There was a scheduled parks meeting for August 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Properties – Numbers stated that the tennis courts at Tower Park were in bad shape. He and Jarid would work on getting someone in to look to see if we could save those courts or what the next step would be going forward.

Finance – West reported the Village is to seek guidance per our solicitor regarding paying an administrator overtime on a salary. Guidance would come from someone with experience with wages and labor. It was also stated that the police need to cut down on overtime usage, which Chief Fried addressed that the department has cut down for the month of August. The Police department applied for a \$20k grant for technology. If the department is awarded the grant the funds will not be able to be used until the Spring of 2024.

Safety – Chief Miller stated the fire department is looking for grants to potentially purchase new equipment as well as a newer ambulance and back up tanker. Chief Fried added that the department is addressing the overtime issues while providing 24/7 coverage to village residents. Chief Fried would like council members to do a ride-a-long and give the department feedback on the department.

Streets – Dorance stated the 300 block of East Main Street has significant water from the broken-down alley running into residents yards. He will be looking at all the alleys to see if they are breaking down. Thompson also stated the streetlight in the alley by Cook's house is blinking and there is a limb by Neals apartment that needs to be addressed.

Utilities & Surface Water: Bailey reported Global Electric was in and replaced seals and bearings in our return pump#2 at the wastewater plant. They are also rebuilding one of our recirculating pumps for one of our aeration tanks as well as replacing all disconnects for our lift pumps. Crews dug, found, and fixed a water shut off at 301 W. High St. as well as fixed a water leak located on KelDan Street. Crews also dug and replaced two other water shut offs located at 316 and 318 W. Main Street. Village crews also installed a catch basin on the south side of the alley behind the properties of 402 and 406 W. Main which should help residents with water issues that have been a problem for many years.

Planning: Lauck reported there was one zoning violation for the month which has been brought into compliance. Our village administrator along with our village engineer had a meeting with Crossroads engineering team to review plans. Those plans are still in the process of being reviewed for further discussion.

Finance: West asked for the first reading of the pay ordinance to be put on the September council meeting agenda. He also asked for the village administrators to get with the Fiscal Officer and bring budget numbers to the October/November council meeting for council to look over.

Park: Cook thanked the Village Crews for making the parks look great. She also reported Hunter Hardwood was in to cut and remove two trees in Tower Park.

Streets: Thompson reported that he went through the alleys the other day. Jarid and Thompson will be setting up a time to review the alleys together and decide on a plan of action.

Properties: Numbers reported a new water fountain has been ordered for in front of the Village Hall. The one that had been out front for years needed to be replaced. The cost of the new fountain was \$1,677.82.

Safety:

Fire:
Mayor Walls reported that there were 71 EMS calls and 3 Fire calls for a total of 74 calls for service for the month of July for a total of 539 calls for the year of 2023. Chief Rick Miller asked Mayor Walls to mention that the Fire Department was awarded 750 Dollars for State EMS training and equipment grant.

Police:

Chief Fried reported that the Police Department wrote a total of 21 tickets totaling \$1,756.00. Chief Fried continues to work on administrative work, while his department continues to monitor the traffic on the streets. The department has put out an ad to hire part-time officers from which they have already received two applications. Chief Fried had mentioned about getting new equipment for the cruisers and department. He has gotten that quote redone saving the village cost as they are not going to equip cruiser 403. Chief Fried has also requested to have a safety meeting in the future to allow the department to sell cruiser 403. The Chief has been in talk with the grant writers as the department is pursuing an equipment grant. The grant writers stated that the department could split up the equipment purchase, therefore, if the Village were to receive the grant, the grant would be used to purchase new computers for the cruisers. The current new equipment package would total roughly \$50,000.00 before being awarded any grant money, which is 13,000.00 less than the original quote.

Chief Fried has requested to be allowed to purchase the new car cameras, body cameras, and in car printers as the current cameras are not always functioning on calls correctly. The department is working on cutting down the overtime in the month of August. The department is currently taking place in the active shooter training conducted by the school this week. The department is still working on building policies and procedures, while also being under a CGIS audit.

Chief Fried reported the renters at 215 East main street have been evicted. The landlord will be ordering a dumpster, if need be, to get rid of all the excess trash that was left. Code enforcement officer Ron Mertz has issued 22 written warnings this month as well as 5 verbal warnings. There have been 38 code violations corrected this month with 10 still open. Three of the violations are open from last month, of which two have been issued citations.

The Fire and Police departments will be grilling for the back to school celebration at Cridersville Elementary School on August 17, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2455, a resolution to allocate and distribute American Rescue Plan Act funds held by the Village of Cridersville, Auglaize County, Ohio declaring an emergency. Mayor Walls read the resolution by title only. West made a motion to pass the resolution with amendments that the funds were to be spent on specific items by both administrators as well as coming to council before purchases with the ARPA dollars can be spent. The amendment also allowed the Police Department to purchase the new camera equipment that is needed. The motion with amendments was seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2456, a resolution to authorize the village clerk to establish a new fund for Auglaize Development Funds and declaring an emergency. Mayor Walls read the resolution by title only. The motion to pass the resolution was made by Thompson and seconded by West. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2457, a resolution to amend Resolution #2440, making permanent appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Cridersville, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, 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 Lauck. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2458, a resolution authorizing the cash advancement of \$100,000.00 from the general fund to the Auglaize development fund and the advance back to the general from grant proceeds from Auglaize County for the improvements to the water, sewer, and storm sewer infrastructure of the Village and declaring an emergency. Mayor Walls read the resolution by title only. The motion to pass the resolution was made by Thompson and seconded by Numbers. Motion passed 6-0.

Council Member Thompson asked the mayor when the zip code for the development land on the east side of the town would be changed. The mayor stated that he reached out to Jim Jordans office last month but will be doing a follow-up. Thomspson added the Lions club will be holding a blood drive at the school on September 9, 2023, from 6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Council member Bailey mentioned that he would like to see council members get a raise. After discussion amongst council members, the issue was tabled and will be discussed at the next meeting. Bailey also encouraged all council members to participate in the classes that OML has regarding the duties of council members.

Council member Cook stated that the conclusion of the parks meeting, held before the council meeting, was to send out a survey to the residents of Cridersville to get feedback on what they would like to see in the Cridersville Parks System. The survey will also be posted online.

Stacey Cook also gave a list of all the events in the Village this fall and winter. The events are listed below.

Cridersville Community Garden Club

Mum & Scarecrow Sale

Saturday September 9th – 9a-1p @ Village Hall Lawn

Cridersville Historical Society

Ham & Bean Supper

Thursday September 21st – 4:30p – 6:30p

NEW location @ Cridersville United Methodist Church

Cridersville Historical Society

Halloween @ the Museum

Saturday October 21st – 7p -9p

Community Fall Festival & Halloween Parade

Monday October 23rd – parade at 5:30 p
Festival & Costume Contest to follow @ Fire Station

Cridersville Historical Society

Quarter Auction – Saturday November 11th

Doors open at 6p – Auction starts 7p - @ fire station

Cridersville Lions Club

Breakfast with Santa – Saturday November 25th – 9a

Cridersville United Methodist Church

Cridersville Historical Society

Community Tree Lighting @ Bowsheer Log Cabin

Monday December 4th – 6p

Christmas on Main Street

Saturday December 9th – Starts 9a – fire station

Hurray for the Holidays Huppla Giveaway at 12:30 pm

Other:

Mayor Walls opened the floor to residents.

Connie Walls, resident of 218 North Elizabeth, would like council to look at and address the issues with the trailer parks in town as the trailer parks are not getting any better. Council member Numbers stated that he agreed that the parks are not getting better, and the village needs to look at what the legalities are regarding trailer parks.

Kim Greer, resident of 314 Lavina, is concerned about the weeds that are growing at the 309 Marcella residents. She can see the weeds from her home, which have grown to be as tall as an individual standing next to them. Chief Fried and Ron Mertz both stated they would take further action on this property.

Greg Chavies, resident of 100 East Sugar, would like the minutes from the conditional use permit meeting that was held on July 19, 2023. The Village Administrator stated he would get him those.

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

Taylor West, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor