

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 14, 2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic gathering restrictions, the meeting was held at the Community Building at the park with a limit of ten people in attendance. Others were invited to join by conference call. 1-971-224-6574, code 647559.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rick Walls, Council President Eric West, Council Members: Joe Bailey, Stacey Cook, and Dorance Thompson, and Rick Allen. Also present: Solicitor Angela Elliott, Fiscal Officer Susan Bassitt, Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser, Police Chief Paul Robbins and Fire Chief Rick Miller.

Mayor Walls read Council member Frank Oen's resignation letter effective November 30, 2020. A motion was made by Cook and seconded by West to accept his resignation. Motion passed 3-2. Allen and Bailey voted no.

It was moved by West, seconded by Allen to accept the minutes of the November 09, 2020 regular Council meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole: No report.

Utilities & Surface Water: Joe Bailey reported the data on well #3 that Layne Company inspected showed that the well and pump are in good shape. The Village is waiting to receive a new metering device to see if that resolves any issues we may have.

Planning: Rick Allen reported Crossroads and the Village is still working on the TIF legislation and developer's agreement with some positive movement on the documents and hopefully those will be brought before council for review soon after the first of 2021.

Finance: No report

Park: Stacey Cook reported the Village received a life size ram statue donated by the John Bayliff family through the Historical Society that will be installed at Legacy Park after the archway is completed.

Streets: Dorance Thompson reported there were three (3) trees uprooted by the wind storms in November. Two (2) were in the tree lawn in the area of 300 E. Main St. and one was in Legacy Park. The Village will look into replacing them in the spring.

Properties: Mayor Walls reported that Wagner Overhead Door Company was in to look the salt shed garage door and some replacement parts were ordered.

Safety:

Fire Chief Rick Miller said there were fifty eight (58) EMS calls for the month of November and eight (8) Fire calls for a total for the year so far of six hundred seventy one calls for service. He said they had a very successful pancake breakfast and will be making a donation the Right to Read program at the school.

Police Chief Robbins said there were 161 calls in November. There was \$1,475.00 taken into Mayor's Court. Derrick Barginere was sworn in last month as part-time officer. He is a graduate of Apollo Career Center's Police Academy. He resides in Lima and is a graduate of Lime Senior High School.

Patrolman Snipes has completed field training and is currently on the schedule.

The Department was awarded one (1) AED from St. Rita's Medical Center from a grant Chief Robbins applied for earlier this year. St. Rita's was also generous enough to include training for officers on the new equipment. Cost of the AED would have been around \$2,000.00 without the grant.

The Police Department will be participating in the S.P.O.T program developed by the Auglaize County Sheriff's Office. The program will help safeguard citizens of Auglaize County who have both special needs and mental health conditions. It will allow Law Enforcement to identify those in the program, allowing them instant access to information regarding that particular subject to help make the best informed decision to help them in a time of crisis. The program is open to any Auglaize County resident regardless of age. The Chief will have additional information available in the future prior to the program launch.

Eric West reported the Safety Committee met on November 18th to discuss ways to help collect more income into the general fund to specifically offset the expense of maintaining a full time police department. They agreed the only option would be to place a one half percent (1/2%) increase of the local income tax on the May ballot in 2021. The one half percent raise in the income tax will go entirely to the support the Police Department to maintain around the clock coverage. They decided to put together a committee of community members whom will create questions and answers as to the need for the increase. They will then compile a flier for distribution to the community. The new committee will meet with the Mayor and Joe Bailey in groups of less than ten (10) to obey the Pandemic Order currently in place.

Mayor Walls said there have since been two (2) meetings with about twenty (20) community members. Resident Greg Myers is spearheading the committee and helping compile the information. The plan is for Council members to go door to door to talk to residents and hold some public meetings via social media. Large in person meetings are not currently permitted due to the Covid -19 pandemic. There will be a Resolution proposing the tax that will be read at three (3) council meetings. The deadline for submission to the Board of Elections is the first of February.

Mayor Walls introduced **Resolution #2405 declaring the necessity of an election on the question of approving the passage of an ordinance to amend the current income tax ordinances of the Village of Cridersville to one and one half percent beginning July 01, 2021.** Motion to read the resolution by title only was made by West, seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 5-0. After a lengthy discussion, council agreed they must make every possible effort to be totally transparent in this process and make every possible effort to educate the public as to the need of the tax increase before placing it on the May ballot. Nobody wants to ask for the increase but there is not an option if the community is to continue to have a full time Police Department. The increase would collect an estimated one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000.00) per year which would support nearly half of the Police Department annually. A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Thompson to accept Resolution # 2405 as read by title only for the first of three (3) readings. Motion passed 5-0.

A Committee of the Whole meeting was scheduled for January 04, 2021 at 7:30p.m. to discuss and answer questions regarding the tax increase.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Walls introduced **ORDINANCE #1695, ESTABLISHING CERTAIN RATES OF PAY, HEALTH AND HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE, SICK LEAVE, PAID HOLIDAYS AND VACATION FOR ALL NON-ELECTED VILLAGE EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2021.** A motion to read by title only for the third and final reading was made by Thompson and seconded by West. Motion passed 5-0. Mayor Walls read the Ordinance by title only. **Motion to accept Ordinance #1695 as read for the third and final reading was made by West and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Walls introduced RESOLUTION #2402, AMENDING RESOLUTION #2384, MAKING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. The Mayor read Resolution #2342 amending current appropriations for Cares Act money received by the county from redistribution of funds awarded to Auglaize County in the amount of thirty four thousand two hundred three dollars and seventy-nine cents (\$34,203.79). Bassitt added the money will be used for current Police Department wages. A motion to pass Resolution #2402 was made by Bailey and seconded by Allen. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls introduced RESOLUTION #2403, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Motion to read by title only was made by West and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 5-0. The Mayor read the resolution by title only. The resolution sets forth the appropriations for the Village for 2021 in total by each fund. A complete breakdown of the budget was given to council member prior to the meeting and is on file in the clerk's office. Motion to accept Resolution #2403 was made by West and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls introduced RESOLUTION #2404, AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER FACILITIES; AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Motion to read by title only was made by West and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 5-0. Mayor Walls read the resolution by title. The resolution pertains to the East Main Street Sewer Project for sanitary sewer replacements and improvements. The estimated cost for this portion of the project is ninety thousand six hundred dollars (\$90,600.00) Motion to accept Resolution #2404 as read was made by Cook and seconded by Allen. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls introduced ORDINANCE #1696, AMENDING AND REPLACING VILLAGE ORDINANCES 1550 AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 1627; HOURS OF PUBLIC USE FOR ALL VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE PARKS AND ESTABLISHING FINES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Motion to read by title only was made by Cook and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0. Mayor Walls read the resolution by title only. The resolution changes the Village's park hours from specific times to "dawn until dusk". Reservations for the Community Building in Tower Park are exempted from these designated hours. A penalty for violation is a minor misdemeanor and imposes a fine not to exceed twenty five dollars (\$25.00). Motion to accept Ordinance #1696 was made by Cook and seconded by West. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls introduced ORDINANCE #1697, DISPENSING WITH BIDS AND AUTHORIZING THE IMMEDIATE PURCHASE OF A BACKHOE AS DESCRIBED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Motion to read by title only was made by Thompson and seconded by West. Motion passed 5-0. Jarid Kohlrieser explained the current backhoe was in an unsafe state. Murphy Tractor and Equipment Company has a 2020 John Deere with enclosed cab, 4x4, front clam bucket and extendahoe arm for ninety seven thousand dollars (\$97,000.00) and is offering seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000.00) trade in allowance for the old backhoe for a total cost of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000.00) to be paid for primarily out of the water and sewer funds. Motion to accept Resolution #1697 was made by Allen and seconded by West. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls stated the empty Council seat needs to be filled. An ad will be placed in the Wapak Daily News as soon as possible and run for five (5) days. Applications will be accepted until January 02, 2021. A Special Council meeting will be held on Saturday, January 09, 2021 at 9:00a.m. to interview applicants.

Rick Allen stated that Police Chief Paul Robbins has one hundred fifty seven (157) hours of comp time earned this year that he will be unable to use. He feels some sort of compensation needs to be made. Due to budget constraints and the Covid pandemic, the Chief worked about two hundred eighty seven (287) hours so he didn't need to hire additional officers or to pay someone else overtime. Council agreed he has made significant sacrifice for the safety of the Village. The solicitor said according to Federal Labor Law and provisions of Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund that the Chief is not exempt from overtime. After discussion council agreed he should be paid at straight time for the hours. The money will come from the reimbursement of police wages derived from the Cares Act money which is a qualifying expense of the requirements set forth for use of those funds. The solicitor composed **Resolution #2406, to pay Chief Robbins one hundred fifty seven (157) hours of comp time earned in 2020 in one lump sum at his regular rate of pay which totals four thousand four hundred and nineteen dollars and fifty five cents (\$4,419.55) and declaring an emergency.** Mayor Walls asked for a motion to accept Resolution #2406. Motion made by Allen and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0.

Eric West made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter with a decision to be made afterward. Council entered executive session at 9:25 p.m.

Regular session resumed at 9:42p.m.

Mayor Walls asked for a motion to give the Village Administrator permission to give a 2021 wage increase of thirty (30) cents to his employees as discussed. Motion made by Allen and seconded by West. Motion passed 5-0.

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

Susan Bassitt, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor