

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – August 09, 2021
7:30p.m.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

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

Motion to excuse Joe Bailey was made by West and seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 5-0.

It was moved by Thompson and seconded by West to accept the minutes of the July 12, 2021 Council Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole: No report

Utilities & Surface Water: Mayor Walls reported that National Water Services replaced two discharge valves that were having problems with the installation of the new raw pumps at the waste water plant. The new valves seem to have fixed the issues they were having. Village crews dug and replaced two storm drain culverts on each side of Dixie Highway.

Planning: Rick Allen stated the work on Crossroads Project has started with crews working on the “Initial Infrastructure” phase of the project. That included boring the sewer lines under Interstate 75.

Jarid Kohlrieser said the Planning Committee met August 4th to discuss some conflicting zoning codes with the subdivision codes of Meadowbrook subdivision’s regulations. He said the Village codes will prevail.

Finance: No report.

Park: Stacey Cook said the Village Administrator received pricing for the new “Ram” statue base for placement in Legacy Park. Estimate from Fidelity Builders was \$4,563.30 for materials. Estimated labor is \$2,500.00 from Wentz. The total project would be \$7,063.30. Fundraising for the project is yet to be determined. The base would match the new gateway.

Streets: Dorance Thompson reported the Village did receive \$133,053.00 from Ohio Public Works Commission for the 2021 Street Resurfacing Project. The project includes N. Gay St. from Main St. to North Street, and W. Sugar St. from the railroad tracks to where the curb line begins. The work will be completed later this year by Buehler Asphalt and Paving.

Properties: Dylan Lauck stated that Beem Construction conducted some roof repair work at the wastewater plant for a cost of \$3,910.95.

Safety: Fire Chief Rick Miller stated there were 60 EMS calls and 9 Fire calls for a total of 69 calls for the month of July. Total calls as of August 1st, 2021 are 452. Chief Miller said the fire department responded to two Auto Aid calls in Perry Township recently. The department has also applied for an “Assistance to Fire Fighter’s Grant” which will be used for the purchase of a new tanker. They did receive a grant of \$750.00 which was used to put new tires on the Chief’s vehicle which does respond to every call.

Police Chief Paul Robbins stated there were 178 calls for service in July this year, compared to 124 for July of last year. Total calls for the year are 1172. There was \$970.00.00 collected in Mayor's court. He said the Fire department did reimburse the Police Department for security for the jamboree.

Chief Robbins stated that on August 19th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm is the "Back to School Bash" at Cridersville Elementary School. Hemy Water is donating bottled water and Community Market is donating 400 hotdogs and buns. The Fire Department has offered their grill for cooking the hotdogs. Chief Robbins asked any Council Members interested, are welcome to come help serve hotdogs.

Eric West said the Safety Committee met on August 4th to discuss hiring and retaining police officers. (Joe Bailey joined the meeting by telephone at this point.) West stated Chief Robbins said he currently has eight officers in his department. Four are full time, including himself and there are four part time officers. The current lack of people interested in this profession makes it very difficult to get officers. The latest academy had to reduce the minimum class enrollment from twenty to ten just to be able to get enough people to hold the class. Larger departments are swooping up our guys due to higher pay. One of our officer's is going to ADA for \$22.00 per hour starting pay. The Village currently starts full time officers at \$14.00 per hour and part time at \$12.00. The proposal is to increase the full time to \$18.00 and part time to \$16.00 and increase all current uniformed officers \$4.00 per hour with the exception of the Police Chief which will remain at the current rate. The increase in payroll would be approximately \$30,038.00 per year. The new income tax will generate about \$180,000.00 per year. After discussion a motion was made by West to raise current offer's wages \$2.00 effective the first payroll in September and increase another \$2.00 per hour effective the first pay of December. The 2022 pay ordinance will increase the base starting pay for full time to \$18.00 per hour and to \$16.00 for part time officers. Motion was seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0. Joe Bailey disconnected from the meeting at this time.

Eric West said there was also a lengthy packet from Ms. Oen given to the members of the Safety Committee that was relevant to the meeting topic reviewed and discussed. Because of the multiple complaints discussed in the packet and what seems to be on going issues with the Oen family and the Village Police personnel, the Safety Committee felt it best to bring this issue to Council because of it being a personnel matter that affects multiple Village employees. The matter will be discussed in executive session later in this evening's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Dorance Thompson asked about the property at 217 W. Main St. which the owner has been ordered to demolish the building on that property. Chief Robbins replied that the owner has been fined and told that the Village will continue moving forward on removing the structure and assessing the owner with the costs. The owner said he is waiting on Dominion Gas to disconnect some lines before he can continue with removal. He is to furnish Chief Robbins with a written plan and contractor's date for removal within the next couple weeks. The issue will be updated at the September council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution #2418, AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL TERMS OF THE ONE OHIO SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSISTENT WITH TERMS OF THE JULY 21, 2021 NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. Mayor Walls explained that the State of Ohio filed a lawsuit against major opioid distributors, McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., and AmerisourceBergen Corporation. Upon settlement the village may receive estimated funds of \$6,700.00. Motion to accept Resolution #2418 and declaring an emergency was made by West and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution #2419, accepting the plan of distribution of the Local Government Fund and Local Government Revenue Assistance funds for Auglaize County, Ohio as proposed by the Auglaize County Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor. Motion to read by title only and pass as an emergency was made by Thompson, seconded by West. Motion passed 5-0. Mayor Walls read the resolution by title and stated the amount estimated to the Village in 2022 would be \$70,768.16. Motion to pass Resolution #2419 was made by Cook, seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 5-0.

Dorance Thompson said the Lion's Club will be holding a blood drive on September 11th from 6:30am until 9:30am. at the Cridersville Elemenatary School.

Stacey Cook said the Garden Club Mum Sale will also be on September 11th at the Hall from 9:00am.until noon.

Rick Allen said he had been contacted by a resident that said she received a phone call soliciting money for the Cridersville Police Department. Chief Robbins said there was another complaint of a call asking for money to support the Police Canine unit. There are no such legitimate solicitations for the department.

Resident Connie Walls thanked Chief Robbins for staying on top of the situation at 219 Elizabeth St. and associated properties. They have been sold and cleanup work has been started. Chief Robbins said he has had a conversation with the new owners and they do intend to renovate and sell the four properties.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter with action to follow was made by West and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion to enter back into regular session after about one hour of executive session was made by West and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 5-0.

Solicitor Angela Elliott stated the Council went into executive session in order to review a complaint made by a resident with the Cridersville Police Department. After review of the documents submitted and the video of the incident, no further action is to be taken. The Solicitor said she will be sending a letter to the resident who made the complaint explaining what happened and further steps they can take if they feel necessary within the next thirty days.

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

Susan Bassitt, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor

