

**VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – November,14, 2022**  
**7:30p.m.**

Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rick Walls, Council Members: Joe Bailey, Dorance Thompson, Eric West, Steve Numbers and Stacey Cook. Also present: Fiscal Officer Susan Bassitt, Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser, Solicitor Angela Elliott and Fire Chief Rick Miller. Dylan Lauck was out of town.

Eric West made a motion to excuse Dylan Lauck it was seconded by Cook. Motion passed 5-0.

It was moved by Numbers and seconded by Bailey to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2022 regular Council meeting and the 11-07-2022 Special Council meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Committee of the Whole:** No Report

**Utilities & Surface Water:** Joe Bailey reported the Village crews completed our annual fall hydrant flushing program. The East Main Sewer project has had the main line and laterals installed, tested and completed. The curbs have been prepped and are being installed. Directly after that, the trenches will be patched. Restoration of the yards will be the last step. We also conducted a startup on the new on-site generator for the new lift station for the Crossroads property and all went well.

**Planning:** Mayor Walls reported the Village Administrator, Josh Bloomfield from Crossroads and the Village engineer are having meetings and discussions about possible zoning changes to the Crossroads project site to allow for a Mixed-Use district. Any changes requested by Crossroads will go through the Village Planning Commission and due process as needed through our zoning codes.

**Finance:** A finance committee meeting was held October 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2023 Pay Ordinance. A number of proposed changes were discussed and the committee's recommendations were given to Council. It was suggested seasonal help would be raised to \$10.10 per hour to comply with the new federal minimum wage. Also to raise the starting base wage of all the other positions under maintenance, water and wastewater by \$2.00 per hour, with all clerks increased by \$2.00 as well. It was proposed the starting base wage for the police chief would be an annual salary of \$66,560.00. The police lieutenant increased to \$28.00 per hour, the sergeant to \$25.00 per hour, full time officers to \$22.00 per hour and part time to \$18.00 per hour. It was proposed to give all eligible positions 1 additional personal hour per year. And finally, the comp time section will be revised by the Village Solicitor and presented at the December meeting before the final reading of the pay ordinance. (Note: none of these increases would affect current employees. These are minimum starting wages for future employees.)

A Finance meeting was held November 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss Susan Bassitt's retirement with an intended effective date of June 01, 2023. The committee presented their recommendations to council at a Special Council meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>. They suggested posting a job opening for the fiscal officer position at an annual salary of \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00. Also post a part time position for up to 20 hours per week for \$18.00-\$20.00 per hour with no benefits. Council approved those proposals and ads were placed last week. Mayor walls, Susan Bassitt and Jarid Kohlrieser will review and interview qualified applicants.

**Park:** Stacey Cook reported the Village Administrator has since taking over the grant process for a shelter house in Legacy Park, had conversations with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for a Capital Improvement Award the Village received. He has received the details of the application and what the grant process consists of. The grant is for \$300,000.00. The Village will need to supply a portion of the cost that is yet to be determined. The Administrator will get more information then proceed. The project would need to be completed by June of 2024. He called a Parks Committee meeting for December 14, 2022 at 6:00p.m. to discuss details and see if the Village will have the necessary funds.

**Streets:** Dorance said on the committee's planning board for consideration are E. Sugar St. and N. Elizabeth St. Dorance also reminds residents that leaves must be bagged and placed by the street for pick up. They will not be picked up if just swept to the curb.

Jarid gave an update on the W. Sugar St. damaged by a tractor trailer earlier this year. The Village has received a check from the insured's insurance company for just under \$39,000 for the damages. Repair will be scheduled for next spring. Jarid did try to lock in the quote he received for repairs if done this year, the pavers give a new quote with only about a \$450.00 increase.

**Properties:** No report

**Safety:** Fire Chief Rick Miller stated there were 54 EMS calls and 8 fire calls for a total of 64 for the month of October. There have been a total of 693 calls for the year. The building project at the Fire station is nearing completion. The Chief said a new tanker has been ordered through United Fire Apparatus with expected delivery in 2024. The cost is about \$452,380.95 with the Village's portion being \$22,619.05. He has also applied for some funding for a new ambulance.

The Chief said Christmas with Santa at the Fire Station will be in conjunction with "Christmas on Main" on December 10, 2022. Breakfast will be served from 7:30-11:00 at the Fire Station. Santa will appear at 11:00. Proceeds will go to The Right to Read Program at Cridersville Elementary School. The Fire Department is also involved with the Helping Hands at Christmas Program. Donations are gladly accepted, such as money, toys and non perishable food items. A grant through Walmart has been applied for as well. They hope to help 30 to 35 local families this year. Donations can be dropped off at the Fire Station.

Dorance Thompson brought up concerns expressed last month about cars going through the alley north of Main St. driving too fast posing a risk to children and other vehicles accessing garages along the alley. A Street and Safety Committee meeting was scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> and discussed the possibility of stop signs, speed limit signs and slow/children at play signs. It was decided to turn the issue over to the police department. Mayor Walls will check with Chief Creech to see what has been done.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Walls introduced Ordinance #1703, establishing certain rates of pay, health and hospitalization insurance, sick leave, paid holidays and vacation for all non-elected Village Employees for the year 2023.** All the suggested changes presented during the Finance Committee report earlier this evening were accepted. Motion to accept the resolution for the second of three readings was made by West and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 4-0 with Cook voting no.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mayor walls introduced Resolution #2438, making permanent appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Cridersville, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, and declaring an emergency.** Bassitt said the appropriations are commonly adjusted near the end of the year due to additional expenses incurred. The resolution added \$63,557.04 to the 2022 budget for various expenses. Motion to accept Resolution #2438 as read and declaring and emergency was made by Thompson and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0.

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution #2439, to approve the necessary transfer of funds for the Village of Crideresville and declaring an emergency for the year 2022.** Bassitt explained the transfers are to take money from the appropriate funds, General, Water and Sewer and put in the debt service accounts to pay the semi-annual loan payments for Village projects funded by loans from OWPC and OWDA. Motion to accept Resolution #2439 as read and declaring an emergency was made by West and seconded by Numbers. Motion passed 5-0.

**Other:**

Stacy Cook stated the Lions Club will be having their annual Breakfast with Santa on November 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m. It is a drive-thru event, serving pancakes and sausage. It is sponsored by the Crideresville Nursing Home.

The Historical Society will have their annual Tree Lighting at Bowsher Log Cabin on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m. Christmas Carols and cookies are planned.

The annual Christmas on Main will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. It will begin and end at the Fire Station. More information is to come.

Dorance Thompson asked the Mayor how the meeting went with the library. The Mayor said at the October meeting he had a meeting scheduled with the Auglaize County Library to discuss their possible purchase of the old Bear's Den property. Mayor Walls said the library had no definite plan at this time.

Dorance asked if there has been any progress in getting the zip code changed on the annexed property where Crossroads is being constructed. The property still has mailing addresses of Wapakoneta with a zip code of 45895 it needs changed to Crideresville with a zip code of 45806. The Mayor said he and Jarid have talked with the Lima Postmaster who said it was the responsibility of the County Engineer who referred them back to the post office. It appears no one wants to address the issue so the Mayor is going back to the Post Master. Council made comments and over all agreed it is an important issue and needs to be done.

Jarid gave an update on the E. Main St. Sewer Project. He said curbs are being poured this week. Then street patching will be done and should be finished by the end of next week. Stacey Cook expressed serious concerns about the length of time the E. Main St. Sewer Project has taken and how upset residents are about the mess. She said the project was originally expected to be completed by the end of July. Stacey asked if there are retributions for the contractor being so far behind, and for causing such hardship for residents. She also expressed concerns about the height of the curbs that have been poured and the depth of the tree lawn in the 100 block of E. Main. Jarid said it looks deceiving but the street wasn't widened and the curb height is fine, the tree lawns will be leveled as the last step. Jarid said the Village engineers, Choice One are also overseeing the project to make sure it is done properly. Jarid said retributions can be discussed when the project is finished if need be. East Main St. will be completely repaved in the spring. Village crews will be able to plow snow from the street this winter.

Motion to adjourn was made by West and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0.

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Susan Bassitt, Village Fiscal Officer

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Rick Walls, Mayor

