

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – January 8, 2024
7:30 p.m.

Prior to tonight’s meeting, Mayor Rick Walls was sworn in. Additionally, Mayor Walls swore in council members Steven Numbers, Stacey Cook and Joseph Bailey who were elected for new terms of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2027.

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call

Mayor Rick Walls called the regular meeting to order and lead with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Rick Walls, Council Members: Eric West, Dorance Thompson, Steve Numbers, Stacey Cook, Joe Bailey, Dylan Lauck were present. Also present: Fiscal Officer Taylor West, Police Chief Nathan Fried, Fire Chief Rick Miller, Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser and Solicitor James Hearn.

It was moved by Cook and seconded by Bailey to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls asked for nominations for the 2024 Council President. Thompson nominated Eric West, seconded by Numbers. Motion passed 5-0. E. West abstained.

Mayor Walls had **Resolution #2472 appointing James F. Hearn Senior as the Village Solicitor for 2024**. Bailey motioned to accept the resolution; E. West seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls asked for a motion to accept the Rules of Council as written, with no changes being made for 2024. The motion to accept the Rules of Council was made by Thompson and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls asked for nominations for a 2024 Village Engineer. Jaird Kohlrieser recommend Choice One Engineering. Bailey made a motion to accept Choice One, seconded by Cook. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls asked for a Prevailing Wage Coordinator. Cook nominated Eric West, seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 5-0. E. West abstained.

Mayor Walls asked for 2 representatives for the Auglaize County Regional Planning Commission for 2024. Joe Bailey and Dylan Lauck volunteered. Council voted to approve Bailey and Lauck 4-0 with Bailey and Lauck abstaining.

Mayor Walls stated he has been the Village’s representative to the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council and is willing to continue and suggests Dorance Thompson as his back up. Thompson agreed. Council voted to approve Mayor Walls and Thompson 5-0 with Thompson abstaining.

Mayor Walls asked for two representatives for the Volunteer Firefighters Dependent Fund. Thomspson and Numbers volunteered to represent the village. Council voted to approve Thompson and Numbers 4-0 with Thompson and Numbers abstaining.

Mayor Walls presented **Resolution #2473, appointing Randy LaMarr Jr. to serve as magistrate of the Village of Cridersville Mayor’s Court for 2024 and declaring an emergency**. Mayor Walls said that Mr. LaMarr served as magistrate for 2023. Motion to approve was made by Cook and seconded by E. West. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls presented the 2024 Committee assignments. The chairman for each committee is as follows:

Streets & Sidewalks – Dorance Thompson

Utilities & Surface Water – Joe Bailey

Parks & Recreation – Stacey Cook

Finance – Eric West

Properties & Equipment – Steve Numbers

Planning & Annexation of Land – Dylan Lauck

Safety – Mayor Walls

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole:

Utilities & Surface Water: Bailey reported our village administrator has submitted a grant for roughly \$1.7 million through the state’s Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program for upgrades to our wastewater lift pumps and to the wastewater headworks. Notifications and awardments for this grant program will come sometime towards the first of this year. Doston’s Plumbing and Heating was in to repair a heater unit and replace a backflow preventer at the wastewater plant. Global Electric was also in to install a rebuilt recirculation pump into our south aeration tank at the wastewater plant.

Planning: Lauck stated the Village had one zoning violation for the month and that issue has been brought into compliance.

Finance: West stated closing out the year of 2023, we ended with a slight increase to our income tax of nearly 1.5% compared to the 2022 collection receipts. We also had a total of 30 shelter house rentals for 2023 which brought in \$4,500.

Park: Cook stated our villages’ pickleball courts have finally been completed the Legacy Park basketball court and are ready for use. We look forward to seeing both of our newly installed amenities, including the Gaga Ball Pit in Tower Park, being used when the weather permits. Cook also mentioned that the Lions Club will be reimbursing the Village of Cridersville for the materials of the Gaga Ball Pit as the Lions Club would like to bring activities for children to town.

Streets: Thompson stated there was no report.

Properties: Numbers stated our big dump truck was taken to Miller’s Auto for service and while there was safety checked and inspected which totaled \$1,455.96.

Safety:

Fire:

Chief Miller reported that there were 84 EMS calls and 5 Fire calls for a total of 89 calls for service for the month of December for a total of 957 calls for the year of 2023, which was up 117 calls for service from 2022.

The Fire Department has placed David Reichelderfer, John Bayliff, and Charlie Chapman on the Fire Fighter’s Dependence Fund in addition to Steve Numbers and Dorance Thompson.

The Fire Department was able to give Cridersville Elementary School a \$500.00 donation to their Right to Read program from the annual Pancake breakfast with Santa. The Fire Department was granted \$500.00 Walmart Community Grant to go towards the Fire Departments Helping Hands Donations as well.

The Cridersville Fire Department was one of the departments in Auglaize County to be awarded the State MARCS grant of \$50,000.00 for the installation and equipment needed to convert the department to the MARCS radio system. The total for the radio equipment is roughly \$95,000.00, therefore, the remaining \$45,000.00 will be paid by the Fire Department.

The Fire Department plans to replace all 7 garage door openers this year for roughly \$13,000.00. Wagner Door will complete the door replacement.

Police:

Chief Fried reported there were 186 calls for service last month with a total of 10 tickets issues for the month. Chief Fried stated there were 1,839 calls for service for the year of 2023, which is up 126 calls for service from 2022. Chief Fried also mentioned there were 176 tickets written in 2023, which is up 103 tickets from 2022.

The Police Department has been awarded an AED grant that is just shy of \$900.00. With this grant it will allow the Police Department to add 2 AED units to the department. Chief Fried asked to schedule a Finance Meeting on January 18th starting at 12:15 p.m. at the Village Hall regarding ARPA funds.

There have been calls about solicitors in town over the last month. Chief Fried asked residents to ask these solicitors for their permits issued by the Village of Cridersville. If anyone feels unsafe or no solicitation license is presented to please contact the Police Department.

E. West stated that with it being winter the speed trailer should be put in storage. Chief Fried stated that he would be working on that this week.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2474, authorizing the Village Mayor to enter a Contract and Lease with the Cridersville Fire Department. Mayor Walls said this is for the annual contract with the Cridersville Volunteer Fire Department stating they will provide the Village with fire and rescue services for 2024 for a fee of \$42,000.00 to be paid in four equal quarterly installments. Motion to accept the resolution as read and declaring an emergency was made by E. West and seconded by Numbers. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2475, authorizing the Village Mayor to enter a Contract with the Village of Buckland. The Cridersville Volunteer Fire Department will provide the Village of Buckland with EMS services for 2024 for an annual fee of \$1,200.00. Motion to accept the resolution as read and declaring an emergency was made by Numbers and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2476, a Resolution to amend Resolution #2471, Making permanent 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. Motion to accept the resolution as read and declaring an emergency was made by E. West and seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0.

Other:

Stacey Cook stated the following community events have been put into place:

Food Truck & Jeep Invasion – Saturday April 27th @ Fire Station

Fireman’s Jamboree – Friday July 12th & Saturday July 13th @ Fire Station

Garden Club Mum & Scarecrow Sale – Saturday September 7th @ 9:00 a.m. (Village Hall)

Lions Club Blood Drive – Saturday September 14th

Halloween Festival (Parade) – Monday October 28th @ 5:30 p.m. (Main Street)

Trick – or – Treat – Thursday October 31st from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Lions Breakfast with Santa – Saturday November 30th @ 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Tree Lighting – Monday December 2nd @ 6:00 p.m.

Christmas on Main Street – Saturday December 14th @ 9:00 a.m.

Cook stated that she would like to discuss what the Village would like to do on April 8th for the eclipse at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Chief Miller stated that the Fire Department will be staffed with anyone who wants to take time off of work the weekend of April 8th for the expected population influx due to the eclipse. He also stated that response calls could be longer than normal the weekend of April 8th.

Numbers stated that a person at Findlay Country Club would like to design a park golf course layout for the Village of Cridersville free of charge to see if we like the design. Park golf is something that is taking off in the United States and currently there are only two courses. Numbers is working on how the village would be able to distribute mallets and balls for the park golf course, if the village decides to create a course. Additionally, Numbers would like to see if a fundraiser with the Fort Wayne Tin Caps could be possible for the Village of Cridersville.

Mayor Walls asked village council members to think of a direction the village could take regarding fireworks in town. Additionally, he would like everyone to think about ways to improve the parks, as well as getting donations for the parks.

E. West made a motion to go into executive session regarding personnel matters with council and the village solicitor with action to be taken at 8:31. Motion was seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion to adjourn from executive session was made by Thompson and seconded by Bailey at 9:09 p.m. Motion passed 5-0 E. West was not present at the time of adjournment.

Lauck made a motion to increase Village Administrator Jarid Kohlriseser salary to \$78,000.00 a year for 2024. Kohlriseser has 18 years of service to the Village with 10 of those years being the Village Administrator. Motion was seconded by West. Motion passed 6-0.

Lauck made a motion to increase Fiscal Officer Taylor West salary to \$46,000 a year for 2024. Numbers seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. E. West abstained.

Mayor Walls opened the floor to the residents.

Angela Knotts, resident of 313 West Main Street asked the village council to allow for extra patrol at Bayliff & Sons Funeral Home on Saturday January 13, 2024. There will be a viewing held at the funeral home from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. and she is requesting to have an officer on grounds at the funeral home. Chief Nathan Fried stated that he will be there as well as the officer on duty until that officer is directed to a call. Knotts also asked if there were any permits the funeral home would need if they were to add another crematory inside the garage. Village Administrator Kohlriseser stated that if the addition is inside the current structure no permits from the village will need to be issued, however, the funeral home will need to get in contact with Miami County Department of Development for permits.

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

Taylor West, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor