

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – July 10, 2023
7:30 p.m.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rick Walls, Council Members: Stacey Cook, Steve Numbers, Dylan Lauck, and Dorance Thompson. Also present: Fiscal Officer Taylor West, Police Chief Nathan Fried, Lieutenant Miles Truex, Solicitor Angela Elliott, and Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser. Council Member Joe Bailey was not present at the time of roll but was present at the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Council Member Eric West and Fire Chief Rick Miller were not present.

It was moved by Numbers and seconded by Lauck to excuse council member Eric West from the meeting. Motion passed 4-0. Bailey was not present at the time.

It was moved by Numbers and seconded by Cook to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed 4-0. Bailey was not present at the time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole: Mayors Walls stated that there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on July 31, 2023, at 7:30. The meeting will be held at the Village Hall regarding what is happening around the village.

Utilities & Surface Water: Mayor Walls reported we ordered two new walk-in doors from Ellis Window and Door for our wastewater treatment plant. These doors cost \$6,700 and are waiting for them to come in for installation. Villages crews dug and fixed a water leak located at 401 South Carlisle and fixed two water shut offs, one on West Sugar Street and one on South Carlisle. Crews also dug and replaced a storm catch basin located on North Waverly Street. Village crews also dug and found a leak on our well #3 line and had Barnt’s Excavating report that line. Dominion Gas has been installing their new 8” gas line within the alley off Shawnee Road, which that project has been going good thus far, Lastly, our village administrator met with engineers from Jones & Henry Engineering to start the planning process for future growth possibilities for both our water and wastewater plants.

Planning: Lauck reported there were two zoning violation letters for the month and those have been brought into compliance.

Finance: Mayor Walls reported the Finance committee had a meeting to discuss the usage of the ARPA funds between both administrators of the Village, Police Chief and Village Administrator. The Mayor mentioned that both departments had wish lists of things that they would use the money for and that the committee wanted to propose to council the split of the ARPA funds 50% to both administrators, which is roughly \$94,231, for their budgets with a priority to be placed on a Splash Pad, New Equipment Package, Condemned Buildings, and the overtime incurred to rebuild and train new employees.

Park: Cook reported the village received a grant from the Wapakoneta Area Community Foundation through the Wapakoneta Eagles in the amount of \$1,600 to go towards plaques for Legacy Park. The plaques will be 12x12 black granite that will be placed on the ground in front of the statues. The Historical Society will also help pay for the rest of the costs of the plaques.

Streets: Thompson stated there was no report.

Properties: Numbers reported the Crossroads project is getting ready to put out for bids their entry road project within the next couple of weeks. This main public entry roadway will be the main roadway and will give access to future parcels and projects within the property.

Safety:

Fire:

The mayor read the report from Fire Chief Rick Miller that there were 69 EMS calls and 10 Fire calls for a total of 79 calls for service for the month of June for a total of 465 calls for the year of 2023. Mayor Walls also stated that the Jamboree totals are not finalized yet, but it looks as if it will be another successful year. Chief Rick Miller asked Mayor Walls to thank all the residents and visitors for allowing the Jamboree to be a successful event, along with thanking the Cridersville Police Department for patrolling and Village Crews for all their set up.

Police:

Chief Fried reported that the Police and Fire Departments joint training was successful, allowing the relationship between the two departments to grow. The Cridersville Police Department is fully staffed with full-time officers as Dylan Herzog was sworn in on Sunday evening. The Police department is working to slow down the traffic coming through town as well.

Council Member Dylan Lauck asked about eliminating overtime within the department. Mayor Walls mentioned that he and Chief Fried are aware of the overtime issues, and it will reduce going forward.

With many complaints about Fireworks over July 4th, Chief Fried asked that citizens with concerns, ideas, and questions feel free to reach out to the department to help come up with ideas to better regulate fireworks after the new State of Ohio Law.

Mayor Walls opened the floor to the residents.

William Bartholomew of 205 South Water Street stated that he had debris on his property from other individuals around him shooting off the fireworks, which caused concern that his home may catch on fire. Due to the loud noises that the fireworks gave off, he was unable to sleep and found the fireworks very disturbing. Mr. Bartholomew also mentioned that he called the Cridersville Police Department as well as the Sheriff's office and was told that consumer fireworks were permitted under the new State of Ohio laws and regulations. Mr. Bartholomew also added that he that he is appreciative for the help that the Police Department gave him with the new information regarding fireworks.

Paul Montgomery of 319 West Main Street stated that he and his wife had debris on their property as well. He went outside to see what was going on and walked out just in time to see debris fall on his deck. The Montgomery home had been struck by an arial firework a couple of years ago. He also mentioned that under the new State of Ohio laws and regulations, people are not allowed to shoot off arial fireworks unless they have 150 feet clearance of spectators and homes, as well as 50 feet clearance of spectators and homes for non-aerial devices. Mr. Montgomery mentioned that he believed that people are not paying attention to the 150-foot and 50-foot distance regulations.

Russ & Tama Hollar of 315 West North Street stated that their home was shaking due to the explosions/fireworks that their neighbors were setting off. The explosions from letting off these different devices were enough to vibrate their walls and cause pictures to move. Mr. Hollar mentioned that they started hearing the explosions around 2-3 p.m. and they continued until a little after 11:00 p.m. He stated that under the new State of Ohio law no one is to operate fireworks under the consumption of alcohol or any banned substances. The day following his neighbor shooting off fireworks, he had to go outside and clean up the debris that were on his property, while waiting on the wind to blow the rest from his roof. Mr. Hollar also mentioned that his property sits on a double lot and their lot is not even big enough to shoot aerial fireworks from, therefore, he is unsure if there are any properties in Cridersville that are large enough. Mrs. Hollar mentioned it seems like there is no consideration from fellow citizens regarding fireworks, and how these explosions had altered their lives but could also alter the lives of Veterans, Individuals with Autism, and even animals. Mrs. Hollar stated it may be beneficial to have something at Tower Park regarding the release of fireworks.

Mayor Walls thanked all the residents for coming to the meeting to express their experiences and giving input on the fireworks. He stated that this is something that the Village Council will discuss moving forward, as it is a concern for residents in the village. Mayor Walls mentioned that discussions regarding fireworks will begin with committee meetings that will be scheduled in the future, and then those committee chairs can bring those ideas to the Village Council meetings. The mayor mentioned that municipalities are allowed to vote to change the laws regarding fireworks, so the Council will look into that. The mayor added that fireworks are a concern for both the Cridersville Police Department as well as the Cridersville Fire Department, therefore, the council will try to come up with legislation that is fair for everyone in the village.

Chief Fried added that the Police Department is working to inform citizens and enforce the new laws. The Police Department will be doing more training regarding firework safety going forward. Chief Fried also mentioned that citizens who are having issues with neighbors setting off fireworks to reach out to the Police Department so further investigation can be conducted.

Council Member Stacey Cook encouraged citizens to reach out to State Legislators about the concerns that they have with the fireworks. Cook also stated from the media side that it is very difficult to control the usage of fireworks.

Russ & Tama Hollar of 315 West North also stated their concerns about burning within the Village as they have had neighbors who are burning items that they are not allowed to be burning.

Mayor Walls stated that some fire issues have been addressed with residents, but if there is a fire going on call the Police Department and they will go and check it out.

Lieutenant Miles Truex stated that he addressed that fire with the resident and explained to him the local laws of the community, but also that some residents in the community cannot have smoke coming into their homes due to health conditions. LT Truex stated that he informed the resident if there is another issue a citation will be issued.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Dylan Lauck made a motion to **Amend Section 3 of the current pay package from 40 hours a week to 80 hours a pay period.** Motion was seconded by Thompson. **Motion passed 4-1, with Cook voting no.**

Mayor Walls asked for a motion to accept the Finance Committee recommendations and to have the Village Solicitor prepare a resolution for the split of the ARPA funds 50% to both administrators' budgets, roughly \$94,231, with a priority to be placed on the Splash Pad, New Equipment, Condemned Buildings, and overtime incurred to rebuild and train new employees. Motion was made by Cook and seconded by Numbers. **Motion did not pass 2-3, with Lauck, Thompson and Bailey voting no.** Bailey, Thompson, and Lauck all stated they would like to have a copy of the resolution for the ARPA split in front of them before voting to pass it.

Mayor Walls introduced Ordinance #1704, an ordinance to regulate temporary storage facilities in the village. Mayor Walls read the ordinance by title only. Motion to pass the third of three readings was made by Bailey and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 5-0.

Other:

Council Member Stacey Cook mentioned that she and Chief Fried are working on a way to create a "Good Neighbor" flyer for the village residents stating the most popular laws and regulations of the village to allow people to be better informed. She is also working with Chief Fried on potentially doing a National Night out in the Future for the Village of Cridersville.

Council Member Dorance Thompson stated he was asked by a resident if the village has looked into anything regarding the excess amount of animals that are wandering around town such as stray cats. Stacey Cook mentioned that she and Chief Fried have looked into the population issue and destruction these animals are doing, however it is difficult to enforce this issue. The best thing that can happen is to cut down on the habitat areas, boarding up holes in properties and cutting grass and weeds.

Joe Bailey asked if there was anything that the village could do to control animal feces on private property. Chief Fried stated that concern would be more of a health department issue and to reach out to them.

Mayor Walls added that since the last council meeting Code Enforcement Officer Ron Mertz has issues 16 grass/weed, 12 auto (no-tag/ disabled), and 3 trash written warning for a total of 31 warning this month. 22 of these warnings have been corrected while a total of 13 warnings are still open, 4 coming from last month.

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

Taylor West, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor