

**VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – June 12, 2023**  
**7:30 p.m.**

Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rick Walls, Council Members: Stacey Cook, Joe Bailey, Steve Numbers, Dylan Lauck, and Eric West. Also present: Fiscal Officer Susan Bassitt and Trainee Taylor West, Fire Chief Rick Miller, Police Chief Nathan Fried, and Solicitor Angela Elliott. Village Administrator Jarid Kohlriseser was not present at the time of roll call but arrived later. Council Member Dorance Thompson was not present.

It was moved by West and seconded by Lauck to excuse council member Dorance Thompson from the meeting due to visiting family. Motion passed 5-0.

It was moved by Bailey and seconded by Numbers to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Committee of the Whole:** There was no report, however, Mayor Walls mentioned there may be a meeting sometime in August, but no official date has been set.

**Utilities & Surface Water:** Bailey reported a technician was called in to help village crews investigate some issues we were having at our lift station near Meadowbrook and after working through and looking at many things, we determined that the wet well needed cleaned up due to accumulation of sludge and grease buildup. Allied Environmental Services was called in to clean up those deposits and since the lift station has been operating as designed. Global Electric was in to wire up and install a replacement recirculation pump in one of our wastewater tanks. Also, Bierly Well Drilling was in and determined that our water well #4 motor was bad. Since, they have installed a new pump and motor and is back in service. Our wastewater plant had its routine plant inspection from the Ohio EPA and found no deficiencies and lastly, the repair work that was being done on our big water tower has been completed. It has been disinfected, drained, and is currently being filled again to be put back in service by the end of this week.

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

**Finance:** West reported the village did have an incident this past month which resulted in an Ohio Workers Compensation Claim. The claim was issued for our village administrator. Our administrator was working with our forklift attachment to unload a semi, and one of the forks slipped off and landed across his toes resulting in the break of one of the toes. The claim has since been approved by Ohio BWC and our administrator is healing fine. West also scheduled a finance meeting to be held Monday June 26, 2023, at 12:30 at the Village Hall. The meeting will be to discuss funds that have been granted to the village due to the government opening where these funds can be spent. Bassitt added that the ARPA funds must be appropriated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

**Park:** Cook reported we had two bid openings for the Legacy Park Shelter House project. The reason for the multiple bidding was due to a lack of bidders on the first opening. The second bidding process went better, and our village administrator was able to award the contract to Norwalk Concrete and our shelter house is now in the company's queue to begin construction.

**Streets:** Mayor Walls reported Buehler Asphalt was in to mill and repave W. Sugar St. which was damaged last year by the tractor incident. That re-pavement was paid for by the tractor operator's insurance company.

**Properties:** Numbers reported the village did purchase a new Kubota UTV on state bid contract from Farmers Equipment. Also, our village clean-up day was a success and very busy with collecting around 130 cubic yards of unwanted items.

**Safety:**

**Fire:**

Fire Chief Rick Miller reported there were 76 EMS calls and 6 Fire calls for a total of 82 calls for service for the month of May for a total of 386 calls for the year of 2023. Chief Miller mentioned that the Fireman's Jamboree is set to take place July 7-8. The entertainment is all set for the festival starting with a car show on Friday with Big Buck entertaining live. The head sponsor for the Jamboree is Nutrien and the Fire Department is grateful for their generosity. Chief Miller is working with Chief Fried and Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser on the closing of roads and law enforcement assistance. Chief Miller has also reached out to the Sheriffs department for help.

Chief Miller and Chief Fried are going to be conducting a joint training with the county coroner and both departments on June 28, 2023, starting around 6:30. Chief Fried mentioned that the joint training will potentially be recorded for other agencies to watch, as we have a new county corner as well as new personnel. The training will allow both agencies to know what is to be done correctly.

**Police:**

Chief Fried reported that Cridersville Police Department had a total of 8 tickets written in the month of May. The Cridersville Police Department has added a new mission statement, as well as implementing a new police schedule. Currently there are two officers on duty during second shift for the time being, but after it was discussed with council Chief Fried is going to work on making a new schedule that way the Village of Cridersville has 24/7 coverage every day of the week. The police department is still looking to hire more officers. The new police cruiser did arrive towards the end of May and is currently getting decals put on it. Thanks to the generous help from Back the Blue the police department was able to get new vests. Mayor Walls asked that the community support Back the Blue as they are very generous to our police department. Chief Fried added that the police department will have a tent and can koozies sponsored by Back the Blue at the Fireman's Jamboree. There will be a limited supply of koozies!

Chief Fried added that Ron Mertz is doing a great job tagging individuals as the code enforcement officer. Mertz is giving individuals ample time to fix the problem, and if the problem is not resolved then the police department will give out citations.

The police department is currently working with Lexipol on policy and procedures as well as additional training. The police department has applied for a grant that would help cover equipment costs, however, the department does not plan to purchase new equipment unless the grants are received. Dylan Lauck added there are three other grants that the police department can apply for between now and the end of the year that would be for equipment.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution #2450, a resolution declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation and said levy being a renewal levy for current operating expenses and related services.** Mayor Walls read the resolution by title only. Motion to pass the third of three readings was made by Cook and seconded by Numbers. Motion passed 5-0.

**Mayor Walls introduced Ordinance #1704, an ordinance to regulate temporary storage facilities in the village.** Mayor Walls read the ordinance by title only. The solicitor will change the verbiage by taking out information regarding

dumpsters. Motion to pass the second of three readings was made by Numbers and seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 5-0.

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution #2454, a resolution accepting the standard allowance of revenue loss use for ARPA funds and declaring an emergency.** Mayor Walls read the resolution by title only. Motion to pass the resolution was made by Numbers and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0.

**Other:**

Fire Chief Rick Miller mentioned that the Fire Department will be hosting the Food Drive in honor of his daughter. The Miller family will be on site to collect the food and box it up for the food pantries. All proceeds, both food and monetary donations will be donated to local food pantries and churches. The Food Drive will be on June 24, 2023, from 9:00 – Noon.

Cook added that she is looking for individuals to help with the BBQ Chicken dinners at the Fire Station from 2-4:30 on July 8.

Mayor Walls opened the floor to the residents.

Rick Allen, resident of 304 West Main Street stated his concerns regarding excess amount of trash at the home next door to his 209 East Main Street property. Garbage has been an issue at this location and the problem will be fixed and then recur.

Ron Mertz, code officer, stated that he has cited the property three different times on different violations pertaining to trash. Council decided in order to fix the issue there will be a certified letter sent to the landlord of the property as well as sending a police officer to the home to discuss the issue with the residents stating for reoccurring issues the property owner will be cited.

Ernie Numbers, resident of 229 East Main Street asked if there was anything being done regarding citations with residents behind his house by the alleyway. Mertz stated he has tagged two properties along the alleyway being Mr. Numbers home.

Connie Walls, resident of 218 North Elizabeth Street mentioned her confusion about code enforcement tagging. She asked if there was any way that legislation could be changed so that reoccurring offenders could be fined after multiple violations instead of just getting retagged again. Numbers stated that the village will start with sending certified letters to the landlord/homeowner and see if the issues are fixed, if not then council will decide what the next step is moving forward.

Cridersville resident Rick Allen also mentioned that if anyone has blue light bulbs that they are willing to donate, please bring them to Rick as he has had multiple people call him wanting blue light bulbs to show support for Back the Blue.

Mayor Walls mentioned that this council meeting is the last official meeting for Susan Bassitt, Village Fiscal Officer, as she will be retiring at the end of June. Mayor Walls thanked Bassitt for her hard work for the village over the last 26 years.

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

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Susan Bassitt, Village Fiscal Officer

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Rick Walls, Mayor