

**VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – March 11, 2024**  
**7:30 p.m.**

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 Kohlriseser and Solicitor James Hearn.

It was moved by Lauck and seconded by Numbers to accept the minutes of the February 5, 2024, Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Committee of the Whole:**

**Utilities & Surface Water:** Bailey stated Village crews disassembled and shipped one of our blower units at the wastewater plant back to the manufacturer to be rebuilt and overhauled. The blower unit should return around May. Global Electric also rebuilt the motor for that blower unit. Bid-opening for our N. Waverly Sanitary Sewer Replacement was conducted, and the bid came in roughly \$200k less than the engineer’s estimate. The contract was awarded to Tom’s Construction out of St. Henry. The project is slated for mid-July. Village crews had to drain and clean out both of our holding tank digesters at the wastewater plant to make needed repairs which both tanks have been repaired and put back in service. The Village is waiting to see if they have received a \$1.7 million dollar grant for the rebuild of lift pumps.

**Planning:** Lauck stated there were three zoning violations for the month. Those have all been brought into compliance. At the meeting held on March 6<sup>th</sup> planning members discussed changing the late penalties on water/sewer bills to a 10% late fee instead of a \$10.00 late fee. With this change, 87% of all water sewer accounts will see a decrease in late penalties while holding commercial accounts responsible for their larger accounts. The Village of Cridersville is working with the compliance department for the State of Ohio to bring trailer parks in town up to code. Lauck stated that the Village will be working with the State of Ohio to enforce the codes set forth by both entities. The Village of Cridersville is also working hand and hand with Minster Bank to find another way to collect interest on our Village funds. Council member Lauck stated he would like to get in investment policy put into place for the Village of Cridersville as well.

**Finance:** West stated at the February 21<sup>st</sup> committee of the whole meeting the topic of Village IT was discussed. There are three businesses that have been contacted regarding talking with village personnel about what is needed for the village IT help. Additionally, vehicle repairs for the Police Department were discussed along with putting cruiser 401 in the rotation to help reduce repair costs as it is under warranty. Since then, cruiser 401 has been put into the rotation of cruisers for officers.

**Park:** Cook stated the village got a request for another park bench donation for Legacy Park. That park bench location will be addressed after the shelter house gets installed. Also, our village administrator is looking at grants to apply for a project for Tower Park to reconstruct our tennis court area into a permanent pickleball court and skate/bike ramp area. At the last parks meeting there was a discussion about bringing Park Golf to Tower Park. The parks committee decided

that they would need to come up with a business plan before any project is started. Council member Steve Numbers added that he would like to bring Park Golf to town, but a business plan is needed. He would like to see Park Golf open on Friday – Sunday once a business plan is put into place. The park committee will schedule another meeting regarding Park Golf at a later date.

**Streets:** Thompson stated our village administrator talked to ODOT regarding the 45mph speed limit on National Rd. The representative stated that that speed limit was studied and deemed correct for that area and the state of Ohio does things a little differently than other states in that any speed limit change within the state, must go through a speed study analysis and then request a change through the ODOT directors’ office for reviewal before any changes can be made. Additionally, council member Dorance Thompson has been working hard to get the zip code of the land that was annexed into the village on the east side of I-75 changed from 45895 to 45806. This has been an ongoing project that has been sent to the USPS District Manager up in Cleveland. Mayor Walls has also reached out to Jim Jordans office for further assistance with getting this project completed.

**Properties:** Numbers stated our big dump truck has been repaired and is back from the dealer. The cost for repairs was \$10,444.33. Dotson’s Plumbing & Heating installed two mini-split heater/cooling units in the library which was funded by library. Our village administrator also has applied for a grant through the MidWest Electric Community Connection Fund to go towards a handicap door operator unit.

**Safety:**

**Fire:**

Chief Miller reported that there were 76 EMS calls and 7 Fire calls for a total of 83 calls for service for the month of February for a total of 173 calls for the year of 2024.

Chief Miller stated the new fire chassis will be going for final inspection on March 12<sup>th</sup> before it is brought back to Ohio. Currently the Chapman’s are out in South Dakota doing a final inspection of the truck as well. The fire department is expecting the truck to arrive within the next couple of weeks at the station. The department is allowing the Chapman Family to take the truck to Lucas Oil Stadium for the FDIC International Firefighter conference as this is one of the last trucks that was sold by the late Darrel Chapman.

There has been discussion about replacing an engine and ambulance for the fire department as well. Currently Chief Miller is searching for both vehicles.

The Jeep Invasion and Food Truck Festival will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Currently there are 35 food trucks and 48 craft vendors. The fire department also currently has roughly 35 jeeps signed up for the Jeep Invasion. Please contact the fire department if you would like to register your Jeep.

**Police:**

Chief Fried reported there were 201 calls for service last month with a total of 35 tickets issues for the month along with 25 warnings. The Police Department is currently waiting on the new car computers to come in and be installed. The computers should take 4 to 6 weeks to come in. Chief Fried is working on a project to implement cameras around town. Chief Fried has asked to schedule a safety committee meeting for April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:15 p.m. for further discussion regarding the camera project.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2484, a Resolution to amend Resolution #2471 & #2476, 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.** Mayor Walls read the resolution by title only. Motion to accept the resolution as read and declaring an emergency was made by Thompson and seconded by West. Motion passed 6-0.

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2485, a Resolution declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation and said tax levy being a renewal for fire protection and related services. The first of three readings.** Mayor Walls read resolution 2485. Motion to pass the first of three readings was made by Cook and seconded by West. Motion passed 6-0 for the first reading.

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2486, a amend resolution 2283 to amend section 1(E) to change the late fee penalty on water sewer charges. The first of three readings.** Mayor Walls read resolution 2486. Motion to pass the first of three readings was made by Lauck and seconded by West. Motion passed 6-0 for the first reading.

**Other:**

Greg Myers and Lori Bellman were in attendance on behalf of the Cridersville Historical Society. The Historical Society is putting together a memorial wall project and garden banners to honor veterans. The banners can be purchased through historical society for \$175.00. If you purchase a banner, it is your banner to keep, however, the Historical Society would like to collect the banners to put up in Legacy Park on patriotic holidays. The Historical Society wanted to thank Ace Ambos for his help with getting the garden banners in place and would also like to add that the metal framework for the banners will be made locally in Wapakoneta, Ohio. This project is not a fundraiser for the Cridersville Historical Society but rather just a way to honor veterans. The Veterans Wall will be inside the Cridersville Historical Society and is free of charge to anyone who would like to participate. If anyone would like to purchase a garden banner and is unable to store it, the Historical Society is willing to store the banners in the museum. For more information, please contact Greg Myers or Lori Bellman.

Village Administrator Kohlrieser stated that Scott Cisco from Auglaize County Solid Waste would like to review the new location for additional recycle containers back at Tower Park again before installing new containers.

Village Administrator Kohlrieser also asked council if he could post that the Village of Cridersville will be hiring two summer time help workers for the summer of 2024. Council gave the approval to look for summer help. Summer help will start at \$10.45 an hour.

Lastly, Jarid Kohlrieser asked council what they would like to do with the handicap spot that is outside of 200 W. Main Street. Council decided to table the discussion until further notice.

The regular council meeting for April 8<sup>th</sup> will be postponed due to the Eclipse. Mayor Walls is working with Cridersville Elementary School to take the April regular council meeting on the road to the school to go along with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade student's government class.

Village council decided that it will be up to each department on April 8<sup>th</sup> if offices will be open and if people will be to work. Chief Fried stated that there could be an influx of 75,000 + people on the weekend of the eclipse. Chief Fried is encouraging individuals to stay home and treat the event as if a snowstorm was coming. He encourages individuals to not wait until the last minute to get gas and groceries. Chief Miller stated that the fire department will have anywhere from 5 – 10 individuals on duty the entire weekend of the eclipse.

Village Solicitor James Hearn Sr. mentioned that the Village of Cridersville is allowed to accept donations of any amount at any time. He stated that restrictions on what the donation can be used for is up to the donor and the Village of Cridersville must earmark those funds for the specific donation restriction.

**Mayor Walls opened the floor to residents who were in attendance.**

**Bob White, resident of 327 West Main Street,** stated that he is hearing good reports about police coverage in town. Bob White is happy that not only are the streets being covered, but the Police Department is also covering and checking the alleys regularly.

**Jody Rapp, resident of 220 East Main Street**, stated that she is the Assistant Manager at Casey's General Store, and she is extremely grateful for the police coverage that she sees when she goes to work early in the morning. She stated that she used to feel uncomfortable entering work in the early morning hours, but police presents has allowed her to feel more comfortable.

**Pat Butterfield, resident of 202 South Dixie**, stated that every other night there are roughly 20-30 cars at Patriot Truck & RV that are parking out on the road making it impossible to see cars coming from the intersection of Main Street and Dixie Highway. She stated that she is concerned about this as it could cause an accident to occur. Additionally, Butterfield stated that there are individuals who are playing cards at Patriot Truck & Trailer who go around the back of the building to use the restroom. She has grown tired of the issue and is concerned for the children who reside in the trailer park behind the building. Chief Nathan Fried stated that his department will address the issue.

**Angela Knotts, resident of 313 West Main Street**, stated that she would like to see the Village incorporate a way to get younger people acclimated to council as a lot of information is given at council meetings. She asked if there was a way to record meetings in video format to allow individuals who may not be able to the meeting to see what is going on. Mayor Walls addressed Knotts concerns by stating that the Village of Cridersville takes a council meeting once a year on the road to Cridersville Elementary School to allow the students to see what is going on, but to also get feedback from the students on what they would like to see done in the village.

Council member Eric West made a motion to go into executive session regarding land acquisition with no action to be taken at 9:01 p.m. Motion was seconded by Cook. Motion passed 6-0.

At 9:25 p.m. West made a motion to adjourn from executive session. Motion was seconded by Numbers. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion to adjourn from the regular council meeting was made by West and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

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Taylor West, Village Fiscal Officer

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Rick Walls, Mayor