

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – May 8, 2023
7:30 p.m.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

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

It was moved by Numbers and seconded by West to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

It was moved by West and seconded by Bailey to excuse council member Dylan Lauck from the meeting due to business. Motion passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole:

Utilities & Surface Water: Bailey reported we had a technician come out and look at our big air compressor at the wastewater plant. This compressor is a secondary unit that needed service completed on it and found issues with it. We are waiting to hear back from the technician about parts availability and what our options are on it. Global Electric replaced a leaking 8” air line at our wastewater plant at a cost of \$3,762. Our crews conducted our annual spring fire hydrant flushing program and found that the fire hydrant at Waverly and Main St. will need to be repaired. Also, Leary Construction has been in, and they have been working inside our big water tower conducting cleaning and needed repairs inside. There is no set date for when the water tower cleaning project will be completed at this time.

Planning: Mayor Walls reported there was three zoning violations issued last month in which all three have been brought into compliance, there was also a variance hearing on April 26 in which the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the variance on specific conditions as it relates to the building of a garage. The variance was issued for 209 West High Street, which is part of a residential area.

Finance: West reported that there was no finance report, but there were some questions raised regarding the pay package. After discussion with the solicitor, it was determined that there was comp time available to the Police Chief by law and she will be checking on if it is available for the Village Administrator. West also added that the discussion regarding comp time is not a new subject to be brought up in council as it was brought up in 2020 as well. It was also made known that comp time is different from overtime. There were other questions regarding the base rates of pay in the pay package, but West mentioned that the base rates in the pay package are the minimum rates that individuals can be hired in at, however, things such as experience may allow individuals to start at a higher wage than what is listed. Numbers mentioned about working to create a step increase pay scale, which council will discuss later.

Park: Cook reported the custom wind screen that was attached to the Tower Park fence was damaged due to heavy winds last month and had to be discarded. We are still in the bidding process for the shelter house project for Legacy Park and will know more about the final bids within the next couple of weeks. Last Saturday there was a clean-up at Tower Park. Cook wanted to give recognition to Village resident Dianne Eversole and Lions Club member Nita Border. Cook also mentioned the potential of getting a weed picker for Delong Pioneer Park for the trails.

Streets: Thompson reported Bluffton Paving has completed the new pavement of E. Main Street. Dixie Hwy will be completed within the next week or so. Then the center lines will be repainted to complete both streets. Mayor Walls mentioned that grass clippings left on the sidewalks and in the street are illegal by Village Ordinance.

Properties: Numbers reported just a reminder that the village garage sale will be this Saturday, May 13th and our annual village clean up day will be Saturday, May 20th within Tower Park from 8:00 am- 12:00 pm. Clean up day is only for current village residents and items not accepted include oil, tires, yard waste/debris, trash, batteries, and paints. Most other items may be discarded with the assistance of village crew members.

Safety:

Police:

Police Chief Nathan Fried reported there were five tickets issued in the month of April. Chief Fried also stated that Mike Gaines will be sworn in hopefully before May 14th as a full-time officer. Gaines comes to the Cridersville Police Department from Shawnee. The Police Department is still working on training officers, but the department plans to have 24-hour coverage again for the Village by June 1st. Chief Fried stated that the new cruiser is expected to arrive in a couple of weeks according to State Ford and will come with rear window bars that were not listed to come on the cruiser. The Police Department is also getting new badges which are expected to arrive within the next week or two. Chief Fried stated are still many administrative requirements that need to be completed in the department. Chief Fried and Mayor Walls thanked Back the Blue for their contribution to the purchase of new vests for officers, as well as Midwest Shooting Center and Dr. Patel for opening the range to the Police Department.

Chief Fried made requests to increase Patrolman Madlock's wage to \$23.00 an hour, as well as to take Police Clerk to a full-time position at \$20.00 an hour with new Police Department office hours from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. He also asked to hire Ron Mertz as the Code Enforcement Officer for the Village at minimum wage.

It was moved by West and seconded by Stacey to go into executive session with the Chief and all administrator to discuss personnel matters with a decision to be made. Motion passed 5-0. After roughly 15 minutes it was moved by West and seconded by Bailey to return to the regular council meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls introduced the request to increase Patrolman Madlock's wage to \$23.00 an hour. Motion was made by West and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls introduced the request to move the Police Clerk to a full-time position at \$20.00 an hour with office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Motion was made by West and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 5-0.

The motion was made to start both individuals at their new rates of pay on May 15th was made by West and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls also announced that the Village would be appointing Ron Mertz as the Code Enforcement Officer. Mertz is to report to the Chief of Police and work no more than 12 hours a week at the rate of \$10.10 an hour.

Fire:

Fire Chief Rick Miller reported there were 57 EMS calls and 8 Fire calls for a total of 65 calls for service for the month of April for a total of 304 calls for the year of 2023. Chief Miller mentioned that the Food Truck Festival and Jeep Cruisin' was a very successful weekend with a total of 87 Jeeps entering the Jeep contest. Council also thanked Chief Miller for holding a great event. It was mentioned that there will be 5-10 different entertainment acts throughout the weekend of the Jamboree. The Fire Department is working on finding new ways to make parking for their events better.

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 second of three readings was made by Thompson and seconded by Cook. 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 stating that the Police Department will be issuing the permits and the fees will go to the Police Department. Motion to pass the first of three readings was made by Numbers and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0.

Other:

Fire Chief Rick Miller mentioned that the Fire Department will be holding a food drive in honor of his daughter on Saturday, June 24 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The department will take any non-perishable, non-expired items with labels on them. The goods will be able to be dropped off beforehand on the railroad tracks side of the Fire Department in the bins.

Cook added that with approval from the Village administrator she applied for the Rotary grant of \$2,000 to help with the cost of the statue markers throughout the Village.

Mayor Walls added that the Police Department did a great job with the solicitation issues that were going on in the village in the last month. He also mentioned that there is a gentleman from a real estate company who does have a permit to solicitate in town. Chief Nathan Fried stated if anyone is ever unsure if individuals are legally allowed to be soliciting, you are always able to ask to see their solicitation permit issued by the village.

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

Susan Bassitt, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor