

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 14, 2012

Mayor Lorali Myers could not attend the meeting. Eric West, Council President, called the regular meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Solicitor James Hearn, Clerk-Treasurer Candace Stevely, Council members Rick Walls, Shirley Anderson, Eric West, Tony Zuppardo, and Paul Lynch and Stacey Cook.

It was moved by Walls, seconded by Lynch to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2012 regular meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole was held May 2, 2012. West reviewed the topics discussed.

The Main Street Tree Lawn - Members of the Tree Commission met with Jarid Kohlrieser and identified possible locations for future trees, as well as plans for trees with minimal droppings, more for urban grown, not really a dwarf tree but a smaller tree that can be easier to maintain in this setting.

We received an update on the website. It is under construction, and Council was given a site to view the progress. The home page should be up and running soon.

Apollo Career Center is finishing the sign to be placed on the Village Hall lawn

Meetings were held regarding the old school site on May 3 and May 10. Cook advised that they officially launched the campaign to raise funds at the Cridersville Alumni Dinner on May 5. Flyers were passed out. More flyers will be available soon. It will be a big project that will require work from the whole community. Phase One will be quite costly, so we will accomplish whatever we can with funds available. It will be an ongoing project for several years. Hopefully volunteers will help with the work needed.

Waverly Street parking - The Streets Committee decided to leave parking as is.

An update was given on the Garden Club. On their work day they did re-landscaping around the Village Hall lawn and around the Bear's Den, and various activities that are planned for this summer.

The overtime and wages of Village employees were discussed. The matter has been referred back to the Finance Committee. They will be meeting at the end of this month.

Utilities & Surface Water: No report.

Planning: No report was received from John McDonald.

Finance: Council received a summary dated 5/13/12 on the monthly pay package of hours, and overtime for all Village employees. This had been requested by the Finance Committee. It gives a good overview. Council is still deciding exactly what information they want to review monthly. Council members should contact West with their recommendations. Council also received a copy of the Chart of Accounts to help them understand financial reports.

Council changed the Committee of the Whole meeting to May 31, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

The Finance Committee will meet at approximately 7:45 p.m. that evening.

Park: No report

Streets: No report

Properties: No report received from John McDonald.

Safety:

Police- Chief Drake was not present. West directed Council to the April police report. There were a total of 135 calls for April. The total net amount received in Mayor's Court was \$2,105. Included was a roster of officers.

Fire- There were 40 runs in April; this makes 197 year-to-date. They have graduated two more people for intermediate, and graduated three for basic EMT.

OLD BUSINESS:

Village Clean-up Day will be May 19, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. If Council members want to help, they can be at Tower park at 8 a.m. They will accept small appliances, construction materials, tires, oil, and other items. They will not accept paint, yard waste, or garbage. It is free for Village residents, but they need to present a water bill or receipt.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was moved by Lynch to pay the necessary bills for the month of May.

Cook asked Jarid Kohlrieser about several bills. After a discussion and questions as to why they approve paying bills that they have not seen, Council members asked if the motion includes the payroll, including overtime. The Solicitor explained they are approving payment of bills pursuant to the budget appropriations for the month. The payment of the payroll was approved pursuant to the pay package ordinance established for the year. The following month the Finance Committee reviews the bills from the past month. They can take issue then if they feel something was not appropriate. The Finance Committee signs off on the financial statement book for the month and year-to-date expenses and income each month. Zuppardo voiced disagreement with paying the wages until the committee sees them. The Solicitor restated that a wage ordinance was approved already for the year. If someone wants to take issue if a wage is not in accordance with the wage ordinance, or wants to propose an amendment to the wage ordinance, that would be appropriate. The Solicitor's understanding is that the wages are not a part of the motion to pay the necessary bills for the month. When the committee signs the book, they are approving the paid bills. West declared Mr. Lynch's motion dead for lack of a second.

Cook moved to pay the bills for the day to day operations of the Village for May, with a notation that there are still concerns about overtime issues on our budget. Walls seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Vote: Walls-yes, Anderson-yes, West-yes, Zuppardo-no, Lynch-no, Cook-yes. Motion passed 4-2.

Cook advised that she did more studying since the last meeting. Her concerns are with the budget overall and with our wages and issues of overtime across the board. She had questions concerning the estimated carryover balances listed on the summary of 2012 financial figures. It was stated by the Clerk and also by West that the estimated receipts and disbursements are estimated. There has always been an actual carryover balance as the total amounts appropriated for each fund are never all spent. Trying to project receipts, disbursements and carryover balances requires estimating to the best of our ability, relying on past averages, including projects and items that will be needed that year. Beginning with 2012 the figures include a portion of funds needed for future planned purchases of a cruiser and a truck. Cook hopes we find more revenue or ways to cut back as we anticipate cuts in funds from the State and County. West brought up that in 2004 we were notified that the Inheritance Tax was going to be phased out. Council at that time put the 1% income tax in place to give the Village additional revenue. The budget has been drastically reduced over the last five years.

The meeting about the old school site scheduled for May 15 has been cancelled because the Garman Miller representative cannot be present.

West opened the meeting up to those present who wished to address Council, giving them 3 minutes to talk, asking them to make their comments respectful to those in the room, to abstain from profanity, and to state their name and address.

John Schulz, 200 E. High Street, wondered why there are still school signs on E. Main Street. Walls will look into removing them.

Bob Conner, 213 Oak Street, heard several rumors during the garage sales and wanted to know if they are only rumors or fact. 1) A Council member had handed an envelope of papers to a reporter. Council agreed it is a rumor. He quoted from a Wapakoneta paper post-election article that supposedly quoted Zuppardo's reason for running for Mayor.

Zuppardo said that there were cameras bought with a government grant that were destroyed and he wonders how that could happen. He has heard that no police officers are to speak with him.

Conner also hear that a private investigator had been hired to investigate the Police Chief. Council agreed this is also a rumor.

Zuppardo feels the Police Chief has done a very poor job of management.

Tammy Bush, 312 W. North, asked Council to work for the best for the community, and was pleased that there is better communication at tonight's meeting.

Councilwoman Anderson stated that she was not happy about the last Committee of the Whole meeting, feeling there was profanity and disrespect.

Sandy Schmidt, 5340 S. Dixie, expressed that the future is more important than what happened in the past. It is important what we do with the information that has been expressed tonight.

Councilwoman Cook thanked everyone for their input. She wondered what type of committee would be formed to deal with the overtime issue. She also wonders why the Police Department has such a large turnover.

Zuppardo stated that there is a problem with turnover. The committee should meet with the whole department. He also feels that uniforms should be left with the Village when officers leave.

Ron Mertz, 217 N Elizabeth, said that Council already has a Committee in place to address their questions and concerns. The Safety Committee should meet regularly, not just when hiring officers.

West stated that there is a fulltime and two parttime positions to be filled. Walls will contact Chief Drake regarding applicants and how soon the positions can be filled.

Cook feels Council needs to know the employees and establish a relationship with them.

Charisse Zuppardo, 400 W. High, stated that she had worked for the Auglaize County Sheriff's dispatch and Cridersville seemed to have a larger turnover of police officers than other communities in the county.

Billie Conner, 213 Oak, asked Zuppardo if he wanted John Drake off the police department. Zuppardo responded "No".

John Schulz, 200 E. High, who was police chief for 9 years, doesn't remember a turnover, just more people coming on the department.

Ron Mertz, 217 N. Elizabeth – Since the Committee of the Whole meets monthly, the separate Committees do not meet regularly. He wonders if the committees shouldn't meet regularly to work on issues and bring back recommendations to the whole Council.

It was moved by Walls, seconded by Anderson to adjourn the May 14, 2012 regular Council meeting. Motion passed 6-0.