

Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mayor Bob Gale called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:** Robert Martin Sr. absent, Randy Spence present, Dr. Michael Ross present, Gael Damron present, Jason Mattern present, Bob Merriman present.

**Officials:** Mayor Bob Gale present, Solicitor Christopher D. Becker present, Fiscal Officer Denise Geanangel present, Administrator Walt Ziembra present.

**Moment of Silence**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Reading of Minutes**

Motion by Jason Mattern, second by Bob Merriman to approve minutes from the May 21, 2020 meeting.

**Vote:** Randy Spence, Dr. Michael Ross yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 5-0.

**Persons Appearing Before Council**

None.

**Ordinance and/or Resolution**

**Ordinance 2020-05:** granting a franchise to Ohio Power Company for lines of transmission and distribution of electric energy to the Village of Wintersville was read for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

Motion by Jason Mattern, second by Bob Merriman to suspend the rules on the third reading.

**Vote:** Randy Spence yea, Dr. Michael Ross yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 5-0.

**Ordinance 2020-05:** granting a franchise to Ohio Power Company for lines of transmission and distribution of electric energy to the Village of Wintersville was read for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

Motion by Jason Mattern, second by Bob Merriman to approve Ordinance 2020-05.

**Vote:** Randy Spence yea, Dr. Michael Ross yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution 2020-07:** A resolution requesting the Village's share of funds from the County Coronavirus Relief Distribution Fund was read for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

Motion by Jason Mattern, second by Bob Merriman to suspend the rules for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings.

**Vote:** Randy Spence yea, Dr. Michael Ross yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution 2020-07:** A resolution requesting the Village's share of funds from the County Coronavirus Relief Distribution Fund was read for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

Motion by Dr. Ross, second by Jason Mattern to approve Resolution 2020-07.

**Vote:** Randy Spence yea, Dr. Michael Ross yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 5-0.

### **Reports & Announcements**

Magistrate Court, Police Report and Code Enforcement Officers reports were read.  
A revised March 2020 Police report was read.

Chief Fowler informed Council of the Law Enforcement Trust Fund Account that was opened in 2019 with First National Bank of which there was no activity until 2020. The State auditors requested that Internal Controls be put into place regarding the allowed spending of the money and to seek a retro approval from Council for the opening the account.

Motion by Randy Spence, second by Jason Mattern to approve the Law Enforcement Trust Fund Account with First National Bank.

**Vote:** Randy Spence yea, Dr. Michael Ross yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 5-0.

The R.I.T.A. subpoena program has collected \$36,000.00 of the \$65,000.00 due to the Village. Collection is still ongoing.

### **Unfinished Business**

None.

### **Administrator's Report**

The interest rate for the WPCLF/OWDA Phase V sewer project loan went down for 1% to 0.76%. Mayor Gale noted that sewer rates will likely be raised in 2021 by 4.5% for five years as required for continued loan approval. The Phase V pre-construction meeting is scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The knolls Waterline Project is taking place for Orchard Place, Orchard Street, Locust Street and Walnut Street. Locust will be closed during the paving. The paving of Meadowbrook, Squirrel Hill and Grandview has been completed. The ODOT – Main Street paving preconstruction meeting took place June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00. NLS Paving will begin this project July 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. Sunday – Thursday.

The Fernwood Road & Luray Drive with funding through OPWC has been held up due to the releasing of funds however is anticipated to still go through this year.

The 2021 Infrastructure Projects include: Winters Drive ETAI, Moon Valley ETAL waterline replacement and a system wide meter replacement.

Water shutoffs will begin July 10<sup>th</sup> per OPEA notice.

Safety Steps for Recreational Areas has been posted throughout the Village Parks: At Your Own Risk, 6' Social Distancing, Clean/Sanitize Equipment before & after use, Water Fountains and restrooms closed.

The Moon Valley Pump Station was pumped out and sanitizer and deodorizing chemical were added to help with odor control.

### **New Business**

Randy Spence: read a prepared statement recognizing the effects the Coronavirus has had on Village employees. While many employees were required to work differential shifts to comply with the State of Ohio Social Distancing Mandates the Police Officers were required to maintain their regular hours and routines as law enforcement official. Per the Police Reform Bill, Mr. Spence, feels the officers should be compensated with extra vacation time or some type of compensation. Mayor Gale stated that other employees besides the police worked their regular hours as well and asked that this be discussed in a finance meeting.

Chris Becker reported that the Parking Ordinance is near completion.

Gael Damron: reported she has received numerous phone calls, texts and messages regarding safety issues in the Village. Reports of raccoons running rampant have been reported on Winters Drive, Beechwood and Springdale. Mayor Gale advised that any Safety Issues need to be addressed immediately and not wait for a safety meeting and asked Chief Fowler to respond.

Chief Fowler advised that the animal Nuisance Officer needs to be notified, however, live traps are available from the Village.

Mrs. Damron has concerns of a business on State Route 43 having numerous cars and trailers piling up. Mayor Gale advised he will have the Code enforcement Officer look into this matter. She also questioned if and when the road will be fixed after water main break. Mr. Ziamba advised they intend to have it fixed next week when the hot mix is available.

Jason Mattern wished to “feather” off of Mr. Spence’s comment about employees’ during the COVID 19 Pandemic and complimented ALL employees for their cooperation through these unprecedented times.

Motion by Randy Spence, second by Jason Mattern to pay bills. Jason Mattern abstained from Check Number 43402.

**Vote:** Randy Spence yea, Dr. Michael Ross yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 5-0.

Motion by Randy Spence, second by Dr. Ross to approve moving the July Scheduled meeting to July 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Vote:** Randy Spence yea, Dr. Michael Ross yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 5-0.

Motion by Randy Spence, second by Jason Mattern to adjourn.

Next scheduled Meeting is July 16, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

---

Denise Geanangel  
Fiscal Officer

---

Robert Gale  
Mayor