

Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Mayor Bob Gale called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:** Robert Martin Sr. present, 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 Dr. Ross, second by Bob Merriman to approve minutes from the March 4, 2021 meeting

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

Motion passed 6-0.

**Persons Appearing Before Council**

None.

**Ordinance and/or Resolution**

**Ordinance 2021-04:** An Ordinance authorizing Participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contract Awarded in 2021 was read for the first time.

Motion by Bob Merriman, second by Dr. Ross to suspend the rules for the second and third readings.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance 2021-04:** An Ordinance authorizing Participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contract Awarded in 2021 was read for the second and third time.

Motion by Randy Spence, second by Robert Martin to approve Ordinance 2021-04.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance 2021-05:** An Ordinance Granting Approval and Consent to the Director of Transportation Authority to Maintain and Repair Pavement Markings and Erect Signs on State Highways in the Village was read for the first time.

Motion by Randy Spence, second by Dr. Ross to suspend the rules for the second and third reading.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance 2021-05:** An Ordinance Granting Approval and Consent to the Director of Transportation Authority to Maintain and Repair Pavement Markings and Erect Signs on State Highways in the Village was read for the second and third time.

Motion by Robert Martin, second by Bob Merriman to approve Ordinance 2021-05.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Randy Spence, second by Dr. Ross to suspend the rules for the second and third reading.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance 2021-06:** An Agreement between the State of Ohio and Department of Transportation and the Village of Wintersville for the Removal & Control of Snow and Ice was read for the first time.

Motion by Robert Martin, second by Dr. Ross to suspend the rules for the second and third readings.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance 2021-06:** An Agreement between the State of Ohio and Department of Transportation and the Village of Wintersville for the Removal & Control of Snow and Ice was read for the second and third time.

Motion by Robert Martin, second by Bob Merriman to approve Ordinance 2021-06.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

### **Reports & Announcements**

Mayor Gale read the Code Enforcement Officer reports for the Month of March.

Mayor Gale read his resignation letter effective April 30, 2021.

Over 15 ½ years ago I started coming to council meetings after moving back from PA. The reason I started coming to meetings was to try to assist in solving the village water bills, one of many contentious issues at that time. From that point, I believed it was best to run for council. Fortunately, I along with Jason Mattern, Bob Cochran and Robbie Martin were successful in winning our seats and began what has been a great 15 ½ years of public service to the residents, businesses and employees of Wintersville. Two years after becoming a councilman, I was encouraged to run for the position of Mayor and was successful - which I have held for 13 ½ years. As a result of my new role, Robert Merriman was appointed to replace me. I had the fortune of Phyllis Forman winning as well. We made a great team for the village.

We all have accomplished a lot over the years. Millions of dollars received in grants and funding because of a great administrator in Walt Ziemba. We accomplished a lot financially. When I took over as Mayor, our finances were in dire straits and the country was in a recession. With the help of Carol Kennedy and Denise Geanangel, we not only survived these shortfalls without disrupting services - we grew a decent rainy-day fund.

I have had the fortune of Perry Pool and Vern Jackson and the late Lou Herceg and Bruce Snyder and Deb Carney heading up and running all the public works and water sanitation and sewage systems. They and the many people that work with them have been outstanding. The village should be proud of them.

I have had the fortune of having only two Chiefs of Police - Chief Laman and Chief Fowler. Each were great to work with and truly made this village safe.

We have all done a lot of good. However, I've always believed that it's not what you do in the good times but what you accomplish in the bad times. We all came together when the Colonial Baptist Church was destroyed by fire. The fund-raising steak fry at the high school to help raise money to replace the items that the children of that church lost was amazing. Another unfortunate fire took the life of Clarence West.

We all came together to support his family and the students that he instructed. Two fires at the Meridian Greene, coming together to help assist the senior citizens in that community and rebuilding.

I was proud of many things we accomplished. The support of my late wife Janine to take on these roles was invaluable. She was truly a rock. It's important to note that during her 10 years of illness, I missed only one meeting. I'm so proud and love my son Barry. The support he has shown to me all these years has been remarkable. I worked hard every day to be that role model that I want him to aspire to be. And through it all, he has continued to make me proud.

For a variety of reasons including my new role as Director of Jefferson County Board of Elections, I have decided to step down as Mayor. I conclude my service as Mayor on April 30, 2021. Of course, I will be here to assist in a smooth transition and will always be available for advice and guidance. I want to thank everyone here that has made this job so rewarding. I want to thank the residents for their trust and faith in me. I hope I have made a positive impact on this community. It was always important for me to make things better than they were before me. I believe that I have done just that.

Thank you and may God always Bless Wintersville!

### **Administrator's Report**

Phase 5 Sanitary Sewer Project in winding down and yard restoration will begin weather permitting.

Bids are being sought for the paving of Winters Drive and Grandview Drive.

Spring Cleanup for the Village Residents will be held the month of June.

### **New Business**

Bob Merriman wished the Mayor well and Happy Easter to all.

Jason Mattern said Mayor Gale will be missed and congratulated him on 15 ½ years of service.

Seven Ranges has named their Chairperson for the year and approved money distribution for the upcoming year. Rob Herrington thanked everyone for their support and help with the burn training building.

Gael Damron wished the Mayor well and his years for service are admirable. Gael asked when the trash receptacles will be put out.

Walt Ziembra said they will be placed this month.

Denise Geanangel said the Mayor will be missed and it was a pleasure working with him.

Chris Becker Thanked the Mayor for his service and wished him well as the New Director of the Board of Elections. Chris explained the transition of power as Mayor to the President of Council Robert Martin. Council will have 30 days to appoint a Councilman to vacant seat and thereafter, the Mayor can make the appointment.

Randy Spence Congratulated the Mayor on his resignation and wished him well in his new position with the Board of Elections.

Robert Martin wished the Mayor well and said his has big shoes to fill but will gladly accept the position of Mayor understanding he will have to run for the unfilled term in the fall which he intends to do.

Motion by Robert Martin, second by Randy Spence to pay bills as fund become available.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Robert Martin, second by Randy Spence to adjourn.

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

Motion passed 6-0.

Next scheduled Meeting is May 6, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

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Denise Geanangel  
Fiscal Officer

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Robert Martin Sr.  
Mayor