

Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mayor Robert Martin called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:** Brad Degenkolb present, Randy Spence present, Dr. Michael Ross present, Gael Damron present, Jason Mattern present, Bob Merriman present.

**Officials:** Mayor Robert Martin 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 Randy Spence, second by Michael Ross to approve minutes from the November 4, 2021 meeting.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

**Persons Appearing Before Council**

Jeanette Evans of 375 Morningside Drive spoke to council about concerns of the potential opening of a Drug & Alcohol Treatment Center at the old Lifeline Hospital located next door to the Jefferson County Christian School. Ms. Evans was shocked to see the announcement on News 9. She noted she did just attend the Jefferson County Commissioners Meeting where she learned that the facility no longer planning to open, however she did list a number of other potential properties if Landmark does continue to pursue Jefferson County. Mayor Martin did advise that the Village of Wintersville Administration was never notified of this either and also found out from the local news station. Mayor Martin continued to address his concerns as well with the site of the rehab center.

Bob Laukert representing BHJ reported that the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting addressed safety guidelines to decrease fatalities in the area on local roads. The new Wellsville Bridge is on schedule to open June 2022. Mr. Laukert reported on the Seven Ranges Fire District meeting held November 18<sup>th</sup> stating Island Creek Township is looking to join Seven Ranges District citing no volunteers and the Pleasant Hill Rt. 213 Dept. being unable to response to 911 calls. The Steel Valley Regional Transit Authority is having \$60,000 in concrete repairs done. Mr. Laukert memorialized the passing Larry Cutri unexpectedly. The Village of Wintersville ridership is up 110% from this time last year in providing bus routes to The Highlands and Robinson Township.

Commissioners Morelli of 2828 Fernwood Road wanted to congratulate all the candidates from the November Election. He wanted to clear the air about the miscommunication about the potential Drug & Alcohol Treatment Center in Wintersville. Mr. Morelli said he did call the village office and let a message but no one returned his called Thanksgiving weekend. He also thought that Landmark had also left a message.

Linda Lee Lewis, R.N., mother & grandmother of 208 Stardust Drive voiced her opposition to the potential rehab center locating so close to the Christian School noting safety is a true concern, however she understands the need in the area.

Anita Petrella representing the Jefferson-Belmont Solid Waste Authority of 228 Technology Way addressed council asking for a potential location for the recycling bins. She has contacted numerous business in town and has realtors looking for locations that the authority could purchase. She asked the councilmembers if they would consider letting them use a piece of the municipal building parking lot. Mayor Martin expressed his concerns but the traffic with the police department and customers paying their bills.

**Ordinance and/or Resolution**

**Ordinance 2021-27:** to Approve the Temporary Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022 was read for the first time. Motion by Jason Mattern second Gael Damron to suspend the rules for an emergency read.

**Roll Call:** Brad Degenkolb yea, Randy Spence yea, Michael Ross, yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

**Vote:** Motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance 2021-27:** to Approve the Temporary Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022 was read for the second and third time.

Motion by Bob Merriman second Jason Mattern to approve said Ordinance.

**Roll Call:** Brad Degenkolb yea, Randy Spence yea, Michael Ross, yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

**Vote:** Motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance 2021-28:** Providing for Pay Raises for the Village Employees Effective on the First Pay of 2022 was read for the first time.

Motion by Jason Mattern second Bob Merriman to suspend the rules for an emergency read.

**Roll Call:** Brad Degenkolb yea, Randy Spence yea, Michael Ross, yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

**Vote:** Motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance 2021-28 Providing for Pay Raises for the Village Employees Effective on the First Pay of 2022 was read for the second and third time.

Motion by Jason Mattern second Bob Merriman to approve said ordinance.

**Roll Call:** Brad Degenkolb yea, Randy Spence yea, Michael Ross, yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

**Vote:** Motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance 2021-29:** Declaring that 2008 Ford F-150 Pickup Truck VIN: 1FTNF21598ED92937 is no longer needed and Authorize the Sale to Highest & Best Bidder in Accordance with ORC 721.15 was read for the first time.

Motion by Jason Mattern second Bob Merriman to suspend the rules for an emergency read.

**Roll Call:** Brad Degenkolb yea, Randy Spence yea, Michael Ross, yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

**Vote:** Motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance 2021-29:** Declaring that 2008 Ford F-350 Pickup Truck VIN: 1FDWX315558EC83166 is no longer needed and Authorize the Sale to Highest & Best Bidder in Accordance with ORC 721.15 was read for the first time.

Motion by Jason Mattern second Bob Gael Damron to approve said Ordinance.

**Roll Call:** Brad Degenkolb yea, Randy Spence yea, Michael Ross, yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

**Vote:** Motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance 2021-29:** Declaring that 2008 Ford F-350 Pickup Truck VIN: 1FDWX315558EC83166 is no longer needed and Authorize the Sale to Highest & Best Bidder in Accordance with ORC 721.15 was read for the second and third.

Motion by Jason Mattern second Bob Merriman to approve said Ordinance.

**Roll Call:** Brad Degenkolb yea, Randy Spence yea, Michael Ross, yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

**Vote:** Motion passed 6-0.

### **Reports & Announcements**

Mayor Martin read the Magistrate and Police and Code Enforcement officers reports for the months of November.

The Sanitation pickup dates for the Holidays is as follows:

Christmas: Pick up both Thursday & Friday Routes on Thursday December 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
New Year's: Pick up both Thursday & Friday Routes on Thursday December 30<sup>th</sup>.

The office will closed December 23<sup>rd</sup> at Noon and remain closed Friday December 24<sup>th</sup>.  
The office will closed Thursday December 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. and all day Friday December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Motion by Jason Mattern second Michael Ross to approve \$500.00 for the employee Christmas luncheon.

**Roll Call:** Brad Degenkolb yea, Randy Spence yea, Michael Ross, yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

**Vote:** Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Jason Mattern second Michael Ross to approve \$25.00 girt cards for all employees.

**Roll Call:** Brad Degenkolb yea, Randy Spence yea, Michael Ross, yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

**Vote:** Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Martin recognized Mike and Dreama Lamantia for their reaching out to a neighbor in need by using his own bobcat.

### **Administrator Report**

The leaf pick up was delayed due to staffing issues. Administrator Ziemba asked Solicitor Becker to prepare an Ordinance for the wage base rate pay increase for the January 6, 2022 meeting.

### **New Business**

Bob Merriman thanked everyone who helped with the organization of the Christmas parade and all the participants.

Jason Mattern scheduled an ordinance meeting for Monday, December 20, 2021 at 6 P.M. Mr. Mattern inquired of the status of Terrace Avenue drainage problems and the AEP line by Giannamore's Pizza. Walt Ziemba advised that the village is working to get these issues fixed. Mr. Mattern gave recognition to Jerry Boyd leading the Wintersville Good Neighbors Group.

Gael Damron thanked Bob Merriman and his team on a successful Christmas Parade. She also wished outgoing councilman Brad Degenkolb and Mayor Robert Martin well.

Michael Ross recognized Martin Martin's 20 years of service to the village and wished him well in his retirement.

Randy Spence thanked Bob Merriman and his team for a job well done with the Christmas parade.

Councilman Degenkolb said his term has come to a close and thanked former Mayor Robert Gale and Mayor Martin for their time spend together. Brad asked that all councilmembers remember "communication and community" should remain a fore front when serving as an elected member of council.

Mayor Martin presented Brad Degenkolb with a plaque in recognition of his caring for the village resident and vast knowledge. He will be missed.

Bob Merriman presented a plaque to Mayor Martin recognizing his 20 years of service and dedication. He will be missed.

**Transfers**

No transfers.

Motion by Randy Spence second Jason Mattern

to pay the bills.

Brad Degenkolb yea. Randy Spence yea, Michael Ross yea, Gael Damron yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

**Vote:**

Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Martin thanked his supporters and wife for their support over the 20 years serving the village. Mayor Martin had many accolades with the first \$17,000.00 raised for community days which lead to the annual Halloween Party.; Traffic signals & numerous street paving projects. He wished the new leadership good luck and thanked Administrator Walt Ziemba and the entire workforce for the hard work.

Dr. Joe Lewis of Stardust Drive wished Mayor Martin well and reminded the residents of what an outstanding man Mayor Martin is by having reached into his own pockets to help people out over the years. He will be missed.

Next scheduled Meeting is January 6, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

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Denise Geanangel  
Fiscal Officer

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Michael W. Petrella  
Mayor