

Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Mayor Mike Petrella called the meeting to Order.

Roll Call: Gael Damron Present, Randy Spence present, Carmen DeStefano present, Pennie Scarpone present, Jason Mattern present, Bob Merriman present.

Officials: Mayor Mike Petrella present, Fiscal Officer Denise Geanangel present, Administrator Walt Ziemba present, Solicitor Jake Linn present.

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Minutes

Motion by Gael Damron, second by Carmen DeStefano to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2022 meeting.

Vote: Gael Damron yea, Randy Spence yea, Carmen DeStefano yea, Dr. Pennie Scarpone yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Gael Damron, second by Randy Spence to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2022 special meeting.

Vote: Gael Damron yea, Randy Spence yea, Carmen DeStefano yea, Dr. Pennie Scarpone yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 6-0.

Persons Appearing Before Council

Bob Laukert updated council on the STRVA meeting held earlier this evening at which they welcomed two new members. The SVRTA will no longer have service for the Weirton residents. The SVRTA is working on a new website & app.

The Joint Fire District meeting addressed electrical fires involving electric cars. Councilman Mattern expanded on the topic explaining the rush to meet regulations with different tactics. The Joint Fire District is asking for any monetary support in getting a 300 ft water line & hydrants.

Ordinance and/or Resolution

Ordinance 2022-01: Approving the Permanent Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022 was read for the first time. Motion by Jason Mattern second by Bob Merriman to suspend the rules for an emergency read. Ordinance 2022-01 was read for the second & third time. Motion by Randy Spence second Jason Mattern to approve.

Vote: Gael Damron yea, Randy Spence yea, Carmen DeStefano yea, Dr. Pennie Scarpone yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance 2022-02: Amending Ordinance 2021-28 to change the hourly rate of an employee effective on the next full pay of 2022 and declaring it an emergency was read. Motion by Randy Spence second by Carmen DeStefano to approve.

Vote: Gael Damron yea, Randy Spence yea, Carmen DeStefano yea, Dr. Pennie Scarpone yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 6-0.

Councilman Merriman did proceed to ask why one individual employee was being singled out when many other employees received more than \$1.50 raise. Councilman Mattern suggested that the Ordinance be tabled & re-written to omit "erroneously" as council did agree to the amount in the passing of the wage ordinance 2021.28.

Motion by Jason Mattern second by Bob Merriman to table Ordinance 2022-02.

Vote: Gael Damron nay, Randy Spence nay, Carmen DeStefano nay, Dr. Pennie Scarpone nay, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion failed 2-4.

Ordinance 2022-02 Amending Ordinance 2021-28 to change the hourly rate of an employee effective on the next full pay of 2022 and declaring it an emergency was read for the second & third time. Motion by Randy Spence second Gael Damron to approve.

Vote: Gael Damron yea, Randy Spence yea, Carmen DeStefano yea, Dr. Pennie Scarpone yea, Jason Mattern nay, Bob Merriman nay

Motion passed 4-2 .

Mayor's Report

Mayor Petrella addressed some finance changes upcoming.

Motion by Gael Damron second by Jason Mattern to approve an increase of the license plate fee by an additional \$15.00.

Vote: Gael Damron yea, Randy Spence yea, Carmen DeStefano yea, Dr. Pennie Scarpone yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 6-0.

Motion by Gael Damron second by Randy Spence to approve the changed 85.50 hour police work schedule involving payment of overtime as per attachment Option #3.

Vote: Gael Damron yea, Randy Spence yea, Carmen DeStefano yea, Dr. Pennie Scarpone yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 6-0.

Thunder in the Ville will be July 8th & 9th. Motion by Gael Damron second by Pennie Scarpone to approve \$5,000.00 from the community line item in the general fund for fireworks.

Vote: Gael Damron yea, Randy Spence yea, Carmen DeStefano yea, Dr. Pennie Scarpone yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 6-0.

The Ordinance Committee will meet Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

Administrator Report

Mr. Ziemba reported the ODOT Winter Salt Contract deadline is 4/29/2022 which he will present the Ordinance at the April meeting for councilmembers to pass and sign.

Mr. Zimeba has prepared and filed a Capital Budget Application for FY 23-24 requesting funding for the Municipal Building Recreation Complex Improvements. A letter he prepared was sent to Representative Ron Ferguson.

The USDA has approved the equipment grant of \$50,000/loan amount \$325,000.00 at 2.08% interest rate.

The Fort Steuben Burial Estates will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 10th @ 2 PM The village allots \$300.00 to help pay for the candy which they will invoice us.

The JB Green Team Recycling Bins are in the Municipal Building Parking Lot.

New Business

Councilperson Gael Damron updated council on the continued progress of the beautification committee looking to order some 3 leg benches in black & gray recycled material. Bob Coppa has volunteered to power-wash the pump station at the Memorial Park by Chase Bank. Veterans flags are being discussed as well as having high school students cleaning the sidewalks & streets for credit hours. The committee will be refurbishing the sign by Big Lots.

Councilman Mattern thanked the snowplow drivers and all employees for the dedication and hard work. Mr. Mattern inquired as to how many snow parking citations were issued and again asked residents to follow the ordinance to allow the drivers to plow the roads. Mr. Mattern also said he receives numerous complaints of speeding within the village limits. Mrs. Damron said Crawford where she resides tends to be a problem area. Putting speed sensors out to monitor motorists was discussed.

The Public Records Request for the Landmark Recovery Facility was discussed. Solicitor Linn advised that the 1st request was answered. A 2nd request has been received and is being addressed.

Mr. Mattern asked for verification that the Village does not own any social media pages. This was confirmed, however the Village does own & operate Wintersville,net webpage.

Councilman Mattern said he has no issue with the reduction in pay addressed in the previous ordinance but finds fault with the wording of it. He also warned there may be a need for an Ordinance to reduce wages should the contingency fund fall below zero. He continued to ask for attachments when addressed and the ability to get the council packets for meeting prior to the council meeting.

Transfers

No transfers.

Motion by Gael Damron second by Randy Spence to pay bills.

Vote: Gael Damron yea, Randy Spence yea, Carmen DeStefano yea, Dr. Pennie Scarpone yea, Jason Mattern yea, Bob Merriman yea.

Motion passed 6-0.

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

Denise Geanangel
Fiscal Officer

Michael W. Petrella
Mayor