

Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Council President Randy Spence called the meeting to Order.

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

**Officials:** Mayor Mike Petrella absent, Fiscal Officer Rachel Morrison present, Administrator Jesse Kosegi present, Solicitor Jake Linn present.

Randy Spence: Congratulations to Mayor Petrella and his wife Emily on the birth of their daughter.

**Moment of Silence**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Reading of Minutes**

Motion by Carmen DeStefano, second by Jason Mattern to approve the minutes for the December 21, 2023 Council Meeting.

**Vote:** Bob Merriman yea, Jason Mattern yea, Pennie Scarpone yea, Carmen DeStefano yea.

Motion passed 4-0.

**Guests**

None.

Motion by Pennie Scarpone, second by Carmen DeStefano to open nominations for Council President.

**Vote:** Bob Merriman yea, Jason Mattern yea, Pennie Scarpone yea, Carmen DeStefano yea.

Motion passed 4-0.

Pennie Scarpone nominated Randy Spence for Council President, Carmen DeStefano seconded the motion. Jason Mattern closed the nomination.

**Vote:** Bob Merriman yea, Jason Mattern yea, Pennie Scarpone yea, Carmen DeStefano yea.

Motion passed 4-0.

Motion by Jason Mattern, second by Bob Merriman to accept the Rules of Council for 2024

**Vote:** Bob Merriman yea, Jason Mattern yea, Pennie Scarpone yea, Carmen DeStefano yea.

Motion passed 4-0.

Committee Members will be approved at the next Council Meeting.

## **Ordinance and/or Resolution**

None.

## **Announcements**

Next week the village will be taking down the Christmas lights on Main Street. Please slow down if you see the Village trucks and be careful.

## **Reports and Communications**

Council President Randy Spence read the Magistrate report Police Report, Code Enforcement Officers Report and updated list for all the nuisance calls for the Month of December 2023.

Robert Laukert: Attended the meeting on January 10 for the Seven Ranges. There were concerns of the resolution formation of the District. These matters were discussed and resolved. March 13<sup>th</sup> will be signing of the contracts.

Jason Mattern: When Island Creek came on to the 7 Ranges, they modified the agreement. The solicitors wanted to review it to see if any adjustments were needed. The other thing is that they are going to bring the results of the calls from 2023 to the next meeting.

The last thing that was brought up, a couple entities that may be under contact with someone else and not call 911. They maybe calling another ambulance service, there is a delay to get 911 moving because they contacted another ambulance service. 911 is here in the Village and they are the best.

Robert Laukert: Regarding BHJ- the Market Street bridge is in bad shape. West Virginia has set aside 35 Million dollars on the future of the Bridge, once there is a decision on what will be done on the Bridge. The projected time frame is 2025.

Pennie Scarpone: Why the Market is so important they gave a ration of 4 for the Wellsburg Bridge and the Market Street was 8 regarding the carbon emissions.

Charlene Prentice: SVRTA there was a meeting held tonight they are getting ready for the up coming Levy. Ridership is up 11.6%. The Adams Street Project there is no time frame for the cleanup.

## **Mayor's Report**

Council President Randy Spence: December 21 was the bid opening for the Dog Park.

Jesse Kosegi: I have that in my report about the miss quote and the irregularities with the bid from Border Patrol.

The lowest bid was Sweet Meadow Farms at \$168,249.65. Double D at \$183,808.00. Fort Steuben Maintenance \$190,280.00. Border Patrol \$161,439.00.

Bob Merriman: Who made the Mistake.

Jesse Kosegi: Quicksall made the mistake.

Bob Merriman: Why should we penalize another company because Quicksall made the mistake.

Jesse Kosegi: Everyone that was there knew what the lowest bid was. Border Patrol came in at \$222,909.00. Based on the mathematical error by Quicksall, Border Patrol was \$161,439.00. Jeremy Yeager agreed and would honor the \$161,439.

Jake Linn: I would like to check into that to see if it was Quicksall or Border Patrol that made the error.

Pannie Scarpone: Are you violating the process if you let someone change the bid after it was read.

Jason Mattern: Could we have Jake clarify that and find out about the mistake, who made the mistake. We can wrap it up at the next meeting.

Jake Linn: Yes, I can look into that.

Motion by Jason Mattern, Second by Carmen DeStefano to place Rachel Morrison on the Authority list for the banking and the online banking.

**Vote:** Bob Merriman yea, Jason Mattern yea, Pennie Scarpone yea, Carmen DeStefano yea.

Motion passed 4-0.

### **Administrator's Report**

Jesse Kosegi: The Village Audit was completed and signed off on. All the findings were corrected. We stated at the meeting to go to a Bi-Annual audit which we have to submit a formal letter which I have typed. This will save the Village Money.

Water Meter Project: We have about 550 meters left to install out of 1800. Next week they will be working on the business. The problem we are having, on the original bid, not all businesses have a ¾ inch meter. Some have 1 inch, 2 inch, and 3 inch. George goes around on Friday's to see what meter we need so we can get these meters ordered. That is what is slowing us down.

Please call Newman Plumbing at 888-437-0078, Monday – Friday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. or you can email them to set up an appointment at [newmanmeter.com](http://newmanmeter.com). The meters belong to the Village not to you, we are putting in new meters so we can get this project completed. I will have an update at the next meeting.

The Fuel Tank Project: I was having a difficult time getting ahold of the last person to do the software. I was given another name of Fuel Tech in St. Clairsville. Mr. Robinson is going to come up and take a look at it and get it done. Everything else is ready except for the software.

USDA Grant – this Grant started in 2022. We ordered 4 vehicles, then it went down to 3 vehicles, then down to 2 vehicles because of the price. We want to get this closed, the medium duty truck is in, it is at Ace Truck in Zanesville it is not going to be outfitted until March 2024. We have \$57,000 not spent, \$7,000 dollars is going for a new trailer. Police Department needs a new cruiser and outfitted, Chief Vandeborne is getting quotes for that. Where I purchased the

traffic board from, is under state purchasing so I can get an arrow board from them that would be \$5,300 dollars. Once we get the second truck in and get it outfitted we can close the loan. If we close in March we won't have to make our first payment until the following year, which will save us money. If Council is okay with it I would like to buy a cruiser and an arrow board.

We were going to bid out the red dump truck but we haven't. I come to find out when I was at the Supervisor meeting that, that truck only has 16,000 miles on it. That truck is going to the sewer department. We pay a company to haul out our sludge, so we can keep the truck and haul it ourselves.

The new Village web site is about done. The Facebook page is there, the goal of the Facebook page is to have no comments. It is going to strictly an informative page.

Jason Mattern: Regarding the audit, I thought it was a good audit. I also think a bi-annual audit is a pretty good idea.

Randy Spence: On the \$19,000 a year for the audit is it a flat rate or does it go up when they find mistakes.

Jesse Kosegi: That is what they ear marked for that.

Randy Spence: Do we know how much money we would save by hauling out our own sludge?

Jesse Kosegi: I will get that for you.

### **Unfinished Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Jason Mattern: Congratulation to the Mayor and his wife on the baby girl.

### **Transfers**

None.

Motion by Jason Mattern, second by Carmen DeStefano to pay bills.

**Vote:** Bob Merriman yea, Jason Mattern yea, Pennie Scarpone yea, Carmen DeStefano yea.

Motion passed 4-0.

Motion by Carmen DeStefano, second by Pennie Scarpone to adjourn.

**Vote:** Bob Merriman yea, Jason Mattern yea, Pennie Scarpone yea, Carmen DeStefano yea.

Motion passed 4-0.

Next Council meeting will be February 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Disclaimer: These are a draft of the minutes and not deemed official until approved by Council.

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Rachel Morrison

Fiscal Officer

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Randy Spence

Council President