

Village of Creston

Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 18, 2023 @ 7:30 P.M.
at The Municipal Building

Council President Brenda Norris called the Regular Council meeting to order.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Council Members: Nate Berry, Aaron Howell, Brenda Norris, Tom Phillips, Solicitor Kris Immel and Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb taking the meeting minutes

Member absent: Mayor John Hall Jr., Council Members Jason Balyer, Aaron Huth, Superintendent Jason Flory, Police Chief Bryon Meshew

Others present: Sergeant Earl Fockler, Beck Croft, Marsha Moniger, Linda Sachara, Matt Snyder, Brad Olenik and Patty Murphy

Pledge of Allegiance

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Tom Phillips made a motion to approve the August 7, 2023 regular minutes as written and the August 28, 2023 special council minutes as written, 2nd Nate Berry, approved four (4) yeas.

Mayor's Report: absent

Tom Phillips: no comment

Jason Balyer: absent

Nate Berry: Nate would like to know if there is anyone living at 103 Maple Street. Jennifer will ask Jason Flory to look into it.

A. Aaron Howell: Aaron reported that the Finance Committee met and discussed the park grant/playground equipment and police raises. The committee recommended to give the three (3) current full-time employees Sergeant Earl Fockler, Officer Bret Haven, and Chief Bryon Meshew a \$3.00/hour raise due to the hiring of two (2) full-time officers.

1. Tom Phillips made a motion to increase Sergeant Earl Fockler's hourly rate by \$3.00/hour with no cost of living adjustment for 2024, 2nd Nate Berry, approved four (4) yeas.

2. Tom Phillips made a motion to increase Officer Bret Haven's hourly rate by \$3.00/hour with no cost of living adjustment for 2024, 2nd Nate Berry, approved four (4) yeas.
3. Nate Berry made a motion to increase Chief Bryson Meshew's hourly rate by \$3.00/hour with no cost of living adjustment for 2024, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved four (4) yeas.

The next Finance meeting will be on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building.

Aaron Huth: absent

Brenda Norris: The Events Committee discussed Halloween and the Village will be handing out candy at the Municipal building. The Committee is also working on the children's Christmas Party that will be on December 1, 2023 at the Old Middle School. There was a request to have microphones at the council meeting and she will be looking into the cost. It was also decided that the funds appropriated for the Events Committee will be used for items such as Halloween candy and event driven items.

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb: Jennifer presents Council with the invoices/vouchers for August 2023 totaling \$190,658.26. Tom Phillips made a motion to approve August's invoice and vouchers totaling \$190,658.26, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved four (4) yeas.

Jennifer presents council with the August 2023 bank reconciliation with no exceptions or adjustments. Tom Phillips made a motion to approve August's bank reconciliation with no exceptions or adjustments, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved four (4) yeas.

Jennifer would like council to consider electing the Employee Dishonesty in the insurance plan with Rinehart instead of having the Fiscal Officer and Tax Administrator being bonded. The current policy has a coverage of \$50,000.00 per employee and the bonds required are \$35,000 for the Fiscal Officer position and \$25,000.00 for the Tax Administrator. Nate Berry made motion to remove the bonds, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved four (4) yeas.

In reviewing the utility rates, Jennifer noticed that the rates for sewer and debt services are reversed. Sewer should be \$19.00 and debt services should be \$19.90, however it is being recorded as \$19.90 for sewer and \$19.00 for debt services. She is not sure why audit did not catch the error. Once she has the amounts figured out, she will have to do a fund balance adjustment and she would like council to approve the adjustment so it is documented for audit. She also advises that purchase orders from previous years cannot be carried over and be used in the current year. It has been done in the past and audit was not aware. The Police levy funds have come in and she would like to certify some of the funds for the raises. She is recommending that the full amount not be certified and \$60,000.00 should be able to carry the department to the end of the year for salaries. She would like council's approval to certify the funds and do

supplemental appropriations based on council's permission to use the funds. Tom Phillips made a motion to approve the certification of \$60,000.00, 2nd Nate Berry, approved four (4) yeas.

Jason Flory (absent): Jennifer presented council with the Maintenance report for August. Three (3) graves were opened and closed, the park was cleaned up from the Ox roast, McIlvain Drive's north side storm sewer was finished up, mowing was completed, three (3) zoning violations were issued and two (2) new permits.

Chief Bryon Meshew: absent

Legislation:

1. RES 2301-02 A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor. Tom Phillips made a motion to adopt the resolution, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved four (4) yeas.
2. ORD 2013-15 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) to administer and collect the income tax – 3rd reading.
3. ORD 2023-19 An ordinance establishing a supplemental appropriation in the State Highway Fund (2021) of \$2,000.00 for fuel purchase – 1st reading.
4. ORD 2023-20 ORD 2023-19 An ordinance establishing a supplemental appropriation in the Water Fund (5101) of \$13,401.56 for Factory Street engineering – 1st reading.

Old/New Business: none

Public comments: Becky Croft asks if the Village has a street sweeper. Jennifer advises her that they do not. She would like to know if the Village would be able to provide 24-hour police protection since two (2) new officers were hired. She was directed to speak with the Chief. She requests a list of speeding tickets from June-July. She was directed to make a public records request. Jennifer gives her a breakdown of tickets from August and she can follow up with the Chief for the other months. She inquires on the status of the \$300,000.00 park grant and Jennifer advises that the money has not been drawn down yet as they are having a difficult time getting updated quotes back from contractors. There was a discussion about officers sitting on Myers Street and the concern of speeding on Myers Street. Marsh Moniger wants to know why the Village has not installed the new street light yet. Jennifer advises that Ohio Edison has been paid and it is up to them to install it. Linda Sachara would like the Village to consider having police patrolling on bikes in the park. Matt Snyder expressed his aggravation about the sewer backing

up in his house on North Crestview and why the Village would allow another house to be built knowing there is a problem. He says he spoke with Jason and was informed it was fixed, it is not and he would like the Village to take care of it as soon as possible. Patty Murphy feels that the Village has a communication problem due to the recent meetings having to be canceled/rescheduled due to a lack of a quorum.

The next council meeting will be Monday October 2nd at 7:30 P.M. due to the holiday.

Nate Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M., 2nd Tom Phillips, approved four (4) yeas.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Webb, Fiscal Officer