

# Village of Creston

## Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 2, 2023 @ 7:30 P.M.  
at The Municipal Building

Mayor John Hall Jr. called the Regular Council meeting to order.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor John Hall Jr., Council Members: Jason Balyer, Nate Berry, Aaron Howell, Aaron Huth, Brenda Norris, Tom Phillips, Police Chief Bryon Meshew, Solicitor David Randolph, Superintendent Jason Flory and Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb taking the meeting minutes

Others present: Beck Croft, Marsha Moniger, Linda Sachara, Bonnie Hall and Patty Murphy

Pledge of Allegiance

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Tom Phillips made a motion to approve the September 18, 2023 regular minutes as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> Brenda Norris, approved six (6) yeas.

Mayor's Report: Mayor John Hall Jr. reminded everyone that Trick or Treat will be October 31, 2023 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM with the costume judging at 7:30 PM. CSX started the repairs of the rough railroad crossing and Rt 3 will be closed from October 2-8<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Phillips: no comment

Jason Balyer: no comment

Nate Berry: no comment

Aaron Howell: no comment

Aaron Huth: no comment

Brenda Norris: no comment

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb: Jennifer presents Council with the invoices/vouchers for September 2023 totaling \$128,200.29. Tom Phillips made a motion to approve August's invoice and vouchers totaling \$128,200.29, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Huth, approved six (6) yeas.

Jennifer presents council with the September 2023 bank reconciliation with an adjustment for \$398.82 due to an extra child support payment that was auto-deducted in error. Tom Phillips made a motion to approve September's bank reconciliation with the adjustment of \$398.82, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brenda Norris, approved six (6) yeas.

Jason Flory : In September, two (2) graves were opened and closed, the park was mowed and pot holes were filled in, 98% of McIlvain Drive is completed, issued two (2) new permits and helped the water department read meters. Jason Balyer asked Jason Flory to send a letter to 103 Maple Street about the items in the yard and the property upkeep. He also asks for an update about the other projects and Jason Flory informs him that the VFD's were installed, the Murray project will be started in late October, Ohio Edison was in contact with Frontier about the lights and it was determined that Frontier will be installing the poles for the new lights and Ohio Edison will install the lights afterwards. Ohio Edison returned the check the village issued for the lights and Jason will follow up to see if the village has to pay Frontier for the pole. Jason is still working on the specs for the dump truck, production is a year out.

Chief Bryon Meshew: Chief reported that the call volume for September was low. New hire Chad Collins is now helping out on the schedule. The department completed training, submitted five (5) felony cases, the new cruiser is not expected until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, call logs were added to the police reports that are given to Council and new hire John Stocker is working on his certifications in order to be active on the streets.

#### Legislation:

1. ORD 2023-19 An ordinance establishing a supplemental appropriation in the State Highway Fund (2021) of \$2,000.00 for fuel purchase and declaring an emergency, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Jason Balyer moved to suspend the rule, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nate Berry, approved six (6) yeas. Jason Balyer moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nate Berry, approved six (6) yeas.
2. ORD 2023-20 An ordinance establishing a supplemental appropriation in the Water Fund (5101) of \$13,401.56 for Factory Street engineering and declaring an emergency, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Jason Balyer moved to suspend the rule, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brenda Norris, approved six (6) yeas. Jason Balyer moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brenda Norris, approved six (6) yeas.

3. ORD 2023-21 An ordinance allowing the Fiscal Officer to remove the bonds for the Fiscal Officer position and the Tax Clerk position and to be covered under the Employee Dishonesty coverage through the Village's General Liability insurance and declaring an emergency. Jason Balyer moved to suspend the rule, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas. Jason Balyer moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas.
4. ORD 2023-22 An ordinance amending the employee's salary and pay range for calendar year 2024 for the Cost of Living Adjustment (pay increases), 1<sup>st</sup> reading.
5. ORD 2023-23 An ordinance establishing a supplemental appropriation in the General Fund (1000) of \$15,600.00 for payment of salaries and fringe benefits and declaring an emergency. Nate Berry moved to suspend the rule, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas. Nate Berry moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas
6. ORD 2023-24 An ordinance establishing a supplemental appropriation in the Police Fund (2901) of \$59,600.00 for payment of salaries and fringe benefits and declaring an emergency. Nate Berry moved to suspend the rule, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas. Nate Berry moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas.
7. ORD 2023-25 An ordinance establishing a supplemental appropriation in the Water Fund (5101) of \$8,250.00 for payment of salaries and fringe benefits and declaring an emergency. Brenda Norris moved to suspend the rule, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas. Brenda Norris moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas.
8. ORD 2023-26 An ordinance establishing a supplemental appropriation in the Sewer Fund (5201) of \$2,500.00 for payment of salaries and fringe benefits and declaring an emergency. Aaron Howell moved to suspend the rule, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Huth, approved six (6) yeas. Aaron Howell moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Huth approved six (6) yeas

Old/New Business: Mayor John Hall Jr. and Superintendent Jason Flory met with the contractor about the new restrooms for the Park. The project should be completed by the end of the year. Solicitor David Randolph reports that Kris Immel looking into closing the Park and Community Center Funds and going through the General Fund. To do so, the Village would have to petition the Tax Commissioner or go through the Commons Please Court. Council will have to decide on the direction to take if they wanted to run those funds through the General Fund. Aaron Howell

would like to know if Council has to do/complete anything on behalf of the Board of Public Affairs (BOPA) since BOPA has not been able to have a meeting since July. Solicitor Randolph says he is not aware of anything. Since there are 2 open BOPA seats in 2024, the Mayor would have to appoint new members and Council would have to approve the appointment.

Public comments: Patty Murphy expresses her appreciation of the Village’s Officials. She would like copy of the Police call log and would like to know where she can get one. Chief Meshew informs her that she can pick one up at the Police Station or at Village hall. She would like the village to consider having spare cruisers sitting vacant at certain areas to act like a deterrent, ‘Citizen on Patrol’ and a Town Hall Forum.

The next council meeting will be Monday November 6<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 P.M.

Nate Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 P.M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Huth, approved six (6) yeas.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
*Jennifer Webb, Fiscal Officer*