

Village of Creston

Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 6, 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 Kris Immel, and Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb taking the meeting minutes

Members Absent: Superintendent Jason Flory

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

Pledge of Allegiance

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Tom Phillips made a motion to approve the October 2, 2023 regular minutes as written. 2nd Nate Berry, approved six (6) yeas.

Mayor's Report: Mayor John Hall Jr. reminded everyone to exercise their right to vote tomorrow. Mayor John Hall Jr. was asked to initiate a discussion about a previous employee Officer Joseph Stephey. Chief Meshew informs Council that Officer Stephey is no longer with the Massillon Police Department and the Village as an opportunity to re-employ him to have 24/7 police coverage. Chief Meshew explains that he and the Fiscal Officer already discussed finances and it was not possible to bring Officer Stephey back full time. Part time (24 hours a week) was discussed but without a General Fund Transfer it would not be possible. Jason Balyer asks how much it would cost to do part time. Jennifer estimated it would be around \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00. She also explained that not all the levy money was certified but it is not wise to spend all the funds and a carry-over of 10% is the minimum but 20% is ideal. Finance will put the topic on their agenda.

Tom Phillips: no comment

Jason Balyer: The Safety Committee is looking into speed signs that are portable and will monitor speeds to help target areas to see where more patrol is needed. They will only monitor the speed for data collection, they do not take pictures or issue citations. They are around \$3,000.00 each.

Nate would like the village to look into getting three (3). It will be discussed at the next Safety Meeting. There was a brief discussion about the license plate reader that Medina County installed. Chief Meshew explains that they are expensive and require an annual fee.

Nate Berry: Nate received another quote for the playground grant. He will email it to everyone.

Aaron Howell: Aaron reported that the Finance Committee met and discussed the WSRLA loan for the Factory Street project, playground grant, COLA raises and solicitor responsibilities regarding legislation. BOPA has decided to use their available funds rather than securing a loan, the Committee would like the members of Council to consider an annual raise or COLA (cost of living adjustment) to vote on next month, and that the Fiscal Officer can draft regular ordinances and resolutions. Any other legislation would be drafted by the solicitor. The solicitor requested that all legislation be reviewed by him prior to council voting on.

Aaron Huth: no comment

Brenda Norris: Brenda advised that the speed bumps in the park need to be repaired due to the spikes sticking out. Aaron Huth said he can look into getting the material for Jason to repair. She would like to know how the committee decides on an amount for tree removal. Tom advised that there has been \$10,000.00 allocated each year for that expense. She would also like to know if there a plan on which trees are to be removed. The Village's Kids Christmas party will be Friday December 1st from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and an Events Committee meeting is needed to discuss details. The Committee meeting will take place on Monday, November 13th at 6:30 PM in the Municipal Building.

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb: Jennifer presents Council with the invoices/vouchers for October 2023 totaling \$125,537.49. Tom Phillips made a motion to approve October's invoice and vouchers totaling \$125,537.49 2nd Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas.

Jennifer presents council with the October 2023 bank reconciliation with no exceptions or adjustments. Brenda Norris made a motion to approve October's bank reconciliation with no exceptions or adjustments, 2nd Tom Phillips, approved six (6) yeas.

Jason Flory : The Zoning Planning Commission met on November 1st to discuss 2 parcel replots and approved the requests. Solicitor Immel advised that there needs to be legislation to approve those replots.

Chief Bryon Meshew: Chief reported that the citations were up due to the new hire Chad Collins being on the schedule. The department is continuing training and the ARPA EMA First Responder Funds should be disbursed soon.

Legislation:

1. ORD 2023-27 An ordinance establishing a supplemental appropriation in the General Fund (1000) of \$125,000.00 for the expenditure of the ODNR grant, H.B. 687 for the park restroom renovations and declaring an emergency. Jason Balyer moved to suspend the rule, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas. Tom Phillips moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2nd Aaron Huth, approved six (6) yeas
2. RES 2023-03 A resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for the LWCF Grant for playground equipment and execute all documents and declaring an emergency. Aaron Howell moved to suspend the rule, 2nd Nate Berry, approved six (6) yeas. Jason Balyer moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2nd Nate Berry, approved six (6) yeas.
3. 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), 3rd reading.

Old/New Business: The kids Christmas party will be on December 1st from 6:00 P.M. to 8 P.M.

Public comments: Becky Croft would like to know how the Village operates in regards to a 1,5,10 year plan for the future. She asks about a retention plan for vehicles. Jason Balyor advises her that they have a vehicle retention plan and other items needed are discussed at the safety meeting and committee meetings on an as needed basis She asked for verification how much the solicitor gets paid and how much the zoning book cost. She was advised of the solicitor's salary and additional payments made to his firm and the zoning book cost. It was clarified that the zoning book was drafted by the engineer's attorneys and the Village solicitor was not paid in addition to the original cost.

The next council meeting will be Monday December 4th at 7:30 P.M.

Nate Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 P.M., 2nd Aaron Huth, approved six (6) yeas.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Webb, Fiscal Officer