

Village of Creston

Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 4, 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 Bayler, 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

Others present: Brad Olenik, Beck Croft, Bonnie Hall, Marsha Moniger, Jason Hostettler, Thomas DeLong, Linda Sachara, Matt Martin and Patty Yost

Pledge of Allegiance

Amendments to the agenda: Add ordinance 2023-30 referencing the tax code update

Tom Phillips made a motion to approve the November 6, 2023 regular minutes as written. 2nd Aaron Huth, approved six (6) yeas.

Mayor's Report: Mayor John Hall Jr. announces that Brenda Norris will be the new Mayor for Creston and congratulates her. He also reports that the Childrens Christmas party went very well and over 300 people attended.

Tom Phillips: No comment

Jason Bayler: The speed monitoring system was discussed at the Safety Committee but Jason cannot present the information at the moment. Jason thanked Mayor John Hall Jr. for everything he has done during his term. He also mentions that during the election, there was heated online smearing which he feels was uncalled for and says the Village should pay attention to the comments that were posted. Tom is a local business owner and we should support our local businesses.

Nate Berry: No comment

Aaron Howell: Aaron reported for the Finance Committee. In regards to the COLA raises: they made the recommendation that perform evaluations should not be done in the beginning of the year, but on the employees hire date, up to 4% increase based upon performance. Jason Bayler made a motion to approve an annual increase up to 4%, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas. A recommendation of increasing Council salaries, pay based on attendance and unexcused absence

would result in forfeiture of pay. Kris will draft legislation. Aaron reached out to the WCED (Wayne County Economic Development) in regards to working with them to help get businesses in the area. The registration fee is \$750.00. He will ask a WCED member to come to a council meeting to give a presentation. The vacant BOPA seats were discussed and the committee felt it was financially wise to try to fill the seats before discussing an Administrator position. The playground grant was submitted. Finance made the recommendation of a \$200,000.00 transfer from the General Fund to the Police Department based on previous levy discussions. The next Finance meeting will be on December 18th at 7:00 PM. Aaron gave thanks to Mayor John Hall Jr. and Aaron Huth for their contributions to the Village and congratulated Brenda Norris.

Aaron Huth: No Comment

Brenda Norris: Brenda addressed the worn-down speed bumps in the park again. Jason Flory says they can be removed or replaced. Jason will repair or replace them in the spring. The Christmas Party had good feedback. The cost was around \$2,431.55. Brenda thanked everyone for their help. She also thanked John and Aaron for their service to the community.

Mayor John Hall Jr. swears in Officer Joseph Stephey.

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb: Jennifer presents Council with the invoices/vouchers for November 2023 totaling \$173,894.33. (total for Council/BOPA) Tom Phillips made a motion to approve November's invoice and vouchers totaling \$173,894.33 2nd Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas.

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

She advised that there will be supplementals needed for the final salaries of 2023 and to certify more Police Levy funds. She asked the members to review the meeting dates for 2024 that were sent out last month and give the approval of them or what changes need to be made.

Jason Flory : Jason reported that the last of the leaf's will be picked up this week, the park is closed for the winter months, the lights are up and they will be making adjustments due to the strong winds, the snow plows are ready and several violations were sent out.

Chief Bryon Meshew: Chief reported that they were much busier this month and the department is finishing up training.

Legislation:

1. RES 2023-04 A resolution adopting RITA Rules and Regulations and declaring an emergency. Jason Bayler moved to suspend the rule, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas. Aaron Howell moved to pass the resolution as an emergency, 2nd Aaron Huth, approved six (6) yeas.

2. 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. Jason Bayler moved to suspend the rule, 2nd Nate Berry, six (6) days - legislation did not pass.
3. ORD 2023-28 An ordinance establishing Fund 2153 as a special revenue fund to expend the Federal Funds of the Ohio EMA First Responder Retention Grant and declaring an emergency. Aaron Howell moved to suspend the rule, 2nd Brenda Norris, approve six (6) yeas. Aaron Howell moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2nd Aaron Huth, approve six (6) yeas.
4. ORD 2023-29 An ordinance establishing a supplemental appropriation in the Ohio EMA First Responder Retention Grant Fund (2153) for the expenditure of the retention grant and declaring an emergency. Brenda Norris moved to suspend the rule, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas. Brenda Norris moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas.
5. ORD 2023-30 An ordinance amending the municipal tax codes – 1st reading.

Old/New Business: Mayor Hall Jr. and Jason Flory received a quote from Spectrum to install WIFI in the park for the security cameras. The total cost would be \$11,155.98, \$8,000.00 of which will be covered by Spectrum and the Village would owe \$3,155.98. There was discussion of possibly installing a booster to reach more of the park. Jason Bayler made a motion to approve the purchase from General Fund, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas.

Public comments: Matt Martin introduces himself as a candidate for Wayne County Commissioner. He will be running for one of the two (2) open seats. He gives his detailed background and thanks council for their time.

Council will be having a Special Meeting on Wednesday, December 20th at 6:30 P.M.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Webb, Fiscal Officer