

Village of Creston

Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 4, 2024 @ 7:30 P.M.
at the Municipal Building

Mayor Brenda Norris called the Regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Mayor Brenda Norris, Council Members: Jason Balyer, Nate Berry, Josh Heiney, Aaron Howell, Randy Minor II, Brad Olenik, Police Chief Bryon Meshew, Solicitor Kris Immel, Street Superintendent Jason Flory and Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb taking the meeting minutes

Others present: Jennifer Brumfield, Michael Brumfield, Tom Ballinger, Helen Gray, Meredith Craig, David Kiefer, Beck Croft, Linda Sachara, Cathy Stanley

Pledge of Allegiance

Amendments to the agenda: Aaron Howell made a motion to add ordinance 2024-06 to the agenda, 2nd Joshua Heiney, approved five (5) yeas. Jason Balyer was not present at the time to vote.

Brad Olenik made a motion to approve the February 5, 2024 regular council meeting minutes and February 22, 2024 special council minutes as written, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved five (5) yeas. Jason Balyer was not present at the time to vote.

Mayor's Report:

- a. Tom Ballinger is running for Wayne County Sheriff and asks the community for their support on the upcoming election.
- b. Mayor Norris reported the upcoming meetings:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals – Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM
 - Zoning – Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM
 - Community Event: Touch a Truck – April 20, 2024 from 1:00-3:00 PM
- c. Mayor Norris would like to recolonize the following employees for their years of service:
 1. Chief Byron Meshew - 13 years
 2. Officer Josh Patsch – 12 years
 3. Sergeant Earl Fockler – 6 years
 4. Officer Jeff Cockling – 22 years
 5. Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb – 1 year
- d. Village Administrator appointment : Mayor Norris would like to appoint Jason Flory to the Village Administrator position. Jason Balyer makes a motion to appoint Jason Flory, 2nd Nate Berry, approved six (6) yeas.

e. The oldest police vehicle (2013) had damage to the frame due to wear and tear and it was repaired by the maintenance department.

Committee Reports:

Zoning: There will be another meeting to discuss the Codified Zoning Ordinances prior to approval. It will try to be scheduled before the meeting on April 1, 2024.

Finance: Aaron Howell reported that Jennifer gave an overview of how government accounting works. They are still researching grant opportunities through OBM. The deadline for year 2024 has passed but they will research for next year, 2025. Finance would like to move forward with the tax abatement through WCED. The committee will have another meeting with WCED before requesting legislation to be drafted. Nate Berry reported that he is waiting for the quote for a digital sign to post important village information. It is around \$22,000.00 and he will forward it to everyone when he gets it. No decision on purchasing the digital board was made and Finance will discuss it at the next meeting. A discussion was had about the future use of the Community Center but no decision was made. Finance is still waiting on the Police Levy funds amounts to further discuss the Police cameras.

Cemetery: Joshua Heiney reported that he is trying to narrow down a few dates to have a meeting in order to prepare for the Memorial Day holiday.

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb: Jennifer reported that fiscal year 2023 is officially closed and filed with the State. She emailed everyone the Hinkle Notes she prepared. The notes are required by the state and encourages everyone to read them as it gives an overview of the village. The bank reconciliation could not be done until fiscal year 2023 was closed. Jennifer presents council with the January and February 2024 bank reconciliation with no exceptions or adjustments. Aaron Howell made a motion to approve January and February's bank reconciliation with no exceptions or adjustments, 2nd Brad Olenik, approved six (6) yeas.

Jennifer presents Council with the invoices/vouchers for February totaling \$115,112.90 (total for Council/BOPA) Nate Berry made a motion to approve February's invoice and vouchers totaling \$115,112.90, 2nd Joshua Heiney approved six (6) yeas.

Marti McCord needs to be added as a signer to the secondary Village bank account at Wayne Savings Bank for the utilities. Jason Balyer makes a motion to add Marti McCord, 2nd Nate Berry, approved six (6) yeas.

Aaron Howell needs to be added as a signer to the primary Village bank account at Wayne Savings Bank. Brad Olenik makes a motion to add Aaron Howell, 2nd Joshua Heiney, approved six (6) yeas.

Jason Flory: Jason reported that Murray Hall renovations are in process, trees were trimmed, vehicles were serviced, one (1) zoning violation was issued, and they only salted one (1) time in the new year.

Chief Bryon Meshew: Chief reports that calls were down and the department is working on completing their required training.

Legislation:

1. ORD 2024-06 An ordinance approving a replat for Beulah Jean King and declaring an emergency – 1st reading. Aaron Howell moved to suspend the rule, 2nd Randy Minor II, approved six (6) yeas. Aaron Howell moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2nd Joshua Heiney, approved six (6) yeas
2. ORD 2024-07 An ordinance approving rental agreements and terms and declaring an emergency – 1st reading. Jason Balyer moved to suspend the rule, 2nd Brad Olenik, approved six (6) yeas. Brad Olenik moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2nd Randy Minor II, approved six (6) yeas
3. ORD 2024-08 An ordinance repealing ordinance number 12-11 and setting for the rental rates declaring an emergency – 1st reading. Jason Balyer moved to suspend the rule, 2nd Randy Minor II, approved six (6) yeas. Aaron Howell moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2nd Randy Minor II, approved six (6) yeas

Old/New Business: Finance is still waiting for the levy funds to decide on the Police cameras.

Public comments: Helen Gray addressed council and stated she did not know there was a two (2) minute limits on public discussions. In reference to the gentleman that came into her shop that alarmed her, she would like to know where to go if an issue arises. She was informed to call the Police Department (911) rather than calling a council member or her son. She was not happy about the lack of follow up from the incident when she filed the report. Mayor Norris suggests that Ms. Gray and her have a discussion outside of the meeting to help clarify any things she felt that the Chief did not handle appropriately.

Meredith Craig addresses council informs them of her background and asks for support in running for State Representative.

David Kiefer addresses council informs them of his background and asks for support in running for Wayne County Commissioner.

Cathy Stanley addresses council about her neighbor that has been harassing her and she feels the Police have done nothing to stop the situation or followed up with her. Chief Meshew informs her that charges were submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and the Prosecutor's

Office elected not to proceed with charges. Cathy is also upset about all the junk cars in her neighbors' yard. Jason Flory states that the resident at 151 Sterling has been sited and been brought into Mayor's Court multiply times and it is an ongoing issue. As soon as he is sited, he cleans up and then it piles back up. Joshua Heiney would like clarification on the requests to follow up and Randy Minor would like to know the follow up policy, if any.

The next meeting will be on April 1, 2024 at 7:30 P.M.

Nate Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 P.M., 2nd Jason Balyer, approved six (6) yeas.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Webb, Fiscal Officer

Brenda Norris, Mayor