

Village of Creston

Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 6, 2024 @ 7:30 P.M.
at the Municipal Building

Mayor Brenda Norris called the Regular Council meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

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, Administrator Jason Flory and Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb taking the meeting minutes

Others present: Cathy Cibella, Scott Murray, Paul Rausch, Tim Lawrence, Braxton Lawrence, Beck Croft, Linda Sachara, Marsha Moniger, Kathy Rastosfer, Elisa Eaken, Cathy Stanley, Jessica Moran

Pledge of Allegiance

Amendments to the agenda: None

Jason Balyer made a motion to approve the April 1, 2024 regular council meeting minutes as written and the April 18, 2024 special council meeting minutes as written, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas.

Mayor's Report:

- a. Mayor Norris sworn in Police Officers Audrey Black and Jeffery Kinney.
- b. Eagle Scout Braxton Lawrence is looking for a project and would like to help make the park more safe and better access for the disabled. Mayor Norris and Administrator Jason Flory are looking into updating the park and Jason will let Braxton know if he can contribute once they have a remodel plan.
- c. Employee Guy Hamby is recognized for one (1) year of service and Jared Shilling is recognized for five (5) years of service.
- d. Touch a Truck was a success. Water Day will be July 27, 2024 and volunteers are needed.
- e. Vehicle Rotation: Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb noticed there was unused funds remaining in some of the project funds. Kris will work to get them moved to the General Fund to be transferred back to sewer so it can be used for the vehicle purchase for utilities. The Police department still need two (2) vehicles and the cost after the ARPA funds will be \$78,200.00. Jason Balyer asks if the 2 new vehicles can extend the vehicle rotation to every three (3) years instead of every two (2) years, Chief says it might be possible. Nate Berry makes a motion to approve \$39,100.00 from the Police carry over balance, 2nd Joshua Heiney, approved six (6) yeas. Nate Berry makes a motion to approve the spending of \$39,100.00 from the General Fund, 2nd Brad Olenik, approved six (6) yeas

Committee Reports:

Zoning: No comment

Finance:

- a. Aaron Howell reported that Finance approved the increase in the mosquito spraying cost, it was \$7,000.00 and will now be \$9,900.00 and a supplemental appropriation might be needed to cover the increase.
- b. Security cameras were discussed and Jason Flory is looking into getting another quote from the company who is supplying the park lighting quote.
- c. The CRA program was discussed and it was determined that it was not in the best interest of the Village to proceed due to the lack of members needed for the extensive number of committees the program would require.
- d. The Kimble Trash contract extension was discussed and it was found to be in the best interest of the Village to extend it with the minimal price increases. Kimble does have a notification system that residents can sign up for to receive notices about delays or changes. Residents can sign up for it online or call to be added.
- e. Aaron sent out grant links and is in contact with a rep from Ohio Edison regarding quotes for street lights.
- f. The next finance meeting will be May 20, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

Cemetery: Joshua Heiney reported they had a cemetery meeting and they addressed the following topics:

- a. Increase traffic for Memorial Day
- b. Safety issues were reviewed and the only concern that the stairs by the flag pole, on the old side, are cracked.
- c. They are making the flower/decoration regulations more accessible by posting them on FaceBook, the Village website, at the cemetery and handing them out with the interment right deed. The regulations are not changing but they would like the families to have them as there has been a few instances where decorations were in the way of commuting through the cemetery.
- d. They will be looking at increasing the interment and in-service rates, the increases will be very minimal.
- e. Flag pole holders will be available from the VA.

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Webb:

- a. April 2024 was closed and the bank reconciliation was completed with no exceptions or adjustments. Aaron Howell made a motion to approve April's bank reconciliation, 2nd Brad Olenik, approved six (6) yeas.

- b. Last month Jennifer presented Council with the invoices/vouchers for March totaling \$88,968.90 and indicated that the amount might change since the bank statements were not available prior to the council meeting. A service charge of \$46.64 was added to March's bills making the total bills \$89,015.55. Randy Minor II made a motion to approve March's revised payments of \$89,015.55, 2nd Joshua Heiney, approved six (6) yeas.
- c. Invoices/vouchers for April totaled \$226,488.50. Jason Balyer made a motion to approve April's bills totaling \$226,488.50, 2nd Aeon Howell, approved six (6) yeas
- d. The 2025 Budget is due to the county on July 20, 2024 and must be advertised fourteen days (14) prior to approval. The department heads will need to go over their funds to see what is accessible in their budget for Finance to approve.

Administrator Jason Flory:

- a. The Park bathrooms are open and were already vandalized. Aaron Howell asks if the Mayors Court Magistrate can prosecute offenders and he was informed that it is sent to county and they have the final determination.
- b. A water main break was repaired on Erie.
- c. The playground and lights projects are in the process of getting quotes.

Chief Bryon Meshew:

- a. Chief reports that calls were below previous years.
- b. He would like to remind everyone that the Memorial Day parade will be May 27, 2024 at 11:00 A.M.
- c. May 12th -18th is national Police week
- d. May is Mental Health Awareness month
- e. May 14, 2024 is Wayne County Field Day Cops and Kids from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at Norwayne High School with Creston Police in attendance.

Legislation:

- 1. RES 04-2024 A resolution authorizing the solicitor to petition the Tax Commissioner for certain fund closures and the transfer of funds remaining. Jason Bayler moved to pass the resolution, 2nd Brad Olenik, approved six (6) yeas
- 2. ORD 2024-14 An ordinance authorizing the Administrator and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract adjustments regarding the Factory Street Project and declaring an emergency. Aaron Howell moved to suspend the rule, 2nd Nate Berry, approved six (6) yeas. Joshua Heiney moved to pass the ordinance as an emergency, 2nd Aaron Howell, approved six (6) yeas.
- 3. ORD 2024-15 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract with Stewart Signs. Ordinance was discussed and it was decided that it would be tabled indefinitely.

Old/New Business: Nate Berry attended the Park meeting would like to know about expanding the parking lot. Jason Flory will meet with Nate to discuss further. Nate also asks about the sidewalk project and he was informed that it was stopped at the requests of the residents. Jason Balyer would like to know if they can place signs for boil alerts like they do for the hydrant flushing.

Public comments: Resident Scott Murray would like to know about the limits for calcium and lime in the water. Jason Flory informs him that the EPA does not regulate the hardness of the water and the wells the Village gets the water from does have hard water.

Resident Elisa Eaken works for the Health Department and she would like Council to know that the Village can always contact Barb at EMA to see if they can send out notifications for future boil alerts.

Resident Cathy Stanley received a letter from the Police Department informing her that she has made too many nuisances calls in regards to her neighbor and her property has now been declared a nuisance. The letter stated she had ten (10) days to appeal but there was no date on the letter. She filed the appeal anyways. Chief Meshew informed her that it was a warning letter and she is concerned because the letter does not say it was a warning and she will be fined if she calls again. Cathy feels she cannot call the Police if she feels unsafe now. She was informed that she can call the Police if it is a legitimate safety concern. The Chief states that they have prosecuted her neighbor when they could.

The next Council meeting will be on June 3, 2024 at 7:30 P.M.

Aaron Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 P.M., 2nd Nate Berry, approved six (6) yeas.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Webb, Fiscal Officer

Brenda Norris, Mayor