

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

COUNCIL MEETING

Held September 7, 2021

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The Council convened at 7:00 P.M. in the Municipal Office. Mayor Jim Nelson called the Council session to order with the following members present:

COUNCIL: Jim Nelson, Mark Wicker, Elaine McFarland, Cheryl Friend, Harry Strain, Jesse Mann, David Lockhart

Guest: Sharon Adkins, Ameer Sword, James Detter, Jordan Damon, Scott Leonard, Liz Barker, Patricia Wiggins

Abs: Jym Longstreth

The audience and council were reminded to silence all cell phones. The audience was informed that they were to state their names any time they wanted to talk during the community comments and requests section of the meeting or at any other time during the meeting.

Council was reminded to state their names when making a motion and when they seconded the motion. The person making the motion would write the motion down so it could be read again prior to a vote and then the written motion would be given to the Fiscal Officer for the record.

MINUTES

Cheryl Friend made a motion to approve the 8-3-21 meeting minutes and 8-11-2021 special meeting minutes. Mark Wicker seconded.

Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes, Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart – yes. Motion Passed 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Scott Leonard is here to bring up a couple of things. First thing he brought up was a stop sign at South and Central that he brought up a few years ago. The traffic is pretty fast on South Street. The second thing is about the chip and seal and he doesn't remember this ever being done in the village before and him and several concerned residents doesn't want it to happen again.

Patricia Wiggins is here to bring to the attention to council that there are a lot of little children on South Street and they play in the street on bikes, skateboards etc. The chip and seal has effected the children on our street.

Jim Detter agrees with what Scott Leonard and Patricia Wiggins are saying. Not that the children should not be playing in the street and that is up to the parents. He will not drive his truck on these two roads. Jim feels that the chip and seal should be in the rural areas. Jim N indicated there was a special meeting to discuss the chip and seal and it was posted at the 5 locations. Where are the 5 locations we post: Gas Station, Dairy Barn, Laundry Mat, PO, and the library. Lots of discussion on how to get residents informed of things going on. David Lockhart spoke about the chip and seal. The village could not afford to pave the streets. This was an easy fix to get the road from falling apart. In time it will be fine. The reason it happened so fast and a lot of residents were unaware was because we just found out that the company was in Oxford township and we saved some money by getting them to do these two roads while they were close by. Jim Nelson mentioned it was the best we could do at the time. Is there a better way of informing residents – yes and we will work on it.

Liz Baker would like to speak her opinion as she walks South Street and there are places that have sidewalks and some do not have sidewalks. There was a new modular home that went in and it was mentioned to that person that needed to replace the sidewalk along with the porch. Jim Nelson will get with Mitch.

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Jordan Damon is at 403 South street. There was a drain that goes under the sidewalk. They noticed that there were some orange cones on the sidewalk. They went out of town and the village maintenance come by and tore it up and just covered it back up without notifying us. Jim Nelson mentioned that the problem was that we can not work on private property. Damon's issue with this was they tore up the sidewalk without letting him know. It is the lack of communication that he is concerned with. He claims that he will get the sidewalk replaced.

Sharon Adkins wanted to add to the communication issue. She requested that the corn show would have been a great opportunity to show your face to the community. You should have set up a booth and let residents know who you are. You need to communicate to the residents. Maybe next year you can do that. Harry indicated that the corn show is a once a year and we meet every month and if residents want to get to know us then come to the meetings. Jim spoke to Sharon that several council people were working at the bingo table. We were there. She knows that they were there but a separate table would have been nice. The police were there at their own booth and it was nice seeing the residents talk and visit with them.

Sharon Adkins has a Comprehensive Plan from 2005 and I would like to see us do some of this stuff and get some businesses here in town. Cheryl indicated that there are a few new businesses here since 2005. We have a business uptown that looks like crap and we can not get him to fix it up and no one wants to bring their business here. Sharon wanted to know who is responsible for getting new businesses here in town. Cheryl mentioned that the economic development and grants committee and we don't have anyone on that committee. Cheryl mentioned a new organization called the Friends of Ashley committee that Amee conducts from the library. The website needs to be utilized more and this will be communicated, but we also need community involvement. We want people involved. Sharon brought up the fact that she was told by many residents that they could not sign the petition because of the repercussions they would get from Randy. Other people that were getting signatures said the same thing. If we have that going on with a maintenance worker then how do they think about council? If we don't get told about this then how do we know. Jim Detter also stated he has heard the same thing from residents. Sharon also stated that when she was having an issue with her water Randy came charging at her with her water meter. Mark Wicker indicated that we would need an official complaint to do anything about that. Jesse ask Sharon if she has first hand knowledge of people actually stating that they would not sign because of the retaliation they would get from Randy. Sharon says she has had her rounds with Randy and he can be very aggressive. Jim Detter has had several times when he was a police officer that residents would not sign a police report because of what Randy may do to them. Jesse ask Jim Detter if he has first hand accounts where they have expressed fear from Randy, Detter said Yes, and Sharon said Yes. Jesse ask if either of them heard this same thing about Mark Hall? Both stated no. Jim Detter said the guys do what they want when they want. They don't do anything. Jesse ask if there would be anyone she thought would be willing to come and have a private meeting them? Sharon can not recall which ones stated that. Jesse indicated that if she hears this again to please express to that person to come and file a complaint. Harry ask Jim Detter if he ever talked to Randy about this when it happened in the past? Detter claimed he has spoke to Randy and he would walk away and not talk about it. Jim Detter brought up that in the past an village employee had a restraining order on Randy and he could not even come in the front office.

Amee stated they are going to offer story time two times on Thursday so they can limit the kids in the library at one time due to covid. The touch a truck has been cancelled. There are 6 current members in the Friends of Ashley. They are looking for residents or other businesses as members. They are planning a Fall Fair Nov. 13, 2021. \$10 a table. Those funds will go towards help offset the gateway signage. There is a survey they are trying to get out to people to help with future events. Wants to have a hay ride this fall as well with details to figure out. Planning an outdoor family movie night. Amee would like to

All formal actions of the Meeting for Council of Village of Ashley concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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get councils approval for the group to start planning the movie night for next year. Council agreed we did not see an issue with it and closing the road would not be an issue either.

POLICE –Zach is here to fill in for Chief Santos. Zach went over the monthly report. The death on the report came out of 17 Vine Street. The corn show went well. They gave away little trinkets and wrist bands etc. We created a self finger print station for the kids. Next year the Villa Board is putting us in for a grant for more items for community outreach. Want to purchase a pop up awing and banner to be more visible. Going to step up our game. Will be seeking a body armor grant for next year again. Our body armor will be expiring soon. Will be pursuing a body cameras grant. Will protect the officers. We have heard a lot of speeding complaints. We have been trying to work harder on this. Chief will be at the council meeting next month. He will be talking about the new taser program that was in the budget packet a while back. Cheryl ask about the new vehicle and they still have not heard of a delivery date. Jim Nelson ask about a replacement. We have done a lot of interviews. The officers have been doing some peer interviews as well asking what they like to do for fun and trying to check personalities.

FISCAL OFFICER

Last month from the appropriation ordinance everyone wanted to know what the increase was for and Renee explained it was the extra money we received for the WWTP project and it increased the payment \$2,000.

Renee explained the changes for the appropriation ordinance.

Appropriation Ordinance 2021-007

Cheryl Friend moved to suspend the rules, Elaine McFarland seconded.

**Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,
Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart – yes. Motion Passed 5-0**

Mark Wicker moved to declare an emergency Elaine McFarland seconded.

**Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,
Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart – yes. Motion Passed 5-0**

David Lockhart moved to adopt, Harry Strain seconded

**Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,
Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart – yes. Motion Passed 5-0**

Cheryl Friend made motion to approve the July 2021 bank reconciliation, Mark Wicker seconded.

**Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,
Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart – yes. Motion Passed 5-0**

PERSONNEL – Renee has put in your packet that Cheryl requested from last month a chart showing the current wages and % showing merit raises amounts. Jesse indicated what has been talked about earlier in the meeting he would like to recommend to council that we table this till later. Cheryl ask since this is a merit raise can we eliminate anyone? Jesse indicated that this could cause issues between now and then. Mark Wicker made a motion to table this till November 2021, Elaine McFarland seconded.

**Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,
Jim Longstreth – yes, Harry Strain – yes, Motion Passed 5-0**

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/GRANTS – Renee has submitted 3 grants for the Waterline Project and the WWTP project. Jesse explained the water and wastewater infrastructure grants we ranked 1 and 6 in the state. The Water Line project was #1 and #6 on WWTP. There was also a grant submitted for the American Rescue Plan and we are expecting \$168,439 in two installments. Renee also indicated that the lawsuit on Thomas and Marker is now over and payments can be disbursed. Renee paid OHM their check and requested a disbursement for the final payment due Thomas and Marker.

PARKS & RECS – The is finally closed for the summer. We had a terrible summer with life guards. All the snacks have been brought to the office to sell. They have met with the Health Department on a skate park that will be located across the municipal office. Sharon Adkins indicated this would be a great location due to the little kids can't walk out the other park. Elaine has someone to do certifications for \$150 next year. She would like for the village to pay for their certifications and if they quit they would have to pay it back. We are not doing a catfish tournament this year.

SAFETY/STREETS/ALLEYS – We did the chip seal, which got a lot of peoples attention. There is a tree that needs to come down on Barton Street due to the view at the stop sign. The tree is full of bees and that needs to be dealt with before the tree can come down.

NEWSLETTER – Renee will get with Cheryl on the CRA tax incentive to put in the newsletter. Renee is also doing a coloring contest for the kids. She will provide the prizes for the winners.

Cheryl Friend volunteered to go to the September 30th, 2021 Regional Planning Committee Meeting.

No update from TJ. Cheryl ask if we need to give him a paper check next month. It was agreed to get his attention. Cheryl made the motion to issue TJ a paper check until further notice, Elaine McFarland seconded.

**Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,
Jim Longstreth – yes, Harry Strain – yes, Motion Passed 5-0**

Ordinance 2021-005– Litter Removal (3rd Reading)

Mark Wicker made motion to amend 3.29 changing the word “shall” to “may”. It needs changed twice. Mark Wicker made motion to adopt and Cheryl Friend seconded.

**Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,
Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart – yes. Motion Passed 5-0**

Ordinance 2021-004 – Shortcuts through Lots (3rd Reading)

Cheryl Friend made motion to adopt and Mark Wicker seconded.

**Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,
Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart – yes. Motion Passed 5-0**

Jesse recommended that we go into executive session for personal discussions.

Cheryl Friend made motion to go into executive session, Elaine McFarland seconded.

**Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,
Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart – yes. Motion Passed 5-0**

Mayor Jim Nelson would like to reopen council meeting September 7, 2021.

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Cheryl Friend made motion to pay the bills, Mark Wicker seconded.

Harry Strain made the motion to adjourn until October 5, 2021, David Lockhart seconded.

Jim Nelson, Mayor

Renee Rarick