

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

COUNCIL MEETING

Held May 4, 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, Jym Longstreth, Harry Strain, David Lockhart, Jesse Mann

Guest: Scott Santos, Liz Barker, Sharon Adkins, Scott Santos, Zach Thacther

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

David Lockhart made a motion to approve the April 6, 2021 meeting minutes, Elaine McFarland seconded.

Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes, Jim Longstreth – yes, Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart - yes. Motion Passed 6-0 abs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Jim wanted to address a meeting that took place after the BPA meeting in April and accordingly to the sunshine laws this is not acceptable. Cheryl spoke up and stated there were only 2 council members and 1 BPA members present and that is not against the rules. Well Jim wants to remind everyone of this and if it is important information then we need to schedule a meeting for it.

Sharon Adkins lives on Barton Street. Sharon is concerned about not having our police on duty 24 hours a day. It takes Delaware County a long time to respond to us here in Ashley. My husband is an over the road truck driver. Am I suppose to hold a burglar at bay until a Delaware county sheriff can get here? The kids in this town know the routine of our officers. There are two older lady's that live over here on Barton street. I talked to several homeowners and they all feel this way that they want to have 24 hour coverage. There was an incident the other night that someone in our Fla room and our dogs ran them off. Jim Nelson ask if a police report was done and no Sharon claimed there was not. There was no damage so she did not report it. Jesse stated the stand your ground laws was passed last month and Sharon is aware of that. Sharon ask that council members come down Barton Street and see the drug activity that goes on.

Cemetery Board – The cemetery board has an empty seat and need to fill. Cheryl Friend made a motion to nominate David Lockhart to fill the open position on the cemetery board. Elaine McFarland.

Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes, Jim Longstreth – yes, Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart - yes. Motion Passed 6-0 abs.

Amee was unable to attend but she sent in an update. The library will be hosting two in-person programs. Frist time in over a year. Hosting a socially distanced, passive star wars program for a younger patrons. The second one is a DYI picnic caddy. The friends of Ashly business group will be holding a Farmer's Market on the fourth Saturday of the months of June, July and August from 9-1:00 pm

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FISCAL OFFICER

Renee put direct deposits in the everyone's to have council checks direct deposit. Please complete and return to Renee. Please fill them out and bring to the June council meeting.

Cheryl Friend made motion to approve the March 31, 2021 bank reconciliation, Mark Wicker seconded.

**Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,
Jim Longstreth – yes, Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart - yes. Motion Passed 6-0 abs.**

POLICE – Morgan was recognized in honor of saving a live on June 6 and Scott and Richard Yeager saved a life on April 1st. Scott went over the monthly report. Scott opened a complaint on the junk motor vehicle on 17 vine Street. Couple more junk vehicle on High street and Center street. Will be sending other officer to check these out. Seeing an increase of shoplifting at the DG.

Jim Nelson indicated he sent a letter to Gary Hubbard on this property on High Street. The next step is a certified letter and possibly a citation. There are also several empty properties that we are mowing. We are sending the owner a bill for this.

Jim wanted to get clarification of how many full time officers. Scott is looking at taking our two part time officers to full time. We have Morgan and myself so it would be just hiring of two full time officers at a pay rate of \$17.75. Jesse indicated that full time officers are intitled to insurance and he did not see that in Santos list. Scott indicated that Zach would be the only one that would want insurance. Yeager would be the second full time officer and he would not want insurance. Scott carries our insurance and Zach would want insurance. Morgan and Yeager would not want insurance. Scott would recommend for a sergeant and lieutenant position, not a pay increase for himself. He wants to create these positions and not fill them right now. The sergeant pay would be 19.25 and lieutenant pay would be \$21.25.

Jim is clarifying with Scott his request. Zach and Yeager would be the two new full time officers. This would not effect Morgan as he is already full time. Jesse indicated we do not have a resolution for these requests. It was discussed that Personnel would have a meeting to recommend these requests to council. Jesse has requested the officers name and date new pay starts etc. Jim also ask about the changing of the hours of the chief. Jim's preference is that we keep him on his 40 hours for now till we know the police levy gets passed. Elaine and Mark agreed. David believes that it would probably save the village money over the year. It was ask if he would clock in and out and Chief agreed that he would clock in and out for accountability. This would also have to be discussed by personnel to recommend to council. Jim wanted to give an update on the police cruiser. There is an explanation about the financing for the new police cruiser from First Commonwealth Bank. Jim and Renee discussed paying for the new vehicle instead of financing.

It was discussed about Rita taxes and it is still in the works for the state to take over the Rita funds and they will distribute it and take their portions. There is a new thing right now that the people that worked from home during covid those individuals and stressing they should not have to pay the Rita taxes. So that means that about \$43,000 could mean we would have to reimburse. Jesse confirmed the amount of \$27,000 that we may have to pay back.

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Resolution 2021-004 – Resolution of Necessity for Replacement Levy - Police

David Lockhart moved to suspend the rules, Mark Wicker seconded.

Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,

Jym Longstreth – yes, Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart - yes. Motion Passed 6-0 abs.

Elaine McFarland moved to declare an emergency Harry Strain seconded.

Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,

Jym Longstreth – yes, Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart - yes. Motion Passed 6-0 abs.

Jym Longstreth moved to adopt, Mark Wicker seconded

Roll Call: Mark Wicker - yes, Elaine McFarland - yes, Cheryl Friend – yes,

Jym Longstreth – yes, Harry Strain – yes, David Lockhart - yes. Motion Passed 6-0 abs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/GRANTS - Jim is going to send a letter to the county commissioners to see if we can get some funding for paving in the village. We have zero chance to get any money from the county for paving roads this summer.

PERSONNEL – Discussing a date for a personnel meeting. Monte is available anytime after 5:00. Jim Nelson will get back with Jym Longstreth and get something scheduled.

PARKS & RECS – We are having pool issues. We can not find lifeguards. Elaine has found Marion YMCA has certified classes but cost \$325 and takes 30 hours to get certified. Renee has been trying to find chlorine pucks with not luck. This is a nationwide issue. Jesse indicated the Delaware pool is offering classes for \$125. The issues seem to be coming from the unemployment for covid. Everyone on unemployment are making more money then they can by going to work somewhere. Jim indicated that he ask the Health Dept. if they posted swim at your own risk and that was an absolute “NO”. Mark has been getting the pool ready so we will see what we can come up with.

SAFETY STREETS & ALLEYS – Jim has been driving around the village and would like police to keep an eye out for any properties that need mowed or repairs need done.

NEWSLETTER – Liz said the piece on history was nice. Jim thinks that section has gotten a lot of peoples attention.

Monte indicated that BPA ask OHM to give us a proposal to get the sand filters replaced. Looking at a design loan and put that into a construction loan.

Next regional planning meeting is May 27th – Cheryl Friend volunteered to attend.

Jym Longstreth made motion to pay the bills, Elaine McFarland seconded.

Cheryl Friend made the motion to adjourn until June 1, 2021, Harry Strain seconded.

Jim Nelson, Mayor

Renee Rarick