

COUNCIL MEETING

November 3, 2021

Council met in session at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Rick presiding.

Mr. J. Tonsic asked everyone to join him in a moment of reflection for their own intentions. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all.

Council Meeting was held in Council Chambers. The meeting was open to the public and face masks were required by all.

Present in Council Chambers was Mayor Rick, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Rachel Osborne, Council Members: Mr. M. Raddish, Ms. B. Van Dike, Ms. K. Miller, Mr. J. Tonsic, Mr. R. McDowall, Mr. R. Schrock, Village Engineer Matt Glass, and Law Director Marshal Pitchford. Clerk-Treasurer Scott Varney and councilman Mr. C. Yoho were excused.

Motion by Mr. M. Raddish, second by Mr. R. Schrock for the approval of the agenda as presented. Vote. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. M. Raddish, second Mr. R. Schrock to adopt the minutes for the October 20, 2021, Council meeting. Vote. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON PENDING LEGISLATION – No comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

UTILITIES – Mr. Tonsic had no report.

SAFETY – Mr. R. Schrock reported he has one piece of legislation to read.

PARKS – Mr. McDowall had no report.

PLANNING AND ZONING – Ms. Miller had no report.

FINANCE/AUDIT – Ms. Van Dike reported she has one piece of legislation to read.

STREETS – Mr. Yoho had no report.

Council President Mr. M. Raddish announced the next Work Session will be held on Monday, November 22, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. with all committees reporting.

OLD BUSINESS- None.

NEW BUSINESS-

Ms. B. Van Dike presented Resolution 2021-58 sponsored by Finance Committee as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFERS WITHIN FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. B. Van Dike made a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings; Mr. R. McDowall seconded the motion. Vote. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. B. Van Dike to adopt Resolution 2021-58, a second was made by Mr. R. McDowall. Vote. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. R. Schrock presented Resolution 2021-59 sponsored by Safety Committee as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR ENGAGE “IN COMMAND IN COACHING & CONSULTNG, LLC” TO WRITE A GRANT FOR THE STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (S.A.F.E.R.) GRANT FUNDS AND TO APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. R. Schrock made a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings; Ms. K. Miller seconded the motion. Vote. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. R. Schrock to adopt Resolution 2021-59, a second was made by Ms. K. Miller.

Discussion: Council President Mr. M. Raddish asked Mayor Rick to explain why the Village is authorized to get a grant writer.

Mayor Rick stated that this grant will be used to try and get salary money for our Fire Department.

Vote. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.

COMMENTS from the Public: Noris Hale, 204 S Cleveland Avenue, asked why the Village is not interested in recording the council meetings available to watch for anyone that cannot attend due to other obligations or for the residents that are not physically able to attend. She asked why the previous minutes were not posted in a timely manner? There were eight weeks where no council minutes were posted on the webpage for the residents to read. Hale also stated that someone told her they were told you must attend the council meetings to get the minutes.

Hale also mentioned the funding of the pickleball court grant mentioned in a previous meeting. She asked the council if they conducted a survey from the community. She stated the Village needs other things instead of a pickleball court and suggested an indoor recreation center instead.

Mayor Rick stated he will discuss with the council possibly taping future council meetings and have them available to view for all residents that cannot attend the 5:30 PM meetings. Mayor Rick explained the process of the council minutes and why there could have been a delay of a few weeks from when the meetings are held to when the minutes are uploaded to the webpage. Depending on when approved and if any corrections need to be made, they do not get posted until they are official minutes.

Mayor Rick stated that it did not take a whole lot of effort to apply for the grant to have a pickleball court, and many senior citizens asked for the pickleball court. The Village is trying to get the grant to resurface the current tennis and basketball courts and add pickleball courts.

Tracey Wagner, 3773 Prospect Street, stated she was the one who told Noris Hale she was told by the Assistant Clerk-Treasurer you must attend the council meetings to get the minutes.

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Rachel Osborne replied to Wagner’s comment and stated that was not what she told her when she inquired how do people know what’s going on at the council meetings a month ago. Ms. Osborne said she told Wagner you can attend the council meetings to know what’s going on or if you cannot attend, the minutes are available to read once they are approved by the council at the following council meeting.

Mayor Rick stated the council minutes are available online to the public once approved and become official minutes.

Tracey Wagner stated she wanted to express her concern about cleaning up and maintenance within the community. The sidewalks are covered in grass and bushes are extending into the sidewalks. Wagner suggested the Village set up a program for kids to volunteer to help in the community with maintaining the appearance of the Village, and to provide help to the senior citizens that are no longer able to upkeep. Wagner also stated there needs to be more options/activities for the younger kids in the Village.

Jon Mencer, 242 South Cleveland Avenue, commended the Street Department for doing a great job upkeeping the streets.

Vicki Henico, 3773 Argonne Street, stated her name was misspelled in the last council minutes. She said the Street Department is doing a good job with leaf pickup. She asked about each council committee and how they report.

Mayor Rick explained there are three council members on each committee, but the head of the committee is the council person that provides the council with a report if any.

Vicki Henico inquired if the Village post the minutes for the Work Sessions.

Mayor Rick stated the Village has not typed minutes for the Work Sessions for many years now. Due to the length and conversations, we do not type the minutes we only record the meetings.

Vicki Henico asked for more information to be shared with the public and provide an explanation, so the resident understand the reasoning.

Scott Miller, 94 Marion Avenue, asked if the council would notify the residents and businesses if they were ever to consider moving forward with a mask mandate in the Village? Miller expressed his concern about not receiving notice from the Village before switching to Kimble Company as the Village's exclusive trash hauler. Miller stated he was not provided with any kind of notice in the mail prior, and there was no information posted on social media informing the public.

Mayor Rick replied to Miller's comment stating yes, the public would be informed if council ever considered moving forward with a mask mandate but that won't happen. Mayor Rick also stated the Village mailed out a notice regarding the new trash service at beginning of the year to inform the public and that was uploaded to the Village's social media pages as well.

Ray Davis, 3800 Mogadore Road, stated he is not a fan of wearing masks and expressed his concerns on the transparency of the minutes he feels are watered down.

Mayor Rick stated the minutes are not verbatim, they are summarized to what was said.

Cassandra Frye, 133 Marion Avenue, asked why the council meetings are not held later in the evening so more people can attend.

Mayor Rick told Frye he will look into that to see if that would be an option for future meetings.

Frye stated she could not take her dog to the park for weeks in the summertime to walk because the grass was not mowed for three weeks.

Mayor Rick asked Frye if she called down to the Municipal Building to report that and encouraged her to notify the Village right away with any issues she has.

Frye then stated she has reached out to Councilman Tonsic and Council President Raddish and they do not respond to her messages. Frye mentioned a junk vehicle on Highland Drive that is an eyesore and the branches that hang down on Marion Avenue that need to be cleaned up. Frye expressed her frustration the Street Department has not been consistent in picking up her leaves compared to the other streets in the Village, and that leads to a blockage in her ditch that ends up flooding water into her yard. Frye also mentioned she has not seen the street sweeper go down her street in years.

Mayor Rick stated that the junk vehicle on Highland Drive has been cited by the Village and has been taken care of.

Hannah Embacher, 3306 Herbert Street, stated she is here to state her opinion on why masks should not be worn in schools. Embacher states the spread of contacting COVID-19 within the schools is down right now and that is without masks being worn. Embacher expressed her concern about the lack of transparency the Village provides and puts out to the public whether it be announcements, updates, or new information, residents should not be in the out loop on what's going on. Embacher asked how would someone reading the minutes know if what was stated in the minutes by the public is true since the meeting are not recorded?

Law Director Pitchford replied to Embacher's question stating the minutes are approved by the Council members who were present. Council reviews the minutes prepared by Assistant-Clerk-Treasurer and can approve because they experienced it, heard it, and know what was said. Law Director Pitchford also stated all meetings are recorded.

Embacher then asked how would the public know what Council approved is correct when there is no other option than attend the 5:30 meetings that some people are unable to go to?

Law Director Marshal Pitchford told Embacher the recordings are public information, and anyone can always request a copy of the audio.

Embacher then asked why the Village wouldn't upload the audio/recording of the meetings. It would be very beneficial to the public.

Mayor Rick said that is something we can look at and see what Council would like to do.

Aaron Embacher, 3306 Herbert Street, passed out packets he prepared for Council with COVID-19 information. Mr. Embacher stated he is still against wearing masks in all indoor facilities. Embacher states there is talk of a mask mandate and it remains on the table. He referred back to the previous meeting when Councilman Tonsic asked the Village Law Director to look at Athens legislation on their mask mandate and asked why the Village would use Athens legislation as an example when the Village is smaller and not comparable to Athens.

Mayor Rick stated other than one work session in September, Council has not talked about it anymore. The majority of the Council is not in favor of a mask mandate. Mayor Rick said it is not on the table at this time.

COMMENTS from Council: Mr. Schrock thanked everyone for coming out and expressing their concerns. Mr. Schrock stated there is no legislation to bring forth for a mask mandate and that was stated multiple times by Mayor Rick at previous meetings. Anyone that is against masks wearing at the schools needs to address the School Board, not the Village. There were several pieces of legislation presented to Council one being Athens and as head of the Safety Committee, I decided it was not a fit for the Village and that is where it stopped. Mr. Schrock thanked Mr. Embacher for his information and reassured him there is no mask mandate being discussed.

Mr. Tonsic thank all for coming and sharing their comments and opinions. Replying to Cassandra Frye's comment made earlier about him not returning her calls, Tonsic stated he has returned all of her calls. Tonsic mentioned Frye called once during a vacation and he returned her call as soon as he got back. Tonsic stated he does not ignore anyone and does the best he can to help with any issues brought to his attention.

Mr. McDowall addressed a comment Mr. Embacher made earlier regarding Athens legislation. McDowall explained what it means when Council asks for the Law Director to look at other legislation from other governing bodies, not to copy from but to get a feel on what everyone else is doing so the Council can draft the best piece of legislation possible for the Village. He thanked everyone for coming and expressing their opinions.

Ms. Van Dike thanked everyone for coming down. She stated that we rely on the residents to let us know what's going on in the Village because we don't always see everything. Ms. Van Dike encourages everyone to call and inform us of any issues or concerns they have.

Mr. Raddish commented on the comments made earlier about the sidewalks, basketball court, activities for the kids, and leaf pickup. The Village is doing its best on getting the sidewalks fixed and maintained with our infrastructure money. The basketball courts are always packed during the summer, compared to the tennis courts that are hardly used. The Village has a great summer park program for the kids with lots of fun activities planned. The Street Department has a set route every year and continuously makes their rounds to get all leaves.

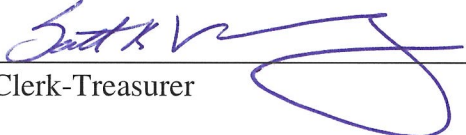
COMMENTS from the Law Director: Marshal Pitchford gave Council an update on where they are at in the legal process regarding the Court case for the clean-up of the property located at 3764 Mogadore Road. The case is still pending in Summit County Common Pleas Court.

COMMENTS from the Village Engineer: No comments.

COMMENTS from the Mayor: Mayor Rick thanked everyone for coming and will look into suggestions made by the public, and urged the public to call with any issues or concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Attest:


Clerk-Treasurer

 11-17-21

Mayor Date