

Minutes of December 3, 2007 Council Meeting

Meeting was called to order with the pledge to the flag.

The West Alexandria Village Council met in regular session in the Town Hall on Monday, December 3, 2007. Those council persons present were Ian Campbell, Carol Lunsford, David Mays, Ron Nisius, Russ Schenck, and Greg Thompson.

Motion:

Russ Schenck moved to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 5, 2007, seconded by Greg Thompson. VV: 6 yea.

Bills #29609 – 29644 and 11320 – 11337 totaling \$56,090.71 were presented to Council for payment.

Motion:

David Mays moved to pay the bills, seconded by Carol Lunsford. Roll call vote: 6 yea.

GUESTS:

Karen Mays, Mark Ulrich, Larry Corn, Kenton Tubesing, Donna Tubesing, Susan Shafer, J. Dave Sizemore, Linda Wick, Brenda Sizemore, Londa Day, Sewell Day, Jim Wick, John Pearson, M. Dave Sizemore, Kevin Thorpe, Jeff Shafer, Edna Shiverdecker, Chris Day, Roy Kouts, Holly Robbins, Deb Smith, Alan Smith, Hal Yoder, Chief Martin, and Chief Webb.

Hal Yoder, the interim director of the Ohio Gateway Council of Preble County, talked about development in the county. He is working with New Paris and Jefferson Township to set up a Joint Economic District (JED). Mr. Yoder is trying to meet with each village and township about areas of their community they would like to develop. Two businesses have contacted him about possible sites for building or using a current site. He hopes the county will fund the organization 50% with 25% from the City of Eaton and 25% from the villages and townships. This would mean a cost of approximately \$2000.00 for our Village. David Mays asked about state support. Hal Yoder met with the Department of Development trying to discover all the grants available and the revolving loans fund. He will be meeting with the state again.

Mayor Suggs stated that the Village needs to take action on a situation.

Motion:

David Mays moved to authorize the county prosecutor and the village prosecutor to obtain an independent legal review and investigation of all matters related to the Twin Valley South High School Band Camp incident in 2007, in which an alleged hazing occurred, including all events that have occurred in its aftermath that relate to said incident and its prosecution, and to give any prosecutor reviewing the same as a special prosecutor authority to prosecute and/or dismiss any existing or additional charges that he in his discretion deems appropriate, seconded by Greg Thompson. David Mays asked how the village got involved with a situation that happened at the school. Richard Faber explained that the county prosecutor filed in the municipal court instead of the juvenile court. The village has people involved and so does the county. Mr. Faber stated that an outside investigation should be done. Roll call vote: Campbell – yea, Lunsford – abstained because of a potential conflict, Mays- yea, Nisius – yea, Schenck – yea, Thompson – yea. 5 yea 1 abstention. Motion carried.

Mayor Suggs read council rules on guests speaking at meetings.

Susan Shafer spoke as a corollary to the band incident. Neither she nor her husband is responsible for the media presence in the village. Her son's name and address have been on the internet. He is a juvenile. She has been a public employee for several years and is aware of the way public employees should conduct themselves under the ORC rules. Mrs. Shafer does not like the conduct of a certain council member. As a result, their property has been vandalized and their son has been threatened.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

First reading of Resolution Amending 2007 Estimated Revenue and Appropriations by title.

Motion:

Ian Campbell moved to waive three readings, seconded by Russ Schenck. Roll call vote: 6 yea.

Motion:

David Mays moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Greg Thompson. Roll call vote: 6 yea.

First reading of Resolution Amending 2008 Estimated Revenue by title. Russ Schenck moved to waive three readings, seconded by Ian Campbell. Roll call vote: 6 yea.

Motion:

Russ Schenck moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by David Mays. Roll call vote: 6 yea.

First reading of Ordinance To Make Appropriations and Other Expenditures of the Village of West Alexandria, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2008 by title.

Motion:

David Mays moved to waive three readings, seconded by Carol Lunsford. Roll call vote: 6 yea.

Motion:

Greg Thompson moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by David Mays. Roll call vote: 6 yea.

First reading of Ordinance Amending Ordinance 671 "Schedule B" of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of West Alexandria, Ohio, Pertaining to the Compensation of the Village Income Tax Administrator by title.

Motion:

Russ Schenck moved to waive three readings, seconded by Greg Thompson. Roll call vote: Campbell – yea, Lunsford – yea, Mays – abstain (conflict of interest), Nisius – yea, Schenck – yea, Thompson – yea. 5 yea 1 abstention. Motion carried. Carol Lunsford moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Greg Thompson. Roll call vote: Campbell – yea, Lunsford – yea, Mays – abstain (conflict of interest), Nisius – yea, Schenck – yea, Thompson – yea. 5 yea 1 abstention. Motion carried.

First reading of Ordinance Amending Section 1040.01 of the Codified Ordinances of West Alexandria, Ohio, Dealing with Water Rates by title.

First reading of Ordinance Amending Section 1044.01 of the Codified Ordinances of West Alexandria, Ohio, Dealing with the Sewer Rental Rates by title.

POLICE:

Chief Webb gave a written monthly report. The department participated with the school on a lock down drill. They are also participating in a county drill. The department is purchasing a new vehicle. The part time position will be filled next year.

EMS:

Chief Martin stated that the EMS has had 624 calls this year.

INCOME TAX ADMINISTRATOR:

Karen Mays gave a written report. New Paris is considering an income tax. They would like her to talk to their council. Mrs. Mays will go to their meeting if council consents. Council told her to go to the New Paris meeting if New Paris requests her to discuss income tax collection. Tax collection for the village has decreased approximately \$36,000. The village has lost two businesses.

ASSISTANT VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:

Chris Day reported that the contractor should start on the fire station door in December. A temporary support has been put in. A contract has been signed and he has a certificate of insurance from the contractor. Shindeldeckers have started on the west side utility extension. It should be finished in 4 – 5 weeks. Mr. Day has had no response from the property owners for the wastewater treatment plant. Tests are still being run on the Lanier Water line. Once the tests come back negative the tap ins can be completed. This Tuesday will be the last day for leaf pick up, as the trucks must be ready for snow removal. Chris Day wants to thank the service workers for picking up the leaves. For snow removal the main streets will be plowed first, emergency services next, and then side streets and alleys. There has been a first reading on raising water and sewer rates. He has information for council to read before the next meeting. Council knew the construction costs for the new water treatment plant. Operation and chemical costs have increased. He sent out a survey to surrounding communities on their water and sewer rates. Greg Thompson stated council knew that rates would have to increase. Jones and Henry had an article in their newsletter on the village water treatment plant.

SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Russ Schenck stated that the village has received signed contracts from Lanier and Twin Townships. Twin Township changed some verbage on the ambulance contract that is different from the fire contract.

Motion:

Ian Campbell moved to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the ambulance (with the changes made by Twin Township on their contract) and fire contracts from Lanier and Twin Townships, seconded by Ron Nisius. VV: 6 yea

OLD BUSINESS:

Richard Faber, David Mays, Chris Day, and Mayor Suggs met with the legal representative of the Myers property. Some options were discussed. Mr. Faber has not had any response yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Suggs presented the renewal contract form Brent Copeland. The proposal is for 2008 and 2009. There has been an increase of \$25 per month.

Motion:

Russ Schenck moved to accept the contract and authorize the Mayor to sign, seconded by Greg Thompson. Chief Webb recommends renewing the contract. The department is pleased with Mr. Copeland's services. Roll call vote: 6 yea.

Mayor Suggs stated that the state auditors report recommended that council should let people know of vacant council seats. David Mays suggested that vacant seats should be posted. Greg Thompson stated that it's a good idea to let people know about the vacant seats and the clerk should be contacted if some one is interested. Mayor Suggs stated that council has 30 days to fill a vacant seat. Then the Mayor appoints someone.

Motion:

Russ Schenck moved that whenever a vacancy occurs to post the vacancy at three places – the front door of the Town Hall, the Post Office, and on the internet site – for two weeks before the next scheduled council meeting with the interested person giving the clerk a written response, seconded by David Mays. VV: 6 yea.

Greg Thompson stated that it might be an idea to pick up health care cost for council.

Mayor Suggs passed out the 2008 schedule of meeting dates.

Motion:

Ian Campbell moved to accept the dates, seconded by David Mays. VV: 6 yea.

Londa Day thanked Rhonda Martin for her assistance when she returned home from the hospital.

Motion:

Greg Thompson moved to adjourn, seconded by Ian Campbell.

PASSED: _____