

2-9-24 Council Meeting

Approx start: 6:00 pm

Present: Lester Bear, Mark Fester, Scott Null, Matt Adams, Katmy Adams, Patrick Elliott and Linda Fester

Other Attendees: Shawn Elliott, Cindy Brown, Peggy Wood, Trish Wood, Deam Miracle, Debbie Grudzielanek, Sandy Bear, Leslee Hasenstab, Ben Miller, Haley Roehm, Rob Starrett

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Bear

Notetaker: Linda Fester

Council President

Scott Null made a motion for Mark Fester to be Council Pres

Patrick Elliott 2nd motion

All in favor

Adoption of ORC

Motion made by Mark Fester to adopt 2nd by Scott Null

All in favor

Public Participation:

Ben Miller + Haley Roehm approached Council about date for car show. All agreed on Oct 10, 2024 at new Slim Sallee Memorial Park. Mark later told Council all hands on deck will be needed for Inaugural Event.

Trish Wood reported on July 4, 2024 America 250 Event: parade, booth + games. Planners are requesting that communities have personal celebrations either before or after because they need volunteers to run festivities and want public participation

Mayor Bear wants to participate in parade - Council unanimously agreed. Kathy suggested decorating w/ tobacco sticks + a tobacco theme w/ White Burley tobacco history. All agreed. Higginsport will have a booth with historical info - does not need to be manned Games / crafts will be celebrated w/ yarn dolls, jacks + potato sack races. Discussion ensued about potato sacks + Mark Fester volunteered to provide sacks if all options exhausted without success.

Cindy Brown informed that new streaming presentation system implemented w/ ARC Capacity Grant funds being used for first time tonight. Sandy Bear + Linda Fester gave a quick recap explaining that Higginsport was eligible for funding because Mayor Bear + Linda Fester took 9 week ARC course. Linda explained that remaining funds will be used for ~~the~~ transition to .gov domain and website upgrades.

Peggy Wood thanked all those who helped w/ snow removal on streets. All thanked Shawn Elliott, Dylan + Mayor Bear for their volunteer efforts. Mayor Bear thanked for being prepared w/ snow plan + recognized for excellent communication to accomplish task.

Shawn Elliott

- reminded new Council members of online courses that must be taken
- New MOA requiring that Chief needs to take two online courses (child abuse, <sup>Police</sup> sexual abuse)
- Chief requested a list of committees, members + chairman for each

besides  
himself  
+  
Dean

Mayor Bear asked for 2 additional volunteers to be part of Fiscal Officer Interview Panel. Mark, Scott + Kathy will all participate if available. Two strong resumes so far. Kathy reached out to someone, but they declined.

Mayor Bear reported that we need to start looking for new solicitor. Kathy agreed to call a municipal lawyer in Clermont she knows. Discussion ensued RE advertising for solicitor.

Sewer Committee meeting tomorrow at 1pm w/ Bob Gomez from Winelco as <sup>potential</sup> ~~possible~~ candidate for new sewer manager. Greg Wilson resigning effective March 1, 2024 if raise not received. <sup>Mark pointed out that</sup> ~~however~~ he did provide a recommendation for sewer sustainability + that he agreed to honor his follow through proposal for WWTP upgrades. ~~BEET~~

Mark reported that ACGP riferfront project going well. He and Linda met w/ ~~EEZ~~ <sup>EEZ</sup> Dock contractor and had the opportunity to see / walk on transient dock prototype.



Administrator Dean Miracle asked Council <sup>to consider</sup> ~~for~~ the following compensation changes for the <sup>Police</sup> chief

1. Request for Police Chief to go from hourly to salary to allow for more flexibility  
Scott Null made motion to approve  
Patrick Elliott 2nd motion

However, under discussion and moved to <sup>Finance</sup> Committee

2. Request for 3-5% raise for Police Chief  
Will go to Finance Committee who will provide recommendations at March mtg.  
Patrick's suggestion for a \$500 annual uniform/equipment allowance will also go to committee.

Administrator Miracle reported that the bank is cleaning out the Main St property to get ready to sell and that hole will be filled in from previous pool.

Admin Miracle will be starting rounds in April and asked Council to spread the word so residents are prepared.

Vacant property at corner of SR 52 and Jackson St is potentially a "fill-in-place" situation. Administrator looking into it ~~but~~ ~~concerned~~ ~~concerned~~ to determine where cost liability lies. Mayor Bear said Brownfield funding may be available

Dean requested a monthly fire report

Dean asked Council for 1-2 members to be on Dispatch Center notification list to be informed of major incidents within the Village. Mark Fester volunteered to be on list w/ Mayor Beair.

Patrick Elliott <sup>made a motion for</sup> ~~asked Council to allow~~ Admin. Miracle <sup>to be seated</sup> ~~at the Council table.~~ Mark 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Resolution For Permanent Appropriation Budget :

Mark F. made motion to approve Scott N. 2nd motion

All in favor

Mark will scan email fire contract to all for review, reminding Council it's their due diligence to read all contracts before signing

Motion to pay bills by Scott N. Mark F 2nd motion

All in favor

Mark F made motion to adjourn mtg  
Scott N. 2nd motion  
All in favor.

Approx end time: 7pm