

**Village of Higginsport
Village Council Meeting
April 10, 2023**

The Council of the Village of Higginsport met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with all members present except Anthony Moon and Patrick Elliott.

Also, present were: Police Chief Shawn Elliott, Solicitor DJ Osborne (via telephone), Sandy Bear, Scott Wilburn, Linda Fester and Mark Fester.

Mayor Crawford called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

Mrs. Linda Fester reported she and Lester Bear had attended a meeting on March 22, 2023 at the Brown County Commissioners office regarding the Community Development Block Grant. They have scheduled a meeting with Kelly Cole on April 18, 2023 to discuss the village's priorities.

She also reported that there were ten attendees for the Ohio River Way Zoom meeting. She recommended Council consider joining the Ohio River Way as the organization could provide beneficial services for the Village. A brief discussion ensued regarding the matter.

Mrs. Fester informed Council that Lynn Fuller with the Flying Compass, Inc. has agreed to provide grant writing assistance free of charge.

Resolution 23-15

Motion by: Ms. Wills

Seconded by: Mrs. Adams

To approve joining the Ohio River Way at cost of \$250.00 annually.

**Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Bear, Yes; Mr. Elliott, Absent, Mr. Moon, Absent;
Mr. Null, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes**

Mrs. Fester requested Council's approval to apply for the Ohio NatureWorks grant for funding for village park improvements.

Resolution 23-16

Motion by: Ms. Wills

Seconded by: Mrs. Adams

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, administers financial assistance for public recreation purposes, through the State of Ohio NatureWorks Grant program and

WHEREAS, the Village of Higginsport desires financial assistance under the NatureWorks Grant Program,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Village of Higginsport

That the Village of Higginsport approves filing this application for financial Assistance.

That Linda Fester is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file an application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and to provide all information and documentation required to become eligible for possible

funding assistance.

That the Village of Higginsport does agree to obligate funds required to satisfactorily complete the proposed project and become eligible for reimbursement under the terms of the **NatureWorks Grant Program**.

Vote: Ms. Adams, Yes; Mr. Beair, Yes; Mr. Elliott, Absent; Mr. Moon, Absent; Mr. Null, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes

A discussion ensued regarding the possible options for securing the old school building property in order to obtain grant funding for demolition. Solicitor Osborne reported he had sent correspondences to the property owners. He requested the property owner respond within two weeks of the correspondence. He expressed he would follow-up with a nuisance complaint to the property owner.

Old Business

Ms. Wills expressed that Council had previously voted and approved installing flooring in the lobby portion of the municipal building and recommended that it be completed. She also reminded Council that the two upstairs windows needed replaced. A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Null stating he would get measurements and flooring prices.

Mr. Null inquired where the police department truck was as it was not parked at the municipal building and expressed that Council had only approved the Police Chief to take police vehicles home. Chief Elliott reported that he had given Lieutenant Perry permission to take the police cruiser home but only while he was living in the Village.

A discussion ensued regarding vagrants staying in the shelter at the park as well as cleaning up the village in relation to blighted properties, drugs, etc.

Mr. Beair reported the bill of sale had been received from the City of Montgomery for the playground equipment. Solicitor Osborne had reviewed and signed the document. A discussion ensued regarding the playground equipment that would be received. Mrs. Adams inquired if the village received grant monies would it be necessary to accept the equipment from the City of Montgomery. A discussion ensued regarding the equipment and the repairs.

New Business

Mr. Beair reported a property owner in the village was preparing to house livestock on their property. A discussion ensued regarding permitting livestock in the village and possible passing an ordinance pertaining to the issue.

Mr. Beair also reported that one of the air compressors at the sewer plant was not working. The rebuild the motor would cost approximately \$1,600.00 and he presented an estimate for a new motor/compressor at a cost of approximately \$2,700.00. Council briefly discussed the matter.

Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Mr. Beair to approve purchasing a new air compressor at a cost of \$2,645.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Crawford expressed Council needed to address increasing the village sewer rates due to the continued increase costs of maintenance and repairs.

Mr. Beair that there would be village and park clean-up days on Saturdays in the months of April and May, from noon to 4:00 p.m. weather permitting. All volunteers are welcome.

Mayor Crawford expressed Council needed to address property owners planting things in the village right-of-way. Council discussed the mayor's concerns however no formal decision was made regarding the matter.

Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Ms. Wills to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 13, 2023. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Mrs. Adams to pay the bills. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by: Ms. Wills, seconded by: Mr. Null, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Eddie Crawford Jr., Mayor

Sheila G. Dufau, Fiscal Officer

Kathy Adams, Council Member

Patrick Elliott, Council Member

Linda Wills, Council Member

Scott Null, Council Member

Lester Bear, Council Member

Anthony Moon, Council Member