

SARDINIA COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 8, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Prayer Tom Mays

Pledge Mayor Bill North

Roll Call: Dustin Puckett, Anna Turner, Angela Lyons, Peggy Vance

Absent: Ashlie Webster, Gary Troutman

Also in Attendance: Amy Mason, Administrator; Maria Palm, Fiscal Officer, Tom Mays

COUNCIL NOTES

Council reviewed meeting minutes from June 10, 2024, regular meeting. Ms. Mason informed the council that meeting notes were updated with the June minutes to include recommendation from State auditors to include what was attached to report such as financial reports and/or any other attachments presented. *Motion to approve by Anna Turner, second by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.*

Council approval of financials for June 2024. Will be only able to fit six months of information on page for comparison of previous year and current year. This information was reviewed by the finance committee prior to this meeting. *Motion to approve made by Anna Turner, second by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.*

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Beth Kress – Wants to see Sardinia improve. She believes the public is feeling harassed and not safe by police. Hears a lot of negativity from the community both on Facebook and in conversation. Believes Sardinia needs to share more positivity about the Village. Realtors need to be educated about sewer/water charges because they are telling prospective buyers that you cannot afford these services in Sardinia. Also asked about the talk about a petition to dissolve the police department which Ms. Mason corrected that the petition was to dissolve the Village.

Dean Vaughn – Agrees that the realtors are giving incorrect information to potential buyers - need to educate realtors. Police are doing a great job cleaning up the Village consider Chief Perry a friend. Thefts, break ins, drug has decreased or is nonexistent the police are doing their job, and it is noticed. No noise ordinance in the Village needs to be reviewed.

Ty Pack – purchasing house at 137 S. Main. The previous owner has some back charges for water/sewer assessments which are with the county. Mr. Pack is requesting a waiver of these so that he can put that money back into the Village by cleaning up the property. Ms. Mason asked Mr. Mays how that would be done, which he stated should be done by Ordinance since the assessments done by Ordinance will be done by council. This can be done by motion today and the Ordinance can be passed at the next council meeting.

Motion made to waive the assessments for Sardinia \$1764.61 with the auditor's office made by Dustin Puckett, second by Anna Turner. Discussion that fees were from old sewer tap fees, no water or sewer used, Village is not out any services. Village not losing any fees. Roll call one no from Angela Lyons, all other yes. Motion carries.

Mike McRoberts – Storm drain runs through property with standing water. Village workers came out to check standing water 3-4 weeks ago, determined it was not sewage. Been going on for about a year. Ms. Mason will follow up with Village workers then will get back to Mr. McRoberts by Wednesday,

ADMINISTRATOR

The Village is still in the process of an audit for the years 2022 and 2023. There have been policies or processes that need to be updated, or put in place, as exemplified in the meeting minutes that the State has made recommendations. A full report of the audit for council will be available October 2024.

Update on grant: July 1 received notification that the official grant from OPWC request for funding sewer plant blower and pump stations has come through for \$349,000. The mayor has signed off on this. The Village will be putting in \$130,000 for the matching portion and there is available \$150,000 in zero percent interest loan to put in for the remaining amount of \$125,000. This will do the entire project of replacing and restoring all the pumps and pump stations and all the blowers at the plant. What is still pending is the request to Wenstrup's office which is in the federal budget if budget is eradicated in October, then we will get 80% of what we have requested then we could use the State money and the Village would not have to take out the loan.

RFQ update with Economic Development. We had 4 companies to review which the Economic Development Committee scored with two companies coming in at the top with the same score. We have decided to go with CT Consultants mainly because the other company did not have a local office. If for some reason CT Consultants could not do the project, then we would go with the secondary company which is the Mannik Smith Group. Motion needed to accept CT Consultants as our RFQ for the next three years.

Motion made by Angela Lyons, second by Anna Turner. Roll call all yes.

Ms. Mason is presenting for first reading an ordinance to rezone 2.44 acres across St. Rt. 134 which is owned by Jeff Wilson requested to go from residential to mixed use. Originally was going to be an emergency ordinance but the company is looking at another property that Mr. Wilson has but is still requesting a rezoning so he could still attract a business.

First reading of Ordinance amending previous Ordinance Section 150.007 for Official Map Boundaries for the Village of Sardinia to mixed use instead of residential. This would change the one piece of property that is listed. First reading July 8, 2024.

Ms. Mason did meet with someone who is interested in purchasing the property of Beam Funeral Home and they would like to restore it back to a home. No motions or Ordinances this evening for discussion. Those buyers would like to have the zoning changed to mixed use as currently it is zoned business. The reason is if it continues as business the buyers would have to put 25% down and if it is not, they do not have to put that amount down. Mr. Mays stated you can have residential properties, but it is more financial for the buyers. Will look at what properties this will effect.

Ms. Mason needs to schedule a personnel committee meeting to look at personnel Manuel that is being redone and evaluations due. Will post that date as soon as it is available.

Ms. Mason requested a resolution to accept the rates from the budget commission. This is done annually. This says Council of the Village of Sardinia Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levy and certifying them with the County Auditor. Basically, the Budget Commission

notifies us what the tax levy is for the police department. We have filled this out with who is present today. Need a motion to pass this resolution. This levy would produce \$44,955. *Motion made by Angela Lyons, second by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes.*

We have been requested by the Fire Department for a road closure for the Annual Car Show for August 17th from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Road closures would be College to Highland and Broad Street to Founders Ave. Requesting garbage receptacles to also be placed. Rumpke has donated several boxes for this. Need a motion to approve this closure. *Motion made by Dustin Puckett, second by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.*

Ms. Mason stated that there are a couple of banking accounts that have not been switched signers to access. One is a CD with a certain amount of money from where we sell cemetery plots has to be invested. The investment must go into a perpetual care fund with the idea is that when the cemetery is sold out of plots this would be a fund to help maintain the cemetery. Currently, the CD has \$5,648.23 and this has expired and not rolled over not collecting interest. Karen Miller is still on account so I would like a motion to remove Karen Miller with the intention of adding Maria Palm as the signer for all CDs at People's Bank. Motion to add Maria to all CDs made by Peggy Vance, second by Anna Turner. Roll call all yes.

Also, there is an account for the Sardinia Police Auxiliary which needs to have the previous signers removed and add Maria Palm along with Venita Milburn (Clerk of courts). This came out in the audit that we cannot access nor balance the account because of signatures of the past. *Motion to add Maria Palm and Venita Milburn to the Police Auxiliary account as signers made by Dustin Puckett, second by Angela Lyons. Roll call all yes.*

CHIEF OF POLICE

All council members were given the report by the police department. Points highlighted by Chief.

Reviewed citations and offenses. Also, mentioned that there were comments in the community and Facebook that Captain Ghost is not certified with the Chief stating that Ghost is certified by OPATA with the certifications being public record and he is the only K9 in Brown, Adams, and Highland counties that is certified in illegal drugs, not marijuana. Adams County called K9 unit to find a gun which he did.

Ruling in Mayor's Court regarding the Rubbish Ordinance and the daily ordinance violations.

Need to schedule a Safety Meeting to discuss Noise Ordinance.

The Chief also inform council and audience of his background in the Military of 28 years, retired Command Sargent Military Police. Our Solicitor is in the military. It does not matter who you are if you are speeding or driving with a suspended license you are going to get pulled over and receive a citation. The Chief is holding everyone to the same standards.

Attached to minutes 3 pages of information.

Council Woman Anna Turner addressed council/audience to let them know that people that come to her business are noticing that people are not speeding through the Village which is appreciated.

Council Woman Angela Lyons addressed audience to say that Chief is doing his job and that is what he was hired to do. The Village has not had any law in a while. Consequences if you break the law, we can look at body cam that he always has on. Don't be addressing everything on Facebook because it is not always the full story.

Solicitor Tom Mays noted that there is a new Supreme Court ruling about mixing personal social media and business out of Port Clinton, Ohio, so this is being reviewed to see what is going to come of this.

Administration

Ms. Mason had to request an emergency motion to suspend the rule for the temporary budget that is in the Council's packet so that this can be sent to Jill Hall. This budget has been reviewed by the Finance Committee. Will be finalized in January/February and work off this budget.

Motion to suspend the rules made by Anna Turner, second by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes.

Motion to adopt made by Angela Lyons, second by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.

Executive Session

Executive session to discuss 121.22G3 Imminent legal action and 121.22G1 Personnel Compensation Motion to go into Executive Session made by Dustin Puckett, second by Angela Lyons. Roll call all yes

Executive session begins 7:57 p.m.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Anna Turner, second by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.

Ends 8:21 p.m.

As a result of > done

Action taken ~~in~~ Executive Session

Motion to suspend the rules made by Angela Lyons, second by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes.

Ordinance amending the rate of pay for employees, namely Administrator of Village of Sardinia namely Amy Mason to \$70,000 per year.

Motion to accept made by Anna Turner, second by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.

ROUND TABLE

Anna Turner discussed noise ordinance. Chief Perry explained that he is looking into other villages ordinances along with the Ohio Revised Code.

Chief Perry did mention that he had put in a request for a robot and drone from the Department of Defense. The Robot is a \$250,000 robot which can be used in different situations that may put officers in harm's way.

Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for July 30th at 5:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn Dustin Puckett, second by Angela Lyons. Roll call all yes.

End at 8:32 p.m.

8/12/2024

Date Approved

Bruce M. M.

Mayor

Ashlie Webster

President of Council

Correction to page 4 of minutes approved: 9/9/2024
"Action taken as a result of Executive Session."

Bruce M. M.

Mayor

Ashlie Webster

President of Council