SARDINIA COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 12, 2025 7:00 P.M.

Prayer Mayor Bill North

Pledge Mayor Bill North

Roll Call: Gary Troutman, Anna Turner, Angela Lyons, Peggy Vance, Ashlie Webster, Dustin Puckett

Also in Attendance: Amy Mason, Administrator, Maria Palm, Fiscal Officer, Tom Mayes, Solicitor, Venita Milburn, Clerk

COUNCIL NOTES

The council reviewed meeting minutes from April 12, 2025, a regular meeting. *Motion to approve by Anna Turner, second by Ashlie Webster. Roll call all yes.*

Attachments: Meeting minutes of April 2025

FINANCIALS

The council reviewed the financials for March and April 2025. Ms. Mason mentioned that there were some questions in the March minutes from Mr. Troutman for more clarification. Ms. Palm stated she had met with Mr. Troutman for a financial meeting on May 2, 2025, reviewing line items that were corrected in the March financials. Mr. Troutman and Ms. Palm will be reviewing the monthly financial statement spreadsheets prior to the monthly council meetings. Ms. Palm also stated that she had met with Jayme Eldridge and Bill Gilpin on April 24th. There was found to be a CD from US Bank that had money which we thought we had lost. Ms. Palm stated that there was an application for unclaimed funds that could be applied for, which was being done for approximately $1200 dollars. This amount will be carried forward until the money is returned, which you will see in the bank statement. There also was an error in March on an AFLAC payment on Ms. Mason's account which Mr. Gilpin helped to correct. *Motion to approve by Angela Lyons, second by Gary Troutman. Roll call all yes.*

Attachments: March and April 2025 financials

AUDIENCE

Paula Scott – representing Brown County/Sardinia Village Republicans of the Central Committee. She stated she had spoken to Justin Pizzulli about the roads where he stated that there were funds that could be applied for through the Public Works Commission where the Village could get help with the streets. She did state that she was unclear about what had already been done regarding the streets. Ms. Scott also questioned the railroad because she mentioned that Mr. Pizzulli also has contacts with the railroad. Ms. Mason stated that she could address each of these questions. With the railroad, there was a grant that was issued which was held up with a change in ownership of the railroad. Probably within the next week or so signage will go up that will notify residents that the road will be closed as they pour special concrete which must cure which will have the road closed for about two weeks. They will be fixing the main railway, along with the other sections, and the Village will also be fixing a storm drain under the road as well in that area as well.

Ms. Mason informed Ms. Scott that the Village has applied for funds as much as is available. There has been a contract signed for a road study on the 9.8 miles of roads in the Village. There are no federal funds available because of the roads in the Village and not federal thoroughfares. Sardinia was just declined for funding through ODOT just last week. There will be some work that is being contracted out this summer. Hopefully the study will be done in June so by the next meeting we should have that information. The survey has rated every road and condition of each road in the Village, giving an amount of money to do this. This will give an estimate of the cost of repairs, but that work would not go into effect until the 2026 cycle. The Village has applied for funding over the last two years through Terry Johnson's office but as of yet this has not been approved. The roads that will be repaired with the contract are a section of Yochum, Highland, Purdy in front of the library, and the section on College Avenue. There are about seven sections that will be repaired.

Ms. Scott also did mention a problem she is having with a neighbor on Pleasant Street, which she has spoken to the police about. It's not a good situation. Chief Perry informed the council that this house is on their radar, and they are focusing on this.

Administrator

Ms. Mason introduced the new zoning officer, Andy Harding, who is currently reviewing the past zoning permits, and will be working with Ms. Mason on some of the ordinances regarding grass. Mr. Harding stated he was reviewing the ordinances and looking forward to working with the Village.

Pleasantville water line issue Ms. Mason stated that because of the way the water lines are currently there were previously adjustments made during the billing cycle that we were unaware of. There was a fire at the residence of Mr. Lawson where the water was turned off but still calculating usage, so Venita went back the last two years and found that we overbilled Mr. Lawson $1033.11 which we need to pay him back. A drawing was shown to the council members that explained water usage. Ms. Milburn explained that the property at one time was owned by a family and there are three meters but when Mr. Lawson purchased the property he was informed this issue was fixed but it was not. Ms. Lyon stated that the property owner is responsible for fixing the problem. Mr. Mayes stated that a reasonable time to have the water lines fixed would be until the end of the year.

Ms. Mason asked for a motion to approve the refund to Mr. Lawson of $1033.11. *Motion made to pay a refund of $1033.11 to Mr. Lawson by Peggy Vance, second by Ashlie Webster. Roll call all yes.*

Ms. Mason then asked for a motion to notify Mr. Lawson that he will have to have his own water line installed within six months to come into compliance with the ordinance. Mr. Puckett stated that the notification should state that the Village will help with digging of the water line. Mr. Harding did inform the council that he is aware that Mr. Lawson is having work done within the next couple of weeks so the time frame should not be a problem and that he would be glad for the help. *Motion made to notify Mr. Lawson that he has six months to have his own water line made by Anna Turner, seconded by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes.*

Ms. Mason wanted to make a correction on Resolution 147-25 which was for using the Covid money to help pay for the fire repair. When Ms. Palm was working with Jayme Eldridge it was discovered that the funds were taken from the general fund, which was incorrect; money was taken from the Covid Relief Fund. Also, the dollar amount needed to be corrected from $66,614.62 to $71,121.49 payable to Bonar Excavation. *Motion was made by Ashlie Webster to amend Resolution 147-25 to Clarify the source of funding and update the payable amount for the fir remediation to Bonar Excavating, second by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.*

Ms. Mason mentioned last month we passed on an emergency basis to change the rate of pay for Dave Dyer as he passed his water distribution license to pay $25.00 per hour. Ms. Mason stated Ms. Palm has been working with the auditor's office who stated that there needed to be a correction of the ordinance for distribution of Mr. Dyer's pay which would be divided to 10% Street budget, 5% cemetery department, 50% water department, and 35% sewer department since he works in all these departments. Ms. Mason requested a motion to totally replace the original ordinance by suspending the rules to replace it with a new ordinance. *Motion made to suspend the rules made by Anna Turner, second by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.*

Next Ms. Mason asked for a motion to adopt the new pay ordinance for Dave Dyer, replacing the previous ordinance. *Motion made by Ashlie Webster, second by Angela Lyons. Roll call all yes.*

Ms. Mason directed attention to the three-page paper from Verdantas which is for the Sardinia Sewage Pump Stations Rehabilitation Project Proposal The project is being funded by a grant for $349,999 from the Ohio Public Works Commission. The Village would be responsible for a shared amount of $200,000 from the sewer fund. The document breaks down the schedule for the project. Project kickoff with the Village will be June 2025, the construction would be November 2025 through June 2026. Ms. Mason indicated that the pump stations are over 20 years old, each pump station has two pumps, currently there is one pump station with only one working pump. These all need to be replaced. Mr. Mayes stated that West Union is doing the same project. Ms. Mason asked for a motion to sign the proposal. *Motion to sign the proposal for Verdantas was made by Angela Lyons, second by Ashlie Webster. Roll call all yes.*

Ms. Mason brought to the attention of the council a request for a resolution authorization for her to file an application for a Grant for Nature's Work through the State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources. These are for the parks. The next application deadline is June 2nd, with the final deadline July 2nd. When we chose Verdantas as our engineering company one of the things they will do any drawing for the parks. The resolution must be filed with the application. One entity in the county will win with the most being $54,000. Then we would have to match 15%. *Motion for resolution for Amy Mason to sign the application made by Dustin Puckett, second by Anna Turner. Roll call all yes.*

The last thing for Ms. Mason is announcing her vacation from May 20th through May 30th. The cell phone will be left with Venita who will be covering for Ms. Mason during her time away. Chief Perry can also cover any needs.

Attachments: Verdantas Sewer Project Proposal
Resolution Amending Resolution 1475-25
Resolution Authorizing signing of Grant application

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Perry announced that the new officer has been going through all the old cases and preparing them for summons.

There was high visibility enforcement that was conducted by ODOT, Ohio State Patrol, and Sardinia Police Department. The focus was on commercial vehicles in state, local, and Public Utilities Department. This will be done once a month, which will be done on different days during the month.

The new vehicle is up and running. There are still a few things that are being adjusted but it will be in service.

Chief and Sargent Ingle are working on a couple of cases that they are investigating.

COMMITTEES

Ms. Mason began by introducing one of the projects with Economic Development that they are working on is an ordinance for the empty buildings, both commercial and residential, to have insurance that can be supplied to the Village Administrator. Multiple ordinances on this subject have been reviewed. There were empty commercial buildings and occupied commercial buildings of which the scope of some of these were very large. The decision to make this ordinance was brought about because of the fire in the Village that closed the roads for three months. After reviewing the committee decided to break these into separate ordinances with commercial buildings being the first important focus. This will be the first reading of the Ordinance Requiring Commercial Property Owners to Provide Insurance to the Village Administrator. After this first reading, the ordinance copy will be available for review. The second reading will be in June at which time there will be an open debate on the wording, then in July the third reading where any changes will be made, then the council will vote on this.

Economic Development –There are three missions that Ms. Webster stated the committee is working on that are zoning, beautification, and infrastructure. Zoning was first with the Zoning Officer hired. Slowly we will be adding ordinances to hold people accountable, so we are starting with the Ordinance for property owners providing insurance.
Also, we are doing a sidewalk project with the Brown Adams Transportation Mobility Manager. This is a QR code where you walk around the village to take pictures of the sidewalks with your phone. We will be taking a walk on June 8th at 6:30 p.m. This is something that all the villages are doing. This will help to be "shovel ready" if funds do come to help with the sidewalks

Ms. Mason informed the council that we did get a planning grant for $115,000 from ODOT. The planning meeting was finally done. It is quite discouraging on how the process works. They informed Ms. Mason that it would probably take 2-3 years to complete, and that the $115,000 may do a couple hundred yards to the sidewalks. We could possibly see sidewalks here in 2030.

The other economic development is that Ms. Mason worked with the people who purchased the old recycling center. Discussed annexing this property to run sewer lines to connect to what is on that side of the road. Ms. Mason did receive the bid back which was $1.4 million. We don't have that kind of money, and they don't have that kind of money so that project is not going to happen. So, we will not be moving forward with this project.

Ms. Webster said the next Economic Development meeting would be on June 2, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Mr. Troutman said he appreciated meeting with Ms. Palm to help understand the finance reports and liked the reports. The next finance meeting will be scheduled for budget review.

ROUND TABLE

Peggy Vance - Ms. Vance stated that she had joined the American Legion Auxiliary they have set a date for the Poppy Days which will be May 23-24 where they will set up at five different locations. The money raised for this will stay local.

The Memorial Parade will be on Monday, May 26th at 10 a.m., she was unsure if any of the Veterans had contacted town hall which she was informed they had not. Ms. Vance stated that they were supposed to contact the town hall. Ms. Webster asked Ms. Vance to ask the ladies from the auxiliary if they would consider more participants in the parade. Ms. Vance stated that they did not want any political people to be in the parade.

Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a Veterans Breakfast at the Legion on June 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Legion also hosts Thursday night Bingo.

Ms. Vance asked about expansion at Crestview Mobile Home Park. Ms. Mason answered there are no new pads poured and has not been approached to expand the roads. The new owners do have the intention for expansion with the original plans which would provide 88 total homes.

Executive Session

Ms. Mason then requested a motion for an Executive Session for 121.22G3 Discussion of Lawsuit.
Motion to enter an executive session made by Peggy Vance, second by Angela Lyons. Roll call all yes.
Executive Session Begins at 7:56 p.m.

Motion to come out of executive session by Angela Lyons, second by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.
Executive Session Ends at 8:08 p.m.

No action was taken from the Executive Session.

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

NEXT MEETING JUNE 9, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:09 P.M.

6/9/25
Date Approved

Mayor

President of Council