

SARDINIA COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 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 Mays, Solicitor, Venita Milburn, Clerk

COUNCIL NOTES

Council reviewed meeting minutes from January 13, 2025, regular meeting. *Motion to approve by Peggy Vance, second by Anna Turner. Roll call all yes except for Dustin Puckett who abstained due to being absent at prior meeting.*

Administrator Amy Mason did address council to inform them that Maria Palm will continue as the Fiscal Officer, her schedule has been adjusted. Will review in two months to see if this schedule works for everyone.

Financials reviewed by council for both December and January. Ms. Palm reviewed the line for Covid money that was spent on the fire in October should not have been on November and December. The auditor was asked about the Covid money if the motion to use for fire will be enough to satisfy the auditor requirements or if a resolution will be needed. If a resolution is required, this will be addressed at a special meeting (date to be determined during this meeting). *Motion to approve both December and January made by Gary Troutman and second by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes.*

Attachments: Meeting minutes from January 13, 2025

Financials for December 2024 and January 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shawna Weis - Hope and Promise met last Tuesday. Meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. April 5, 2025, there was going to be a food truck night which will be cancelled because it is Friday night which is Lent.

Saturday, April 12 will be working with the library to have the Easter Egg hunt at Veteran's Park at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers should be at the park at 9:00 a.m. This is for ages up to 12 years old. Farmers Market will be renamed to the Sardinia Street Market which will be 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will not be food trucks this year to encourage people to visit the places in town for food.

ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Mason discussed the energy contract with IGS provider which was locked in for a period of two years and is due to renew in June 2025. In those two years there were savings of \$35,040. If we had not locked in at a fixed rate the cost would have been \$98,249 but was \$63,209. We can lock in a fixed rate now at .072. The rates probably will not go down drastically but if they do can do a blend and extend contract which will lock the rate in and IGS will extend the contract to a lower rate. *Motion made to enter a contract with .072 made by Peggy Vance, second by Ashlie Webster. Roll call all yes.*

New Contract needed for legal counsel, Tom Mayes, which the current one expired on December 31. Mr. Mayes discussed the previous contract which was a retainer plus a reduced hourly rate for anything above 3.5 hours. Looking at moving forward some months do not even hit the 3.5 hours. Would like to switch to hourly of \$155.00, a retainer of \$11,000 and hourly rate of \$120 would go away. Mr. Mayes is proposing a one-year contract to see if this works but believes this would be cost effective. Mr. Mayes stated there is no OPERS contribution but a straight 1099. Contingency in place in the contract that if the contract expires can continue to do work for the Village. *Motion to pass as an emergency to no retainer and \$155.00 per hour made by Dustin Puckett, second by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.*

Motion to adopt made by Angela Lyons, second by Ashlie Webster. Roll call all yes.

Ms. Mason informed the council that Thursday the Village was awarded a planning grant for \$115,000 task order assistance through the Ohio Department of Transportation. This grant will not be evident to anyone in the Village unfortunately. This grant will allow the sidewalk planning portion to be shovel ready when a grant does become available for the revitalization. You will notice surveyors and people looking at quality and measuring the sidewalks. Once the planning design is complete there is an opportunity to apply for tap funding a split 80/20 grant with a maximum of \$200,000.

Ms. Mason updated on the grant for the sewer pump stations and blowers at the plant which was awarded \$349,000 (money not here yet). Bidding should start in summer with a project estimated at \$700,000. If needed we can get a zero percent interest loan which she would not want to do if the funds of \$311,000 in sewer improvements, capital operating there is \$141,000 can be used. If a loan is needed will bring that back to council for approval

Third reading of Ordinance Designating A Portion of Mae Street In The Village Of Sardinia As A Two Way Street. This will allow Mae Street to be made a two-way street which only would run north and south from Tri-county to the railroad tracks. The remainder of Mae Street would stay one way. This would accommodate the larger trucks coming from Belchers. *Motion to adopt made by Ashlie Webster, second by Angela Lyons. Roll call all yes.*

Ms. Mason would like to post a position for a Zoning Officer for up to 20 hours per month. Ms. Mason requested approval of the job description and publish the position. Mr. Troutman requested what duties the zoning officer would have, which per Ms. Mason included reviewing permits that have been signed off on, check to ensure that permits that were signed and properly executed. Ms. Vance asked if the zoning officer would have to come to council meetings. Mr. Mayes said that they would report to Ms. Mason and the zoning appeals board. *Motion to approve the job description and post position made by Ashlie Webster, second by Anna Turner. Roll call all yes.*

Attachments: Ordinance Designating a Portion of Mae Street as Two-Way Street

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Economic Development – Ashlie Webster, chair, reviewed their committee meeting stated that they had discussed strategies for 2025 including zoning, beautification, and infrastructure.

Ms. Weis, Hope and Promise; Kelly Faas, David Taylor field rep; and virtually Danielle, with Vertas, grant writer; all attended

Zoning officer was very important to get the infrastructure and beautification. Kelly Faas recommended maybe sharing with another village to help with costs. Mr. Mayes suggested that zoning person have some law enforcement because they will be doing a lot of enforcement.

Hope and Promise helps Village with beautification which they wish to continue.

Danielle is going to investigate grants for the sewer plant.

Mr. Mayes discussed port authority which would be something to look at further down the road.

Ms. Vance mentioned that Washington Township just posted position for zoning officer

Ms. Webster mentioned that grants are specific to one project, which cannot be used for just anything, but a lot of work is put into grant writing.

Did discuss a possible ordinance for owners of the buildings in town to show proof of insurance, Mr. Mayes will be following up on this.

Meetings have been moved to monthly instead of quarterly since there is a lot of work to be done. Next meeting will be February 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Public Works – Ms. Mason reviewed there was a discussion of possibly doing a road study – there are 9.8 miles of road that we must maintain excluding State Route 32 which the State maintains. We can pay a company \$540 per mile in the village. This will look at every road in the Village including current condition, what it would take to improve them. Ms. Mason found out that the roads were completely redone the last time in the 1980s. The village receives about \$50,000 which just covers filling potholes. If we cannot get a grant this would let us know what we can fix. This study will be a little over \$5000 which Ms. Mason believes is a good investment to be prepared if there does come a grant for infrastructure.

Mr. Puckett did mention that the Village will be looking into a bobcat or skid steer. Reviewed the vehicles we have and the insurance. All vehicles now are paid off so research will be done on what equipment we need to invest in next.

Finance Committee – Mr. Troutman stated that the committee reviewed the Energy Contract. We would like to have meetings quarterly but closer to the end of the year it would be more often.

Personnel Committee – Ms. Turner stated the committee discussed the Employee manual was reviewed which needs to be updated. Ms. Webster says the manual needs to be fine-tuned due to the manual having a lot of reiteration.

Public Safety Committee – Ms. Vance stated that the committee met prior to this council meeting. Discussed zoning issues with new businesses that may want to come to town. Ms. Vance asked if there had been any issues with the noise ordinance – nothing to report. Also discussed purchasing blacktop. Ms. Mason did reach out to the Railroad regarding the tracks and potholes around them – they do have funding from the State, but this has been put on hold due to the changes that have taken place within their company. They will replace them during the summer, but Ms. Mason did ask them to do some repairs prior to then.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The department had 107 calls. Three canine deployments – one was OSP, one was Georgetown, and one Chief Perry where drugs were found in each case. Cocaine, Fentanyl, Meth were found in all three of the deployments

Questions about the vehicles – the department has four vehicles, one of which is the Crown Vic that was donated by a department up north. The vehicle is registered to the department now. The Crown Vic and the newly purchased truck will have to be outfitted with the equipment needed. Some of the equipment needed has been donated.

Rumors going around Village. Chief Perry was asked to work part time in Russellville as the Chief. Mr. Mayes was questioned about this and also reached out to OPATA, BCI, OHLEG with all of these coming back that there is no conflict to be Chief of both Villages. Rumor also out of Facebook that Chief and Sgt. Ingle are leaving the Village which is not true both are staying – they are not leaving.

Ms. Turner thanked Chief Perry for staying that all are happy he is staying.

Ms. Mason did want to clarify that after 4:00 p.m. if needing an officer, you must call the Communication Center they will contact the officer on duty. If one of our officers are not on duty they will send a Sheriff. Chief Perry mentioned that he gets calls in the middle of the night from the Communication Center which he may or may not respond to depending on the need of the sheriff.

Chief Perry did inform council that he is vetting another officer. This will add another officer to the staff of the department.

MAYOR

Mayor would like to know who is on call for the Utility/Sewer Department so he will be able to call them if needed Ms. Mason said the schedule rotates one week at a time. Call runs from Monday to Sunday.

ROUND TABLE

Anna Turner – wanted to ask about the message on the voicemail. Ms. Mason informed them that the IT person has all the passwords that we are unable to get. It is difficult to get the IT person here.

Motion to adjourn made by Ashley Webster, second by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes.

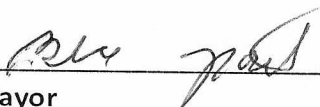
SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET ONLY WILL BE FEBRUARY 24, 2025 AT 5:15 P.M.

NEXT MEETING MARCH 10, 2025 AT 7:00 P.M.

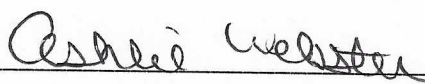
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:13 P.M.

3-10-25

Date Approved



Mayor



President of Council