

Village of Chauncey Council
May 8, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Amy Renner called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

PLEDGE TO FLAG – The pledge was observed by all in attendance.

ROLL CALL – Taken by Fiscal Officer

Seat 1 – Connaught Cullen, Present

Seat 2 – Tammy Hawk, Present

Seat 3 – Karla Dellinger, Present

Seat 4 – Evelyn Nagy, Present

Seat 5 – Mike Kraus, Present

Seat 6 – Dylan Skees, Present

Mayor – Amy Renner, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

NEW BUSINESS

Phase 1 Sewer Project Update: They have started construction and the first piece of pipe was installed today. They are hoping to be out by 100 feet by the end of the day. They will need to move a water line that comes out of the plant. It is too close to the sewer line.

Phase 2 Sewer Project Update: We are still working on funding for the rest of the project, we are currently about 1 million dollars short. USDA reached out to us to see what we still needed for funding for the project. DLZ has been involved in the process. We are hoping to hear soon.

Appalachian Community Grant: I emailed the council regarding the information. We did receive exactly what we asked for (2 million dollars). This will be used to re-beautify Converse Street. This program has been a slow process. It is a current waiting game. Ross County is the leading applicant. Mayor Amy did send them a nice “Thank You” letter. Karla Dellinger: When you put in for a grant and the process takes so long, what do we do if the cost of the project is more? Mayor Amy: There is a typical buffer in the grant for inflation. Athens Council mentioned our project at their last meeting.

Community Trails Celebration: May 18th is when the event takes place. We did have some sponsors from some local businesses and agencies. There will be a live band, games, and food. We will have some local agencies setting up tables during this event.

United Athens County Tenants: Katherine is here to talk to the council. We are here to talk about discrimination and tenants accepting payments such as section 8 vouchers. We are encourage the

council to pass the ordinance on the agenda for tonight. We are very grateful for the council passing the pay-to-stay ordinance.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion to approve the bills made by Tammy Hawk, seconded by Mike Kraus, AIF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of April 10^h, 2024: Motion by Connaught Cullen, seconded by Tammy Hawk, AIF

APPROVE FINANCES AND REPORTS FROM THE FISCAL OFFICER

Financial statements were not available at the time of the meeting due to new software from the water and sewer billing. The Fiscal Officer is working with the water and sewer clerk to get the issues resolved. Fiscal Officer will send out as soon as they are available.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

Ordinance 2024-3 (Third Reading) Unlawful Discriminatory Practices: This is the third and final reading. Evelyn Nagy would like to thank the community and council for all the work that has gone into this ordinance. Karla Dellinger: I sent out an email to the council regarding the ordinance and requested that there be a change. Karla Dellinger: Read the majority of the document that was sent to the council as well as Evelyn's response. (Will be attached to the minutes when it is filed). We all discriminate and I think that's okay. Evelyn Nagy: The statement you want to add will open the door for businesses and others to discriminate. Dylan Skees: Do you believe (Evelyn Nagy) that the few businesses in town will discriminate against people? Evelyn Nagy: I believe it is possible. Dylan Skees: I believe that this is something that should not be addressed at a local government level since there are issues in the Supreme Court. Karla Dellinger: If we can pass a law in Chauncey that forces everyone to be nice to each other, then lets do that, but we can not. Dylan Skees: No one should be discriminated against. It is not good to see people follow other people's steps. Mike Kraus: The section that Karla highlighted and read about talks about the village discriminating, the Village of Chauncey will not be discriminating against anyone, this is more about the village residents. Karla Dellinger: I think there are times that we need to discriminate against others. The example of this is when people rent a car and a car company puts an age limit on a person renting the car. I do not believe we need to be cookie cutter people. Karla Dellinger: Mike, how do you think we should change the wording of the ordinance? Mike Kraus: The way I read it is that the Village of Chauncey will be the one discriminating. That is not the case.

Public comments:

- Carter Beeson: I would like to just speak in support of the ordinance. I feel like the rights and are in the bill of Rights. I think that there are certain rights that if you decide to enact upon, then you are putting yourself in that situation. No one is saying that you have to agree with the lifestyle that someone lives.
- Ward Bryson: The council seems to be on both sides of the fence on the ordinance. The type of discrimination that is in this ordinance is different than the example that was given when it comes to renting a car. I can see both sides of this ordinance and I can see the ordinance driving businesses away but also see it bringing new business into the
- Abby Hearne: The right to discrimination in the ordinance is different than religious discrimination when it is already a protected class. We can agree to disagree on many issues. I'm a resident of the village and I'm yet to put out a flag because I'm fearful for not only myself but my neighbors. I do not feel welcome within the village and for that reason I will be moving back to Athens very soon. What kind of community are we trying to build if we allow people to discriminate?
- Alex Hearne: I'm in support of the ordinance as is. When this is talked about, we are referring to housing. I would like to encourage the council to pass this ordinance. Me being part of the gay community does not change who I am as a person. There is not fabrication of rights being taken away. We are not asking for much, we are just asking for the same rights as everyone else. People are not going to want to stay here if they do not feel welcome in Chauncey. We just want the best for the community and the village.

Karla Dellinger: I don't have a bunch of rentals, I have one rental. I do not discriminate against anyone who rents my home. This is not about the housing. I do want to propose a change to the current ordinance in front of us.

Karla Dellinger: I would like to propose a change and want the council to work with me on this so we can all be on the same page. I would never ask someone to go against their values and beliefs.

Evelyn Nagy: But by me changing the ordinance, it goes against what I believe.

Mayor Amy: I think what needs to happen is Karla needs to make the motion to make changes.

Evelyn Nagy would like to make the motion. Seconded by Mike Kraus.

AIF: Evelyn Nagy, Mike Kraus, Connaught Cullen, Tammy Hawk
Opposed: Karla Dellinger, Dylan Skees

Ordinance 2024-5 Water Management (Third Reading): Tammy Hawk: Under section 1B, I think there is a typo. When 180 is spelled out, I think it is missing just an E on the end of "One".

Motion to adopt was made by Tammy Hawk, seconded by Dylan Skees, AIF

Ordinance 2024-6 Sewer Management (Third Reading): Motion made to adopt made by Dylan Skees, seconded by Evelyn Nagy, AIF

Resolution 2024-5 Palestine Ceasefire (Third Reading): Connaught Cullen: I support the ordinance.

Karla Dellinger: Sent an email to the council and read it allowed (Attached is the statement she emailed to the council). If we choose to support this resolution, we are supporting Hamas. I hate war and I really do not agree with either side. \

Connaught Cullen: Just because I support this resolution, does not mean I support Hamas.

Karla Dellinger: I just can't support this resolution because Israel has offered a ceasefire and Hamas has declined.

Mike Krause: It does not change what happened last week.

Karla Dellinger: I think this is way over our heads. If anyone understands what is going on, I would like to hear from them. I do not believe this is something that the Village of Chauncey should be focused on.

Natalie Johnson: What kind of message would this send to our government if all governments passed a resolution similar to this? I would like to see our tax dollars stay local and support locals.

Carter Beeson: I believe that everyone has a way to digest information. What could the money be doing for us here instead of sending our money overseas? I urge the council to pass this resolution.

Ward Bryson: Hamas did offer about a week ago for a ceasefire and Israel would hand over all hostages. Both sides have rejected ceasefires.

Abby Hearne: I second what others have already said. This is not a war. This is an attack on a civilian group. We have seen over 50 thousand children dead over the past 7 months. I think a ceasefire by both sides would end the situation.

Alex Hearne: Echoing what everyone else said. If there was no use financial support from the United States this would have ended a long time ago. How many more kids have to die before our voice is heard? We are just asking for you to support our community by keeping our tax dollars locally. I encourage council to not only listen to use but what all is happening around the world and country.

Karla Dellinger: I too would like to see it stop and I do not agree with either side.

Conncaught Cullen would like to make the motion to adopt, Seconded by Evelyn Nagy.

AIF: Mike Kruas, Evelyn Nagy, Connaught Cullen, Dylan Skees, Tammy Hawk
No: Karla Dellinger.

Ordinance 2024-7 Mobile Home (Second Reading): There were changes from the first reading to the second reading. Mike Kraus: I liked the changes and the explanations behind the changes. Karla Dellinger: When it talks about the health and safety of a mobile home going in, I get the safety since they go up so fast, but what about the health? Mayor Amy: Mobile homes are more susceptible to rodents. Karla Dellinger: Why do they have to take off the axles and wheels? Dylan Skees: It changes the coding of the property and makes it a more permanent property. Mayor Amy: This was something that was in the old version of this and we kept it. Karla Dellinger: In the ordinance, it has something about if the mobile home catches on fire they have to put a certain year back on the property. Mayor Amy: This would be an example of a variance and the board of zoning appeals would look at this and decision. Johnathan: To have a more conservative approach is to have a clear answer on the date of the mobile home. This is the only way to eliminate any questions regarding the date and what the law may interpret. The easiest way to hit a middle ground is to have the ordinance say “the later of 10 years from today’s date” or “within 10 years of the date it is going to be placed on the property”. Karla Dellinger: Should it be the date of the application or the date when it is being installed? Johnathan: That is a good point and it is up to the council. Karla Dellinger: Do we feel like 10 years is a good time, or should it be 15 or 20 years? Mike Kraus: I agree. Council believes it should be changed to 20 years.

Motion amend the ordinance to what council would like updated made by Karla Dellinger, seconded by Tammy Hawk. AIF

Resolution 2024-6 Authorizing the Mayor negotiate and sign the MOU with Capstone Properties and Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program: Connaught Cullen: We have had problems with Capstone in the past, why do we think this is not going to happen again? Mayor Amy: Capstone Properties buys the property and this allows the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program to get the funding to purchase the property from Capstone. Tammy Hawk: Do we know what the end game is? Mayor Amy: Yes, they want to add additional acreage to the property they currently own. They want to reserve the 30-plus acres for commercial property and the rest of the property be used for housing. Tammy Hawk: Is the whole 57 acres part of the who village corporation? Mayor Amy: They will need to annex the property. Karla Dellinger: Does our current water and sewer support the possibility of commercial property? Mayor Amy: Yes, it does support it. They would have to put a pump station for the sewer and a water pump. This would be on the expense of the business. Capstone has hired DLZ to do the mapping for the property. Karla Dellinger: Did you say that we take over the property once it is complete? Mayor Amy: We take over the roads, water and sewer lines, not the actual property. Dylan Skees: Could capstone keep all the property and maintain it? Mayor Amy: They could but they do not have the funds or desire. Drew has been involved in the who process.

Karla Dellinger would like to introduce resolution 2024-6, seconded by Tammy Hawk. AIF. Tammy Hawk would like to declare an emergency and suspend the rules and pass it on emergency due to the timing, seconded by Karla Dellinger.

All voted yes.

Motion to adopt Connaught Cullen, seconded by Dylan Skees. AIF

MAYORS REPORT

SR 13 Development Property (formerly known as Abdella Property)

The property is now under new ownership by David Funk on behalf of the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program for their Appalachia Ahead initiative. This property is now being included with 18 additional acres already owned by Mr. Funk that border this property to the south making a total of 56 acres (a map is attached showing all the areas available for development inside the blue lines). Due to the necessity of having ownership of the property while SAOP applies for grants, Mr. Funk has an MOU with SAOP to be the initial purchaser who then holds the property until SAOP secures funding to purchase it in their name. SAOP and Mr. Funk are committed to ensuring that Chauncey has a voice in the future of the property and have therefore drafted a new MOU including Chauncey as a party in decisions being made. That MOU is attached. I would like to ask Council for an emergency resolution to give me the authority to sign this MOU. I've met with Mr. Funk and SAOP Executive Director Jen Seifert and I feel really excited about this opportunity. Jen is working on a grant with Buckeye Hills Regional Council to EPA for \$20 million towards the development of this property to include: new single family housing, solar array at Funk's property north of Chauncey (outside of village limits), floodplain funding for staff capacity to Chauncey, assistance with the new library to include a community center, and more. Chris, Drew, and I have a virtual meeting with them on Monday, May 6 to discuss zoning, floodplain, and utilities. SAOP has hired DLZ to do a site plan for the acreage to lay everything out. They are currently reserving the 38 acres for commercial development. Chauncey and the Athens County Economic Development Council will assist in trying to locate businesses to recruit to the property. A press release is being released along with a website explaining the project very soon.

here are links to read about projects in Glouster and Nelsonville that SAOP is also working on:
<https://woub.org/2024/01/04/state-2-8-million-glouster-community-development-project/>
<https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2023/03/29/recovery-villages-hope-to-expand-with--25m-grant>

Appalachian Community Grant Program

We received just shy of \$2 million through the Appalachian Community Grant Program for downtown revitalization on Converse Street between Mill and Sycamore. The project will improve sidewalks and accessibility, add parking, signage, murals, trees, benches, and decorations. Many thanks to Designing Local who was the planner for this project, Ross County who served as our lead applicant, and Evelyn, Tammy, Drew, and myself who attended planning

meetings with Designing Local to come up with the proposal (proposal is attached). We were one of twelve downtown revitalization projects selected in a 32 county region. I've been receiving many congratulations on behalf of Chauncey, this was a highly competitive grant with over \$2 billion in applications received for funding from the grant, so we have much to be grateful for!

Railroad Crossing

The Ohio Rail Commission will be notifying us later this month who our assigned planner is through their grade separation planning project. Additionally, I've been working with the Mayor's Partnership for Progress on selecting a planner to work on how to safely get pedestrians and bicyclists to the park. They are holding on to selecting that planner once we are connected with the Ohio Rail Commission planner since they'll need to work together to ensure we are creating a cohesive plan for cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists that will work for Chauncey.

If someone would like to sign up for electronic for their water bill, we need their email before they create an account. They can call in and give their email to Tracie. There have been some issues with the autopay.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Had to leave due to a water line break.

VILLAGE SOLICITOR

I have one of the Naturework requirements and have it ready to file.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Tammy Hawk: Thank for all discussions between the village members and the council.

Connaught Cullen: The grant for the mural, I contacted them. They are saying now it will be the end of the month. Is there anything going on with the mind buildings? Mayor Amy: There is still some paperwork that needs filled out.

Mike Kraus: Nothing

Karla Dellinger: What is the chain of command? Who should I contact if I am approached about something going on in the village? Mayor Amy: I think what you did was fine, just make sure it is truly an emergency. For the community yard sale, can we just make it an annual thing and set the dates as the first full weekend in June? Council likes that idea.

I would like to make a motion to receive a copy of all recordings of Council Meetings from Dani at Athens Independence. Second, Mike Krause, AIF

Evelyn Nagy: I would like to thank the community and council for all there work on our recent ordinances and resolutions. I was invited in to conference tomorrow in Columbus surrounding the passage of resolution and ordinances that we have currently passed. May 13th I was also invited to Nelsonville City Council meeting to talk about our resolution and ordinances that we have recently passed. The Chauncey Gays have meet and plan to have a pride event at the park. We are waiting on more details before we set a date.

Dylan Skees: The tree at the end of Sycamore was taken down, do we know why. Mayor Amy: I have no idea.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

All members still present would truly thank you for passing the resolution and ordinances that have been passed. It is nice to be heard and be part of the conversations.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on June 12th, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

Motion by Connaught Cullen at 7:52 pm, Mike Kraus seconded. AIF

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

RECORDED BY

Tammy Hawk, President of Council

Kevin Simons, Fiscal Officer