

Village of Chauncey Council
August 8, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Amy Renner called the meeting to order at 5:32 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 – Absent

Village Solicitor – Present

NEW BUSINESS

Phase 1 Sewer Project Update: Mendon plans to trench Main Street and Converse next week. Mound Street, Fourth Street, Sycamore from Converse to Fourth is done. Monroe is done. Working on Mill and the other crew is working on Converse. Mendon has to go back and replace some laterals since they did not do them originally. Phase 1 and 2 was done separately due to the village's gravity fed system. Mendon has been trying to help the dust by spraying for water.

Phase 2 Sewer Project Update: The USDA paperwork has been filed thanks to Jonathan and Kevin. We still have a lot to be done and we are under a tight timeline due to the deadlines. Hopefully, we will be putting Phase 2 out for bid in September.

Appalachian Community Grant Program: Mayor Amy did receive the grant agreement today.

Evelyn Nagy would like to make the motion to add John Rose and 2024-16 to the agenda.
Connaught seconded. AIF

Village Clerk Update: This job posting is still up. The job does come down August 19th. Mayor Amy: We have received some good applicants. As of right now, we do have at least 3 good applicants. HAPCAP did give us some cubicles so Chris and Christopher will need to go pick it up.

John Rose: I am running for Athens County Commissioner and would like to talk to the members. I have been in the area for 20 years. John handed out a flyer to the village to the

council. There are many reasons I am running. September 24th at 6:30 there will be a public forum for the candidates at the community center.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion to approve the bills made by Tammy Hawk, seconded by Dylan Skees, AIF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of July 11th, 2024: Motion by Evelyn Nagy, seconded by Mike Kraus, AIF

Approval of July 30th, 2024 Special Meeting: Motion by Connaught Cullen, seconded by Tammy Hawk, AIF

Motion to add the Finance and Personnel meeting made by Tammy Hawk, seconded by Karla Dellinger. AIF

Finance and Personnel Special meeting from July 25th, motion by Connaught Cullen, Seconded by Tammy Hawk. AIF (Only committee members voted) AIF

APPROVE FINANCES AND REPORTS FROM THE FISCAL OFFICER

July 2024 Financials was not completed prior to the meeting due to an issue with a deposit and a computer issue. Fiscal Officer will send them out as soon as possible for approval during September's meeting.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

Resolution 2024-14 Columbia Gas Agreement: Karla Dellinger made the motion to introduce the resolution, seconded by Dylan Skees, AIF. Columbia Gas will be donating money to the village for about 32k instead of replacing the sidewalks since the village will be doing the streetscape project. Tammy Hawk made the motion to declare the resolution an emergency and suspend the rules due to the timing of the documents, seconded by Evelyn Nagy.

Connaught Cullen: Yes

Dylan Skees: Yes

Mike Kraus: Yes

Tammy Hawk: Yes

Karla Dellinger: Yes

Evelyn Nagy: Yes

Motion to adopt made by Connaught Cullen, seconded by Mike Kraus. AIF

Resolution 2024-15 OPWC Agreement: These funds will be used toward the stormwater work that needs to be done within the village. We may also include the paving of Nye Street since there are no sewer lines on that street and it will not be torn up. Evelyn Nagy would like to make the motion to submit the application, seconded by Karla Dellinger. AIF. Tammy Hawk would like to suspend the rules due to the timing of the application, seconded by Dylan Skees.

Connaught Cullen: Yes

Dylan Skees: Yes

Mike Kraus: Yes

Tammy Hawk: Yes

Karla Dellinger: Yes

Evelyn Nagy: Yes

Motion to adopt made by Connaught Cullen, seconded by Mike Kraus. AIF

Resolution 2024-16 Authorizing the Mayor to sign the grant agreement for the Applicant Community Grant Program: Karla Dellinger would like to introduce, Dylan Skees. AIF Tammy Hawk would like to declare it an emergency so that the application can be completed before the deadline. Evelyn Nagy Seconded.

Connaught Cullen: Yes

Dylan Skees: Yes

Mike Kraus: Yes

Tammy Hawk: Yes

Karla Dellinger: Yes

Evelyn Nagy: Yes

Motion to adopt made by Connaught Cullen, seconded by Mike Kraus. AIF

MAYORS REPORT

Village Clerk job posting - we've gotten about 8 applications so far after being posted for a week and we are going to move forward with interviewing two of those so far. I anticipate a few more good ones to come in based on conversations I've had with people who had some questions about the job before applying. For insurance, the Mayors Partnership for Progress connected me to Snider Stroh who has a government group plan that we can join. They also mentioned that because we only have one person we could also have them select their own insurance on the marketplace and we agree to pay a certain amount towards their premium so I'd like to discuss this tomorrow with you all ahead of hopefully making a job offer by the end of the month.

Council meeting location - we are overdue to getting Drew a more private and dedicated workspace at Village Hall and with hiring a full-time position to be housed at Village Hall as well, I feel the best path forward is to relocate our council meetings. The Fire Department next door has a larger meeting room that I think would be the best fit mostly because it's next door to Village Hall so if we need anything from village hall before or after the meeting then we can

easily do so. Also, if people show up to Village hall for the meeting, they'll easily be redirected to the Fire Department room instead. Once we do this (which I hope to start using the FD room in September) then the goal is put a cubicle in for Drew in the front room and have the Village Clerk desk by the front door. We'll still have a small meeting space for meetings set aside in Village Hall. In the back room, we'll be able to move all of our records out of Texas Eastern and have more space for filing. We'll also be able to shut and lock that door which is what we are supposed to be doing. I'd also like to get that room painted while we have the opportunity. Longer term, the library is planning on building a large meeting space in their new library across the street so I think that could be a great future spot for Council Meetings.

ARPA funds - this was a topic of discussion with the Finance Committee but we need to obligate our remaining \$92,000 of ARPA by September. These are unrestricted funds so we can use them for anything. Chris and I have a priority list of what we need for Chauncey and this includes: a new dump truck, equipment storage facility, and a "downtown" parking area. A new dump truck will cost about \$100,000. There is a USDA Community Facilities Loan out right now that I'd like to discuss using for the dump truck. I'm waiting to hear back from them on the loan terms but I do know it's a really low interest. They said using this instead for the storage facility would be much more cumbersome because of all the federal rules we'd have to follow when building the facility. For the facility, we anticipate this being around \$60K-\$80K depending on where we put it which is the challenge because of floodplain vs. floodway issues. We're doing more research on this currently. Last is the parking lot, because of the streetscaping grant we got from ACG for Converse, I'd really like to proceed with purchasing the house next door to Village Hall, removing the house, and using that space for a parking lot for Village Hall, Fire Department, and just downtown use overall. The owner of the house is wanting to sell so Chris and I agree that this is highest priority because of our limited opportunity to acquire that property and for the streetscaping project to put curb cuts & sidewalk in for the driveway. The cost to buy the property will be about \$30K and to demolish it around \$12K if we can fill it ourselves. That would leave about \$50K for the storage facility.

Tammy Hawk made a motion to allow the Fiscal Officer to submit the documents for allocations for the house next door and the storage facility. Karla Dellinger seconded, AIF.

Columbia Gas - I need a resolution authorizing me to sign the agreement from Columbia Gas to NOT fix the sidewalks on Converse between Mill and Sycamore in exchange for them making a \$32K donation to the Village. The streetscaping project will be redoing these sidewalks anyway next year and we can use the donation to pave the proposed parking lot or towards the storage facility.

OPWC - also discussed with the Finance Committee, was that we've decided to proceed with an OPWC grant application for stormwater repairs. I originally was thinking of using it to pave streets but if the sewer project has contingency funds leftover, the only use for it will be to pave streets so I'd rather wait and hope for the best there. I need a resolution authorizing me to submit the OPWC application. It does require matching funds to be competitive which we will be using a portion of our Permissive Use Tax fund. This tax fund is only allowable for a few things: streets, sidewalks, and stormwater.

USDA - huge thanks to Kevin and Jonathan for helping me get all of our documentation together for USDA for the \$2 million award. There is a lot paperwork involved and we're still working on it but hopefully in the next week or two we'll have everything turned in so that we can get the phase 2 of the project moving forward. We're under a tight timeline because we have to bid the project out before November or else we have to renominate it to EPA for their \$4 million all over again.

Karla Dellinger: Are we wanting to move the council meeting starting in September? Mayor Amy: Yes.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Absent

VILLAGE SOLICITOR

Tuesday the 13th of August, is the mediation between the Landbank and 47 Main Street. From my perspective, it should not be a very lengthy discussion.

I had a call with DLZ about the right away.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Tammy Hawk: Nothing

Connaught Cullen: Nothing

Mike Kraus: Nothing

Dylan Skees: Would like to see about having the bottom of the power poles painted during the streetscape project.

Evelyn Nagy: I am working on an ordinance to get landlords to keep house up to standards.

Karla Dellinger: Nothing

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob and Lynn Garbo: We own a rental on Lexington Street. We are trying to get the house back on the market and the home will be move-in ready. We will not be selling the house to capstone. Our concern is the property acrossed the street from it may have some issues and not up to code. I just want to be able to tell a buyer it will get better. What can we do to help him since he will not do it himself?

Mayor Amy: We have had a code for two years. We have been in contact with him on how we could help. Plan and simple, he doesn't want help. He does have many properties in the village that we have made progress on but not his personal property.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on September 12th, 2024 at 5:30 pm at the Chauncey Firehouse.

Motion by Tammy Hawk at 7:20 pm, Dylan Skees seconded. AIF

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

RECORDED BY

Tammy Hawk, President of Council

Kevin Simons, Fiscal Officer