

Village of Chauncey Council
April 10, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Amy Renner called the meeting to order at 5:30 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, Absent

Mayor – Amy Renner, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

Motion to excuse Dylan Skees made by Karla Dellinger, seconded by Connaught Cullen, AIF

Motion to amend the agenda to add a new topic under new business. Evelyn Nagy, seconded by Karla Dellinger. AIF

NEW BUSINESS

Phase 1 Sewer Project Update: They are planning on starting the project at or around the end of April. They will begin at the plant and work their way down Main Street. They plan to leave one lane open. They will make changes if needed to the traffic pattern. We will be paving all of Plum Street to the Abdella property.

Phase 2 Sewer Project Update: We have not heard any information in regard to the state grants we applied for. DLZ did send some information out to check on some federal funding.

Housing Fair Recap: We did have a good turnout. Drew and the Mayor will follow up with some people who showed up at the fair to see if there is anything we can do to help. Karla Dellinger did talk to a few people as they were leaving and some were hopeful that they would receive some help.

Rural Action Americorp: We have been talking to them in regards to a Vista position. The mayor and fiscal officer have been working with them. They do many administrative duties, it would be a year-long program and the cost is \$7,500. We are on a waiting list and the first they would be able to get to us would be beginning in October.

Clean Up Day: April 20th from 10-1. We do have some volunteers for the day. We are still looking for more volunteers. We will have a group of people driving around helping some of the elderly and disabled people. Mike Kraus: Are we going to have a bin for scrap metal? Chris, we had not planned on it yet due to most scrappers getting to the items the night before.

Community Trails Celebration: We are working on getting a celebration for this. It will be held on May 18th from 5-8. Connaught has lined up some entertainment for this event. We are looking for sponsors.

4th of July: We are working on this even right.

United Athens County Tenants: We are here tonight to advocate for the Pay to Stay ordinance. The pay-to-stay ordinance is just another way to help people stay in their homes. This ordinance helps protect the tenants. The longer that people can stay in a home, the better it is for the community and the local schools. We believe that council member Dellinger should not allowed to vote or talk about the pay-to-ordinance due to a possible State of Ohio Ethics law being violated. Please see the attached document handout for further details. Karla Dellinger: Jonathan, as a landlord we have a lot of people coming in and talking about tenants' rights, but no one talks about landlord rights. Jonathan: I want to start by commending the village council for their stance on this ordinance due to the work they have put into this ordinance. It would be up to you (Karla Dellinger) to excuse yourself from this topic. I can't advise you on what to do. This would be more of a conscious decision. You cannot take into consideration items like this that have happened in the past because each case is different. Karla Dellinger: If there are no objections from the council, then I will not excuse myself from this topic. Evelyn Nagy: We have worked on this for so long, I want to vote on this tonight.

Legal Aide of Southeast Ohio: Caitlyn was present and is an attorney who represents tenants when it comes to legal advice on rental issues. I'm here just to let the council know that the votes of resolution and/or ordinances affect village renters. I didn't write a statement and just wanted to open it up for questions. I do see a number of my clients that I have represented since January, half of them still are looking for housing after being evicted. Karla Dellinger: As far as the HUD voucher, does a landlord have to fix the home to become HUD-approved if they are not already HUD-approved if someone presents a HUD voucher? Would this be considered discrimination since the tenant may not want to fix the issues to become HUD-approved? It could be, that all cases are different.

Barbie: If I have a house that I know is not HUD approved, why can't I state that "HUD not approved, need not apply"? Solicitor: I am not sure if I can answer that question.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Tammy Hawk, seconded by Connaught Cullen, AIF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of March 13^h, 2024: Motion by Connaught Cullen, seconded by Mike Kraus, AIF

APPROVE FINANCES AND REPORTS FROM FISCAL OFFICER

Now that the new billing software is complete, Tracie will receive her a raise that we previously talked about which is \$ 1.00 per hour.

Motion to approve the March financial statements made by Tammy Hawk, seconded by Connaught Cullen. AIF

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

Ordinance 2024-2 (Third Reading) Pay to Stay: There is no objection from the council to allow Karla Dellinger to vote. Tammy Hawk made the motion to adopt, seconded by Evelyn Nagy. AIF

Ordinances passes.

Ordinance 2024-3 (Second Reading) Unlawful Discriminatory Practices: Motion to amend the ordinance the ordinance due to changes, Evelyn Nagy, seconded by Tammy Hawk. AIF

Evelyn and Karla sent statements out to the council regarding the ordinance. Do any of you have any questions? No

Karla Dellinger: I have a question, If I have a business, why can some discriminate and some not? For example, most rental car companies have an age limit to rent a car. Why are they allowed? Johnathan: The law of discrimination is very gray. Karla Dellinger asked "Why are we trying to determine how someone can run a business?" Mayor Amy: I think this ordinance is trying not to discriminate according to the list of items within the ordinance. Karla: We want business to come to Chauncey, why are we trying to tell a how they can run a business within the Village of Chauncey? Johnathan: There is a higher power that can overrule the village ordinances/resolutions and that is the Federal Supreme Court and the State of Ohio Supreme Court.

Karla Dellinger: I believe that state law covers all of the items in the ordinance and do not support the ordinance.

Johnathan: Council does have the option to put this on the ballot for a vote. I am not sure why you would do that because it does cost the village money to put this on the ballot. This would give the village a say in if they wanted it in law.

Ordinance 2024-5 Water Management (Second Reading): Any additional comment for the Water Management ordinance.

Ordinance 2024-6 Sewer Management (Second Reading): We did change the fee from the first reading to the second reading for the tap fee.

Resolution 2024-5 Palestine Ceasefire (Second Reading): Mike Kraus as far as the first line of the resolution. I think the first line sounds politically charged. I am in support of a ceasefire. Connaught Cullen: What would you change it to? Mike Kraus: I would drop the whole line. Evelyn Nagy: I support Mike asking village members questions regarding this matter. Karla Dellinger: Is it illegal for us to pass a resolution? Johnathan: It is not against the law for the council to pass this resolution. Karla Dellinger: I still do not think this is anything that we should be discussing. Tammy Hawk: I am okay with removing the word "Occupied". Village members are okay with the word "Occupied" being removed from the resolution. Karla Dellinger: Why is this a resolution necessary for the Village of Chauncey to pass this resolution since it does not affect us? Connaught Cullen: Because our tax money is going there.

Members of the village: I just don't understand why we are talking about this one group/area of the country when others are going through the same thing. I think adding a sentence about any area that is going through this would be okay. I think this is different because most cases around the country are two military's going at it. What is happening in Palestine is one military going after civilians.

Evelyn Nagy: I would like to thank everyone for their input and discussion regarding this resolution.

Tammy Hawk: This particular resolution is around Palestine

Motion made to remove the word "Occupied" from the first sentence made by Evelyn Nagy, Evelyn Nagy. AIF

The council would like to add to the resolution "The Village of Chauncey is opposed to the US imperialism war and genocide wherever it occurs and whereas we support our military and personnel"

Evelyn Nagy made a motion to change the wording of the resolution, seconded by Tammy Hawk. AIF

Ordinance 2024-7 Mobile Home (First Reading): Tammy Hawk would like to introduce ordinance 2024-7, seconded by Evelyn Nagy. AIF This ordinance went through the planning commission. This would repeal two village ordinances. There was some administrative issue with the previous ordinances. Johnathan: The only issue I have flagged with the ordinance is the

year of the mobile home that the village will allow within the village limits. I just want to make sure that the language is correct so that there are no issues in the future. The original ordinance only allowed a mobile home 10-year-old. Karla Dellinger: Why does a singlewide have to be on a permanent foundation? This was in the original ordinance.

MAYORS REPORT

I have been working on finishing up the NatureWorks Grant. I am also looking at some grants for a new village hall.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Columbia Gas wants to use part of the Texas Eastern Property to do a pressure test on their line. They are willing to pay us for the use of the driveway. They are looking to do this starting May 20th. We may just need to work with DLZ on the paving. Columbia Gas will only need about a week. Johnathan read over the agreement and did not see anything that was alarming.

Columbia Gas is moving the gas line under the sidewalk and they will replace the sidewalks once they are done.

The water and sewer line is complete at Texas Eastern. We are just waiting for it to be inspected.

We did start mowing grass.

VILLAGE SOLICITOR

We covered a majority of the items I had.

47 Main is continuing. I did have a very productive conversation with the landbank attorney.

I have been working with Drew on finetuning items.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Tammy Hawk: I attended the planning commission meeting. I attended the HAPCAP meeting regarding grants. They have some grants available that we may want to consider. The deadline is April 29th.

Connaught Cullen: Parks and Recreation Committee meets again in a few weeks. I am working on trying to receive some donations for our parks. Karla Dellinger: Can people rent the open field behind the parking lot? We will talk to Tracie about this.

Mike Kraus: I believe we paid someone in the fall to seal Byrd Street. Is there any type of warrant with this? The street is starting to have several potholes. Chris: I will contact them to have them come look at it.

Karla Dellinger: The fire department Easter egg hunt was a big success. There were over 11,000 eggs. There were some leftover Easter baskets for next year. Is there anything we can do as a village to help the people who lost their home this week due to a fire? She said she would reach out if there was anything we could do.

Evelyn Nagy: Can the village hall be a drop-off spot for items for the people who lost everything in the fire? Mayor Amy: She said the American Red Cross helped out a lot. Their biggest issue is the living situation. There is a fair housing summit at The Athens Community Center that I plan to attend. If anyone has any questions they would like asked, please let me know. I was not able to attend the bike path meeting last month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fauna Stout: I appreciate the Mayor and the Council for what they are doing for the village. I was raised in this town. Sycamore Street is one of the first streets that will have the sewer replaced do we know when that will happen? Chris will check on Sycamore Street. We have a lot of children in the village. We have a lot of people speeding on our streets. Is there anything we can do? Another concern I have is regarding the planning committee. I understand that if someone needs to put a mobile home in the neighbors have to sign off on it. Is this being addressed? We have people within the village who do not get along with their neighbors. Mayor Amy: We have talked about addressing the people speeding on our streets.

Barbie: On the mobile home ordinance. I think there should be wording added if someone loses their mobile home due to a natural disaster that they should be allowed to put a trailer of the same year or newer on the property. I also think that it needs to be removed to have to ask permission from your neighbor to do anything on your property.

Alex Hearne: Thank you for passing the pay-to-stay and everything you do. I do support the discrimination ordinance. I believe that we do need to keep the separation of Church and State. I do support the ceasefire resolution that the village is trying to pass.

Abby Hearne: I want to thank the council for all they do and for allowing us to participate in the talk and discussion. I support the Unlawful Discriminant Practice Ordinance that the village is trying to pass. I am also in favor of the ceasefire resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on May 8th, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

Motion by Tammy Hawk at 8:15 pm, Mike Kraus seconded. AIF

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

RECORDED BY

Tammy Hawk, President of Council

Kevin Simons, Fiscal Officer