

Village of Chauncey Council
November 11th, 2023

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, Absent

Seat 5 – Mike Kraus, Present

Seat 6 – Dylan Skees, Present

Mayor – Amy Renner, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion to approve bills made by Connaught Cullen, seconded by Tammy Hawk, AIF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from October 11th, 2023 with changes made by council by Karla Dellinger, Seconded by Dylan Skees, AIF

APPROVAL OF FINANCES AND REPORT FROM FISCAL OFFICER

Motion to approve October 2023 Financial Statements made by Tammy Hawk , seconded by Dylan Skees. AIF

Website: They are in the process of upgrading our website to allow more room for us to upload and display items.

I am going to try to get with Chris on Thursday and take an inventory of all of our items at Texas Eastern.

- Remember that January's meeting will be moved to the 1st Wednesday of the month (January 3rd) to set the budget for 2024.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2023-11: Zoning Code (Second Reading): Was there any question in regard to the change from the planning commission meeting? Mayor Amy sent the document to the council with the changes from the previous version. The planning commission is comfortable with this version. Mike Kraus liked everything that he saw.

Residential Comments:

- Where can we see the changes to the ordinance? We will look at uploading it to the website and we will have one copy of this at village hall.

Ordinance 2023-12: Rental Permit Registration (Second Reading): Drew (coding enforcer is here for questions) Tammy Hawk would like to get a better understanding of the pay-to-stay section of the ordinance. Drew: Ohio is one of the states that allows tenants to be evicted immediately. The benefit of this is that a renter will pay their past due amount to avoid being evicted. This does not prevent late fees. Karla Dellinger: If they were to stay, they have to be caught up 100% correct? Drew: That is correct. Jonathan: The nature of this ordinance can not be contracted around. The council could decide to change the language however, this could get complicated to make sure the language is interpreted correctly.

Residential Comments:

- What does this have to do with the government of the village? We thought that this would go to municipal court for any eviction. Mayor Amy: This is what the council is debating.
- The State of Ohio already has policies in place for this, why is the village trying to pass an ordinance?
- Evelyn Nagy: We are trying to keep people housed due to the rising price of the rent in the area. We are giving the tenants one more chance to get everything taken care of. Residential comments: I don't understand why this is a village problem.
- Evelyn Nagy: The person falls behind, if the tenant is able to pay all fees and rental up, this will allow the tenants to stay in the residence.
- Residential comments: I think there is a better way for the village to keep track of rental properties.
- Jonathan: the pay-to-stay in the ordinance is not much different than the state statute. Current law allows a landlord to decline the payment when they are late/behind. The pay-to-stay eliminates this.

Karla Dellinger: Short-term rentals: Section 10: Does this allow each person able to have this agreement or how does it work? Drew: This allows each person to have one short-term rental and additional permits will be issued. Also, a homeowner is not subject to a short-term rental if it is a room in their home (5% of the total housing in the village).

Residential Comments:

- My personal opinion is that if a tenant is not paying their rent, do we really want them in our village?

Evelyn Nagy: Would residents be willing to meet with a tenant rights expert? Mayor Amy: Do you think they would be willing to come to the next council meeting?

Karla Dellinger: I think there should be a limit on how many times this can take place.

Evelyn Nagy: I think this is a great discussion because we have different opinions within the council.

Frank: Does the homeowner get paid for the time they have invested on this issue?

Karla: How are the permits granted the following year? It is done by previous year permits and the number of applicants.

Residential comments: Is there a charge for these permits? \$50.00

Resolution 2023-21: Holiday Bonus (Second Reading): Are there any changes? Tammy believes we talked last month about increasing the amounts. They would like to see it double the amount. \$200 for full-time and \$100 for part-time employees.

NEW BUSINESS

Wayne National Forest Prescribed Burn: We would like to do some control burns. This will take place spring of 2025. We do not want to do it right now due to how dry it is. This will be around West Bailey Road. The reason for this burning is trying to bring back the Oak Tree's. We burn the floor of the forest. The idea of this burn is to try to partner with the village to burn part of their land. We get permits from the state and EPA.

2-way vs 4-way Intersection: Monroe intersections. We want to discuss if we want to make changes to the intersection to make them 4-way intersections. Karla Dellinger: Would there be a stop sign at May and Monroe? We believe that we will leave this intersection alone due to less traffic. Residential comment: Why do we want them, when they don't stop at them in the first place.

What does the council think about this? Mike Kraus: I'm all for it. Chris believes the cost is roughly around \$1,000. Village council thinks they should be put up.

RESIDENTIAL COMMENTS

Are you allowed to have farm animals within the village? There are some animals allowed. There is a goat on Ellis.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The sewer plant is having some issues and we have the pumps on the way to fix the issue. I believe the blower is going to need replaced. Mark and I rebuilt it 5 years ago.

We are finishing up on the mowing and getting prepared for winter.

Residential comment: When will the sewer project begin? March of 2024

SOLICITOR REPORT

The village prosecutor (Mr. Hedges) is retiring and the last day for his services will be November 30th. I will handle all matters in the month of December. The village would like to thank him for all of his services. The council would like to send some sort of gratitude to him. The mayor and I have had some talk about trying to find someone to fill this position. The challenge for us is that there are not very many attorneys in our region. I will continue to look for someone to fill his shoes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Tammy Hawk to enter the executive session at 7:17 PM to discuss legal action that may take place toward the village, seconded by Mike Kraus.

Connaught Cullen: Yes

Tammy Hawk: Yes

Mike Kraus: Yes

Karla Dellinger: Yes

Dylan Skees: Yes

Evelyn Nagy: Yes

Motion to exit executive session by Tammy Hawk at 7:47 PM, seconded by Evelyn Nagy.

Connaught Cullen: Yes

Tammy Hawk: Yes

Mike Kraus: Yes

Karla Dellinger: Yes

Dylan Skees: Yes

Evelyn Nagy: Yes

MAYORS REPORT

ODNR NatureWorks Grant

I asked ODNR for a scope change on the NatureWorks grant that we have and they accepted it.

So we will be pushing forward trying to spend and wrap up this grant by the end of the year.

Chris is working with a contractor to get the sewage holding tank removed at the park and a manhole put in its place. If you recall from old conversations, ODNR didn't do this work like we

thought they would and what happens is the tank has to fill up with sewage before running down the pipe to Converse so it is smelly and inefficient. This will be a good investment for us to get rid of it because the tank would've required maintenance. Additionally, I'm going to get the park signs printed that we need and submit those as a reimbursable expense. Kevin - I sent an email about the proof of payment information for the Amazon expenses that I need if you can please look at that and help.

Floodplain Funding

Drew and I had a nice meeting with a FEMA representative regarding floodplain stuff. We were interested in applying for funding to see if we could get help with elevation certificates for private property owners who cannot afford one in order to become compliant with the NFIP. Unfortunately, we weren't eligible but the rep was involved back in the early 2000's when Chauncey was being notified of ongoing non-compliance. He said Chauncey snubbed them on many occasions when they offered to help so there was little sympathy left in 2010 when Chauncey was officially removed from the NFIP. He sympathized with our effort to try to erase these wrongdoings and gave us some advice on how to get ahead so Drew is working on those. Additionally, as you may recall, we applied for funding through the Army Corps for floodplain mitigation funding. I reached out to US Senator Tony Balderson for advocacy on this application since it's competitive nationwide and his team responded that they are working on it. The FEMA rep indicated that getting advocacy like this is key in getting selected.

ACG

We are working on a tight deadline to get our ACG streetscaping proposal into either ORCA or Ross County to carry it with their applications for the implementation round. They are due early December. The ACGP brief for this project is attached. Very exciting! Evelyn, Tammy, Drew and I were part of the process. Through this process we are also working to figure out how to add in a safe crossing to the park for pedestrians and bicyclists. Meredith Erlewine with Creating Healthy Communities is really interested in helping and has a lot of great insight so we are also working with her and ORCA on that initiative.

Zoning

Planning Commission made the final revisions to the zoning code that was on their agenda. See revisions attached in the zoning code document.

Sewer Project

We have a preconstruction meeting with the contractors scheduled for 12/15/23. RCAP is assisting with additional funding efforts for Phase 2 which includes the EPA loan forgiveness and the US Army Corps funding again same as in Phase 1. RCAP is supposed to be sending out a summary of the funding for both phases soon so I'll send that to you all as soon as I have it.

Union Meeting

I was invited to attend a meeting with a local union representative for the building trades from Parkersburg as well as other Athens County leaders. They want to assist our region with more infrastructure projects so we discussed our needs for infrastructure. The leaders all expressed interest in working together to address infrastructure problems together such as stormwater since its hard to get funding for these as a single small village.

Integrated Services Building

Just an FYI, that the ORCA board authorized Jessie to work with Integrated Services to purchase their office building in Chauncey to make it ORCA's permanent home. I think this is great news for Chauncey.

Planning Commission

Martina VonBargen resigned from the Planning Commission due to personal and medical reasons

MPP Housing Committee

Drew and I had our first meeting with the MPP Housing Committee and it was great to network with other communities who deal with similar issues. This is becoming such a hot topic in our region right and I truly feel this is so important for the success of not only Chauncey but the region so hopefully we can learn some good stuff to bring back here.

Website File Storage

I've narrowed it down to two options which is Google Drive or iDrive. I'm leaning more towards iDrive because it's more secure and more foolproof than Drive for accidentally making documents editable. The cost is \$15/year for the first year then \$30/year for each year following so it's a minimal expense. The challenge is going to be in setting it up and moving the files over.

Chauncey Beautification Day Dec. 2

The OU student chapter of Habitat for Humanity will be holding a beautification day in Chauncey to pick up trash and litter around town. Please help spread the word to get volunteers to help them!

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Connaught: OHIO 250 grant (\$50,000). It is two-part, and November 17th is the first deadline. I was thinking about artwork in the park or around the Chauncey Depot. Park and Rec would like to have a meeting in December.

Mike: Athens County Together made the stars last year that was solar power, are they going to put them up this year? Yes.

Karla: Was just wanted to ask about Christmas and Veterans day. Maybe next year we align trick-or-treat with the parade.

Tammy: Athens County Together committee submitted a grant for coating the park tables. Tree lighting ceremony for the tree outside village hall.

Evelyn: I will talk with the library about getting together about the tree lighting ceremony. Bike path will begin in Spring of 2024.

Dylan: Need to get with Chris about programming the looks at the restrooms.

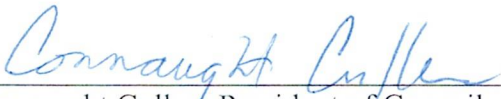
ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on December 13th, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

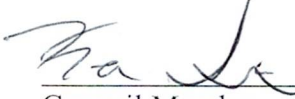
Motion by Tammy Hawk at 8:10 pm, Evelyn Nagy seconded. AIF

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

RECORDED BY



Connaught Cullen, President of Council



Council Members