**Deshler Village Council**

**Monday, March 22, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**: Deshler Village Council met in regular session on Monday, March 22, 2021, with Mayor Stephen Gibson calling the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Pam Abrams, Bob George, Teresa Lederer, Richard McCance, and Mike Woods. Jim Suber was absent.

**ALSO PRESENT**: Streets/Sewer Supt. Bradley Kitchen, Police Chief Brian Robinson, Solicitor Jim Rode, CD Coordinator DonL Parsons, Zoning Inspector Jan Seemann and visitors Diane Hoops and Cathy Roscher

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of March 8, 2021, were presented to Council. It was moved by George and seconded by Abrams to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: all yes, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**: Bills were presented to Council. It was moved by Abrams and seconded by Woods to pay the bills and to draw warrants on the proper funds. Vote: all yes, motion carried.

Fund Reports, Cash Summary Reports, and a Payment Listing were presented for Council’s review.

**FINAL READING: Ordinance 21-10, “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SEWER DEBT SERVICE FEE AND AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO ESTABLISH A DEBT SERVICE FUND”** A motion was made by Woods and seconded by George that Ordinance 21-10 is passed as read. Vote: Lederer-YES; McCANCE-NO, George-YES, Abrams-NO, Woods-YES. Motion carried by a vote of 3-2.

**Resolution 21-16**, “**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER TO CREATE A CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, RESTORATION OR DEMOLITION IN THE VILLAGE”** A motion was made by George and seconded by Woods to suspend the rules governing the reading of ordinances on three separate days at three separate meetings. Vote: all yes, motion carried. A motion was made by Woods and seconded by Abrams that Resolution 21-16 is passed as read. Vote: all yes, motion carried.

**Ordinance 21-17, “AN ORDINANCE FOR AN INTERFUND TRANSFER”** A motion was made by McCance and seconded by George to suspend the rules governing the reading of ordinances on three separate days at three separate meetings. Vote: all yes, motion carried. A motion was made by Woods and seconded by McCance that Ordinance 21-17 is passed as read. Vote: all yes, motion carried.

**STREETS, SEWER AND PARKS:** Supt. Bradley Kitchen reported:

-The work report was emailed to Council prior to the meeting.

-Groll-Gray Tree Service provided a quote of $4,900.00 to trim approximately 70 trees along the reservoir banks. This trimming work is too precarious for village employees to take on themselves.

-A new slide will be received for the playground equipment that was recently damaged in the Village Park. Until then, the current slide will be patched and put back into place.

-Quotes for a new truck and equipment were presented to Council. A motion was made by Woods and seconded by George to approve the purchase of a truck from Reineke Ford in the amount of $40,077.00 and equipment from Kalida Truck Equipment in the amount of $26,700.00 for the Streets and Sewer Departments. Vote: all yes, motion carried.

**POLICE:** Chief Brian Robinson reported:

-Presented quotes for a new vehicle for the police department, including a Chevy Tahoe, a Ford Explorer, and a Dodge Charger. It was found that the light bar transfer from the Taurus is not possible due to it being a different size. Discussion was held regarding the issues we have had with the current Ford Explorers and the Chevy Tahoe having a bigger and more sustainable engine for a few thousand dollars more. Councilman Woods pointed out that the perception from the public in purchasing a Tahoe may not be favorable.

-A motion was made by McCance and seconded by Abrams to purchase a 2021 Chevy Tahoe for the Police Department in the amount of $37,884.00 and the equipment in the amount of $12,389.00. Vote: Lederer-YES, McCance-YES, George-YES, Abrams-YES, Woods-NO. Motion carried by a vote of 4-1.

-Chief Robinson stated that he has heard some rumors of concern over purchasing another K-9 for the department. Diane Hoops from the Corn City State Bank was present and stated that the bank approached Brian about having a fundraiser for a new K-9. The bank utilized K-9 Zeus several times and believes a K-9 is a valuable asset to our village. She would like Council’s approval to move forward with the fundraiser. Much discussion was held regarding the issue and several points were made.

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-McCance believes the community wants a dog and feels the need is great in this village due to many drug issues.

-Several feel that K-9 Zeus was not utilized to his potential in his last couple years of service.

-A committee specific to the K-9 should be created and a Standard Operating Procedure will need to be put into place.

-Chief Robinson stated that there is a new program available to track the dog’s deployment and training and would report everything the dog does.

-Separate insurance will need to be purchased to cover the animal.

-Resident Cathy Roscher was present and spoke in favor of a K-9 for the village.

-George reported that there are residents who do not feel a new K-9 is necessary.

-There is concern about Robinson being both the K-9 handler and Chief of Police.

-Mayor Gibson stated that we are approximately a year away from obtaining a new K-9 and that there is time to form a committee and create a Standard Operating Procedure. He feels there is enough support for the bank to proceed with the fundraiser.

**ZONING:** Jan Seemann reported:

-Recently mailed four letters for housing code complaints. There is a house on East Main Street that is in foreclosure and in Auditor’s sale. The property would be available to the Village first.

-Another house on East Main Street had two of the housing code complaints. If a visit to the property owner is necessary, the Police Department will assist.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** DonL Parsons reported:

-DonL’s report was emailed to Council prior to the meeting.

-The ODNR’s Nature Works grant application is underway with plans for a new shelter house to be constructed at Pirate Park.

-The Family Fishing Day grant for $500.00 has been approved.

-Informed Council that Henry County’s CIC Director April Welch is resigning.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

-Mike Woods reported that the Water Department will be conducting hydrant flushing in April. Dates and locations will be posted on the Village’s website and on the Village’s electronic sign.

-Woods also reported that approximately 87% of the new electric meters have been installed.

-Resident Cathy Roscher inquired about the stray cats in her neighborhood. Council stated that residents are encouraged not to feed them and that the Humane Society would take cats brought in.

-Lederer reported that the Deshler Chamber is working on a marketing packet for the village to distribute to new residents and potential businesses.

-There was also a short discussion regarding the hazardous intersection at the corner of Mulberry and Keyser. This has always been a problematic area as there is no place to put a stop sign due to all the railroad crossings. There are many policies and procedures to abide by when placing a stop sign.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by McCance and seconded by Abrams to adjourn. Vote: all yes, motion carried.

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Fiscal Officer Mayor