

Regular Meeting      City Hall      Monday April 1, 2024 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Village Board opened with Acting Mayor Laura McMahon presiding. The Village Trustees present were as follow: Roy Dean Dickey, Natalie Krause, Bryan Bingel and Chris Klingeman.

Visitors present were Mike Trotter-The County Journal, Jerry Cross, John Dagner, Courtney Dagner, Pam Welshans, Mike Delong, Theresa Holloway, Sara Adams, Charlie Heyl, Annie Taylor, Susie Dahlem, Dave Seib and Kevin McDonald.

Acting Mayor Laura McMahon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Roy Dean to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

Financial reports will be at the second meeting of the month.

No correspondence.

Laura reported that she has contacted American Legal Publishing and is having a Zoom meeting at the end of the month with them. The original Board member who started the project is no longer on the Board. Laura will speak with them about what all needs to be done to finish the Ordinances. New backboards have been put on the basketball poles. Rubber mulch is in, fans and handicap swing are ordered, and the handicap sidewalk will be poured in the coming months.

Roy Dean reported that a tree was removed on Pinckneyville Rd and the ditches on Pinckneyville Rd have been cleaned out. The alley beside Doug White Lumber has been graded and rock was added. The alley that runs next to Larry Jones to the old car wash has also been graded and rocked.

Natalie had no report.

Chris had no report.

Bryan reported that we had another missing person. We need to get a smoother flow when we have a missing person. 911 should be called first.

Pam Welshans from the Historical Society asked if the Village could put up signs to honor the late Bob Heil. Laura asked if the Historical Society was willing to help and Pam said they would. Laura spoke with David Friess and IDOT and they do not deal with those kinds of signs. Laura also spoke with the Village of New Athens because they had the same signs placed for the late Whitey Herzog. Laura will gather information and get with Pam.

Jerry Cross asked what the plans are for the city shed since they are moving along quickly with building the new Fire House. He wanted to know where the yard waste, scrap metal pile and trash would be moved to. No decision has been finalized. It is still in the works. The last meeting Jerry asked Chad about the overlay on Main St. He wanted to clarify if they will be grinding it down and adding overlay or if they were only adding overlay as the bid will change depending on what they are doing. Jerry also asked where they were with the retention pond. No decision has been made yet.

John Dagner reminded the Board Trustees that they are in an elected position and should act in the interest of the citizens. He noticed at the last meeting Board members seemed to not be paying attention or looking up at him when he spoke. John also wanted clarification on a passage Acting Mayor Laura McMahon read about the citizens wishing to speak not being a question-and-answer session and time being limited to 5 minutes before the citizens spoke. He asked if they are not allowed to ask questions. Laura told him she was asked to make that statement. John asked who told her to make the statement. She told him the Attorney, but they were her notes. John said Kudos to Laura for updating on Ordinances. John then spoke about Correspondence that Courtney Dagner had given to former Acting Mayor Embrich not being read. Courtney has expressed interest about wanting to fill the vacant seat Janet Wiley held then the vacant seat Dustin Bingel held, and the vacant seat Jeremy Embrich held but the letter has never been read in a meeting. He said Courtney has gotten approval from her job and has a background that would be beneficial to the Board. John said he had heard rumors that 2 Board Trustees would quit if Courtney was appointed as a Trustee. The Board needs accountability, transparency, and integrity.

A FEMA representative was supposed to be at meeting to inform residents of their program assistance but were unable to come due to the weather. The FEMA phone number is at City Hall for anyone who needs it.

A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Chris for approval to add Roy Dean Dickey as an authorized signer on all bank accounts along with Acting Mayor Laura McMahon, Village Administrator- Chad Easton and Village Collector-Donna Stewart and to remove Jeremy Embrich from all accounts. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-abstain due to conflict of interest, Natalie-yes, Chris-yes, Bryan-yes, Laura-yes.

Citizens requested Semi truck restriction signs on North Borders from Spring St. to Pinckneyville Rd. to be changed from Local to Residential. This will stay as it is due to a business being located within a 5-mile radius.

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Bryan to renew the liquor licenses for the following business: Pour House, Dhara One, Inc., Casey's General Store, Gateway Gaming and B-Jewelled, American Legion Post 172, Liquor and More and Triple Crown Partners I LLC. DBA Insiders. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Natalie to approve the Delta Theta Tau Sorority to sell Krispy Kremes at the 4-way Stop on May 4, 2024, from 7:30 am until sold out. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Chris-yes, Bryan-yes, Laura-abstain due to conflict of interest.

Charlie Heyl spoke about the storm shelter at the First Baptist Church. He says that himself and Nanette Campbell are the ones in charge of opening the doors when we have a storm. They need help. Nanette is out of town a lot and if the sirens go off late at night, he does not hear them go off to know to go open the doors. Last Thursday when the sirens went off the pastor was already at the Church for an event and opened the doors. Bryan let Charlie know that he is working with Fire Chief Dustin Bingel about getting together a calling tree to help open the doors. The church has a chair lift for those that are unable to walk down the steps. Whoever opens the Storm shelter will need to be shown how to work the lift. Charlie said the skirting on the trailers at the South Trailer Court have been put on already. He says that 5 or 6 homes have been sold and all passed inspection except for 2. He says that the owners have always cleaned up yards and made sure all his requests to get the property to code are done. Charlie approved the following permits: Lewis Lawson a 14 X 15 portable carport at 518 S. Euclid and Robert Coke at 819 S. Grace a 6' fence and a 20 X 20 carport.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Natalie to move forward with amending an Ordinance to increase the Chicken Permits which is currently 10 to 15. There is a family in need of having a permit. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Roy Dean to enter Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. for Personnel. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Chris to end Executive Session at 7:54p.m. and enter Regular session. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Natalie-yes, Chris-yes, Bryan-yes, Laura-yes.

Interim Chief wages and back pay will be tabled until further information can be gathered.

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Roy Dean to hire Braden Watt as a full-time Police Officer. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.

A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Natalie to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes.