

VILLAGE OF HAMERSVILLE
Village Council Meeting
October 14, 2024

The Council of the Village of Hamersville met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on October 14, 2024, with all members present.

Also, present was: Guy Sutton, Melissa Zahn (filling in for Jayme Eldridge, Fiscal Officer who was not present), Officer Travis Stone, Tim Saylor, David Grimes, Tammy Keller, Cheryl Toppin, Angela Marlow, Mark McKinney.

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jones presented a resume from Mr. Jonathon Siebert and a letter from Ms. Cheryl Toppin he received for a Council Member position.

Ms. Cheryl Toppin introduced herself to Council.

Council agreed to appoint Ms. Cheryl Toppin to the vacant council position.

Resolution 2024-04, an resolution appointing Cheryl Toppin to fill the vacant seat on Council, term will expire December 31, 2025., and declaring an emergency, effective immediately.

Motion by Eid Edaili to waive and suspend the reading of an ordinance on three separate occasions and declaring it an emergency. Seconded by Jerry Seibert. Roll call vote: Beverly – Yes; Jerry – Yes; Dale – Yes; and Eid – Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Eid Edaili to adopt **Resolution 2024-04**. Seconded by Jerry Seibert. Roll call vote: Beverly – Yes; Jerry – Yes; Eid – Yes; and Dale – Yes. Motion carried and Mayor Jones declared Resolution 2024-04 adopted.

Mayor Jones administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Toppin.

Public Participation

Mr. Mark McKinney owns 407 E. Main Street as a rental. His tenant received an invoice for damage done to sewer pump due to residents' negligence. Attached to the invoice was the Village's utility policy. Mr. McKinney indicated that the utility policy read that a warning letter would be sent for the first offense, but she had never received a warning letter. After a discussion between Mayor Jones and Council Members a decision was made to credit back the charges to residents' account for the sewer pump.

Motion by Jerry Siebert, seconded by Eid Edaili to approve crediting back the charges. Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Sutton suggested the utility policy needs to be looked at and updated as well as take out the wording "a warning letter would be sent for first time offense" on items being flushed in the sewer system that causes problems with the grinder pumps.

Mayor Jones a letter needs to be sent out to all residents regarding the new policy.

Motion by Eid Edaili, Seconded by Jerry Siebert to change the utility policy wording and to send out letter to all residents Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Coomer asked why didn't the red light come on the sewer panel?

Mr. Saylor responded by explaining that the light bulbs can go bad.

Mr. Sutton talked about the meeting he had with AEP and the rate increase for the Village. He indicated that a decision needed to be made by Council on what the rate increase needs to be to the consumer. Mr. Sutton expressed that monies also needed to be considered in the budget for emergencies. After a brief discussion, it was decided to table till next meeting on October 28th, 2024.

Mr. Grimes was asked to make up separate Ordinances for each utility: water, sewer, trash, and electric, per ORC 731.19 the rates must have separate ordinances. Mr. Grimes was asked to have them at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Sutton brought up the income tax about needing to go forward with it and get it passed. He found a company, the name of the company is Rita, that will handle all of it for us. They require a retainer up front. Their fee is based on a normal range of their charge is 3% to 10% revenue collected.

Mr. Owsley said the Church of Christ will be holding the Minnion movie on November 2, 2024, trick or treat night, afterwards. It will start at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Guy – Arkada US is the contractor, paid by the State of Ohio, that will be doing our water line inventory. They check for lead, etc. on the other side of the meter.

Mr. Sutton has brought up that there have been questions concerning the water loss the Village incurred. It is required to have less than 15% water loss. The Village is less than that, at 13.3% this last month.

Guy – at last meeting is was brought up to do a \$1 resident tax on sewer. Per orc 735.30 a Village has to own their own sewer plant, water plant, etc. in order to charge for this tax. The Village does not own their own. If this was in the ordinance for sewer rates it needs to be taken out before passing the ordinance at the next meeting.

Guy – A customer of ours, OVADS, has utilities in the company name, which this company has group homes in the Village. OVADS is requesting for the utilities to be in the resident's name. She submitted signed agreements with guardians. I have talked to Mr. Grimes, Villages solicitor concerning this matter, and he said this is not legal for the Village to accept the letters. He has advised the Village he will handle this matter.

Guy – asked what are the requirements on request for records? Can the Village recover on the cost of producing? Mr. Grimes will check into this.

Eid asked the question of what we are charging for water tap fees and sewer tap fees and new service for electric customers. Do an ordinance to charge customers market price for poles.

Discussion on increase of water tap fee from \$1800.00 to \$3000.00 for residents and for commercial leave open.

Guy asked Mr. Grimes if committees should only consist of council members and if residents are allowed to be on the committee. Mr. Grimes informed all that per orc the committees should only be made up as council members.

Angela Marlow asked for the orc code.

Mr. Grimes told her he would get that for her.

Eid talked about how the Villages in brown county are kicking around the idea to meet once a month to discuss available grants and possibilities for Villages, etc. Ed suggested to vote one contact person from our Village, council member or mayor.

Guy brought up that Eid is checking into getting Spectrum phone service for Village offices and if police dept can do business with Spectrum legally. Mr. Grimes said if the Village does not have a contract with the current phone company it would be fine to change companies.

Eid is checking into altra fiber through the Village. It would help the Village out.

Mayor Jones requested executive session to discuss Fiscal Officer.

Motion by: Jerry Siebert, seconded by: Eid Edaili, to go into executive session to discuss Fiscal Officer. Vote: Mr. Owsley, Yes; Ms. Trumble, Yes; Ms. Coomer, Yes Time Out: 9:19 p.m.

Motion by: Jerry Siebert, seconded by: Eid Edaili, to return to regular session. Vote: Mr. Owsley, Yes; Ms. Trumble, Yes; Ms. Coomer, Yes Time In 9:36 p.m.

Mayor Jones requested an executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Motion by: Jerry Siebert, seconded by: Eid Edaili, to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Vote: Mr. Owsley, Yes; Ms. Trumble, Yes; Ms. Coomer, Yes Time Out 9:37 p.m.

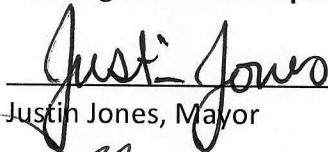
Motion by: Eid Edaili, seconded by: Jerry Siebert, to return to regular session. Vote: Mr. Owsley, Yes; Ms. Trumble, Yes; Ms. Coomer, Yes Time In 9:50 p.m.

Public Participation

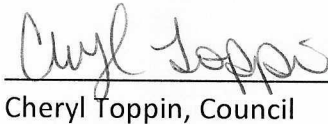
Angela Marlow asked about the orc code for citizens aren't supposed to service on committees, only council members.

Mr. Grimes said he would have to look the orc code up and at the next meeting have an answer for her.

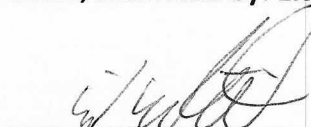
There being no further business, **Motion by: Jerry Siebert, seconded by: Eid Edaili to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**


Justin Jones, Mayor

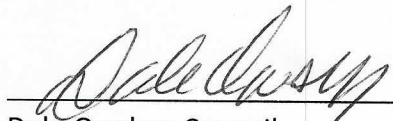

Jerry Siebert, Council

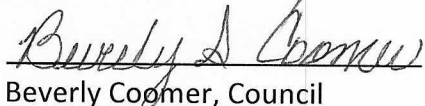

Cheryl Toppin, Council

Jayme Eldridge, Fiscal Officer


Eid Edaili, Council

Melanie Trumble, Council


Dale Owsley, Council


Beverly Coomer, Council