

VILLAGE OF HAMERSVILLE
Village Council Meeting
April 24, 2023

The Council of the Village of Hamersville met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on April 24, 2023 with all members present except Don Wilson.

Also, present was: Guy Sutton, Jerry Siebert, Travis Stone, Jason LaRue, Angela Marlow, Bev Coomer, Louie Luttrell, Teresa Gall, Charlene Bronner, Mark Gall and David Grimes.

Mayor Hill called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mrs. Spencer, Seconded by Ms. Edwards to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 20, 2023. Motion passed unanimously

Motion by Mrs. Spencer, Seconded by Ms. Edwards to approve and pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

Ms. Angela Marlow requested Mayor Hill read her resignation from Council. Mayor Hill expressed he would do so later in the meeting.

Ms. Marlow inquired if the village had any new employees. Mayor Hill confirmed they did.

Ms. Marlow inquired how often the village's sewer system is checked. Mr. LaRue confirmed that it is checked five (5) times per week.

Ms. Marlow inquired how Mr. Sutton's salary is allocated. Mrs. Dufau provided his salary allocation per village fund.

Old Business

Mrs. Spencer reported the veteran flag program has been finalized. Information regarding the program, costs, etc. will be available at the village office as well as the social media page. A brief discussion ensued regarding the program as well as the location of the flags throughout the village.

Mr. Owsley inquired if a venue had been decided for the village's July 4th event. Mayor Hill confirmed the event would be held at the school. A brief discussion ensued regarding preparations for the event with general consensus the event would be held on July 8, 2023.

Mrs. Spencer inquired to the status of the repairs to the emergency service building. Mr. Sutton confirmed the repairs had been completed.

Mrs. Spencer reported she had been researching grant opportunities for the village and had arranged a meeting with the mayor of Bainbridge to discuss how they obtained a grant for their sewer system.

Mrs. Spencer inquired the status of the FEMA funds that Chief Sutton had previously reported the village would be receiving. Mrs. Dufau confirmed the funds had been received and deposited into the village's general fund.

Mrs. Teresa Gall reported that the Hamersville Community Action Team (HCAT) have been working at the village's park. Picnic table repairs have been completed and the group continues to clean out the flower beds. Approximately seventeen volunteers have participated in the clean-up.

Mrs. Spencer reported there was a great turnout for the village's Easter egg hunt. The event was a success.

Mayor Hill reported at the last council meeting a village resident had made an accusation that a council member/school employee had been using children/student's names at council meetings. Mayor Hill expressed that he had investigated the matter and found no evidence substantiating the accusations and the matter was now closed.

Administrator/Police Chief's Report

Chief Sutton reported that due to Mr. LaRue's experience he will not be required to take the Class I licensing test for sewer operations license and will be permitted to take the Class II test.

Chief Sutton provided Council with a copy of the Consumer Confidence Report on the village's water system. A brief discussion ensued regarding the report with Mayor Hill informing everyone in attendance that should there be the need for a water boil advisory, the village would notify all residents.

Chief Sutton requested Council's approval of hiring a part-time utility department helper.

Resolution 23-10

Motion by: Mrs. Spencer

Seconded by: Ms. Edwards

To approve hiring Jason C. (J.C.) LaRue as a part-time utility department helper at a payrate of \$11.00 per hour.

Vote: Ms. Edwards, Yes; Mr. Owsley, Yes; Mrs. Spencer, Yes; Ms. Trumble, Yes; Mr. Wilson, Absent

Chief Sutton reported he had met with the representative from American Electric Power (AEP) the village's electricity provider. The village's rate will continue to decline through 2026 however Duke Energy will be increasing their transmission rate. The impact of this increase has not yet been determined. Chief Sutton reported over the course of the village's current contract with AEP there will be a cost savings of approximately \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

Chief Sutton reported the police department has seized property that needs to be disposed of such as cars, motorcycles, guns and miscellaneous property. He reported that the property has been released by the court and it is the discretion of the village to dispose of them. A discussion ensued regarding the disposal process with Solicitor Grimes expressing that items that have a value of less than \$1,000.00 could be disposed of however items with a value of greater than \$1,000.00 or more would have to be sold by the bid process.

Ms. Marlow inquired how seized money was handled. Chief Sutton expressed it is turned into the county court and if the money is forfeited in the case it is deposited into the village's drug fund. Mrs. Bronner inquired how those funds could be used. Chief Sutton stated the funds are utilized for various drug enforcement and further stated the police department is in need of a recording system for body and cruiser cameras and the current monies in the drug fund could be utilized to obtain the needed system.

Ms. Marlow inquired as to what type of ARPA grant had Chief Sutton applied for. Chief Sutton expressed that he could not provide the actual grant number however the grant was for the police department. Ms. Marlow expressed that it was her understanding that there were various uses of the ARPA grants. Chief Sutton expressed he would have to get back to her on the matter.

Mr. Louie Luttrell, electric department employee, presented information to Council regarding a 2011 Dodge 5500 bucket truck with a forty-five (45) feet reach. The truck sale price was \$69,000.00 and the dealer was willing to give \$25,000.00 trade-in credit for the village's existing bucket truck. The total out of pocket costs for the village would be \$40,000.00. Mr. Luttrell requested Council's approval to purchase the proposed truck. A discussion ensued regarding his request with general consensus of Council to table the matter for the time being.

New Business

Mayor Hill read Ms. Angela Marlow's resignation letter from her council position. Ms. Marlow's letter sighted her resignation was due to a conflict of interest serving on village council as she served on another county board.

Motion by: Mrs. Spencer, seconded by: Ms. Edwards, to accept the resignation of Angela Marlow from her village council position. Motion passed unanimously.

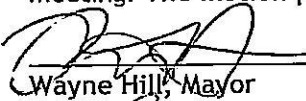
Solicitor Grimes informed Council for future reference that it was not necessary for them to vote to accept a resignation.

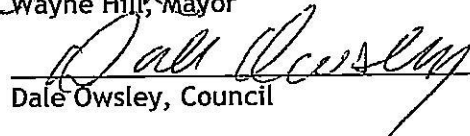
Mayor Hill explained the Ohio Revised Code states Council has thirty (30) days to fill the vacant council seat and if they fail to do so that he the mayor has thirty (30) days to do so. He reported he had received a resume from Mr. Jerry Siebert who is interested in the vacant council seat. He reported he had not received a resume from Mr. Wayne Stacy who had expressed interest in the vacant seat at the March 2023 council meeting. Mayor Hill provided copies of Mr. Siebert's resume to each council member.

Mayor Hill reported the Village of Hamersville will be hosting the Kiwanis wiffleball games the first or second week of August. He is working with the school to utilize the school property for the event and that he would have more information at the next council meeting.

Mrs. Spencer expressed to the vacant council seat there was currently an empty seat on the policy committee and requested she be permitted to be on the committee replacing Ms. Marlow. It was general consensus of Council to approve Mrs. Spencer's request.

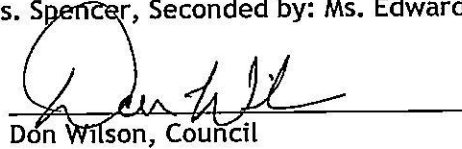
There being no further business, Motion by: Mrs. Spencer, Seconded by: Ms. Edwards, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.


Wayne Hill, Mayor


Dale Owsley, Council

Melanie Trumble, Council


Sheila G. Dufau, Fiscal Officer


Don Wilson, Council


Shelley Spencer, Council

Mary Edwards, Council

