

VILLAGE OF HAMERSVILLE
Village Council Meeting
February 20, 2023

The Council of the Village of Hamersville met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on February 20, 2023 with all members present except Mary Edwards.

Also, present was: Guy Sutton, David Grimes, Officer Travis Stone, Louie Luttrell, Jesse Spencer, Leslie Lovell, Jason LaRue, Jerry Seibert, Bev Coomer, Justin Jones, Wayne Gall, Bob Pollitt and Abigail Marlow.

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

Motion by Mrs. Spencer, Seconded by Mr. Wilson to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 16, 2023. Motion passed unanimously

Motion by: Mrs. Spencer, Seconded by: Ms. Trumble to approve the special meeting minutes of January 23, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Wilson, Seconded by Mrs. Spencer to approve and pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Chief Sutton requested Council address the previously proposed ordinance establishing rates for repairs to village utilities for damages caused by utility consumers. Council members reviewed the proposed ordinance and Chief Sutton explained the utility repairs which would fall under the proposed charges. A discussion ensued regarding the proposed charges for each utility service.

Ordinance 2023-01

Motion by: Ms. Trumble

Seconded by: Mrs. Spencer

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES FOR CONSUMERS TO REIMBURSE THE VILLAGE OF HAMERSVILLE FOR DAMAGES CAUSED TO UTILITIES AND DECLARING THE SAME AN EMERGENCY.

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

New Business

Mrs. Spencer inquired when Council would like to hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt. A discussion ensued with general consensus of Council to hold the event on April 1, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. with a rain date of April 8, 2023.

Mayor Hill reported the emergency service building dedication is scheduled for March 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Wayne Gall reported the Hamersville Community Action Team will be holding the following events:

- Free haircuts - March 4, 2023 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Free food pantry (IPM) - March 11, 2023 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mrs. Spencer inquired if they were accepting donations as well as the IPM food pantry. Mr. Gall expressed that pet food donations are much needed.

Mrs. Spencer inquired if Council had reviewed the salary increase request from the village fiscal officer. A brief discussion ensued regarding Mrs. Dufau's request.

Resolution 23-02

Motion by: Mrs. Spencer

Seconded by: Mr. Wilson

To approve a \$300.00 per month, pay increase for Fiscal Officer, Sheila Dufau effective February 2023.

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

Mr. Owsley inquired if Council would like to have a July 4th event again this year. Council briefly discussed the matter with Mayor Hill recommending they find a better venue for the event.

Ms. Marlow inquired the status of the repairs to the emergency service building. Chief Sutton reported that the repairs could not be submitted to the insurance company as they could not be linked to a specific event. Chief Sutton further stated that he was still awaiting an estimate for the repairs.

Ms. Marlow requested clarification as to how utility payments are posted in relation to the due date. Chief Sutton explained that payments made online or placed in the drop box after office hours on the due date are posted the next business day and no late fees are charged.

Ms. Marlow inquired if Council would be readdressing the village building code. Chief Sutton explained the village's current ordinance addresses primarily the structure size and location on the property. All other building code is governed by Brown County. After a brief discussion, it was general consensus of Council to review the existing ordinance.

Mayor Hill announced there would be a retirement party for Fire Chief Denny Schneider on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. The retirement party would be open to members of the community.

Mr. Louie Luttrell, Village Electric Employee, presented a proposal for the purchase of a new bucket truck. The proposed truck being a 2011 F550 bucket truck with 240,000 miles. The purchase price being \$45,265.00 but with \$30,000.00 credit for the trade-in the net out-of-pocket for the village would be \$15,265.00. A discussion ensued regarding the proposed purchase as well as options for funding the purchase. It was general consensus of Council to purchase the truck and utilize monies from the American Rescue Plan fund to make the purchase. Mrs. Dufau provided the necessary resolutions required to use the ARP funds.

Resolution 23-03

Motion by: Mrs. Spencer

Seconded by: Mr. Wilson

Authorizing Expenditure from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds and to elect to use the standard allowance and its presumption of revenue loss due to the public health emergency and to use the amount herein to fund government services.

The project is hereby authorized and shall be paid for from the ARPA funds in the amount of/an amount not to exceed \$15,265.00.

The project described herein serves the objectives of the Act by providing services traditionally proved by government, namely:

*Public infrastructure support

Accordingly, the project is in the best interest of the Village and is deemed a priority for the community.

No obligations, paid under the authority of this Resolution were incurred prior to March 3, 2021.

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

Administrator's Report

Chief Sutton requested Council prioritize the projects they would like to complete. He was aware of several that had been discussed.

Chief Sutton reported that he would be making payment to the Village for the audit findings that were issued against him.

Chief Sutton recommended Council consider hiring a part-time employee to assist the utility supervisor. The employee would be trained to assist both the utility supervisor and the electric employee. He recommended the part-time employee be hired for twenty (20) hours per week at a rate of \$11.00 per hour. A brief discussion ensued regarding his recommendation with general consensus of Council to table the matter.

Chief Sutton reported he would be meeting with the EPA as new laws regarding the sewer services went into effect in 2018. He would provide more information to Council as to what actions would need to be taken in order to be in compliance.

Ms. Marlow inquired about a court computer fund. Mrs. Dufau explained that several years prior the Council had suspended collecting for the court computer fund but the purpose of having one was to save funds for equipment and computer software for the mayor's court clerk. She reported that she and the mayor's court clerk had discussed recommending that Council reinstate collecting funds for the court computer in order to save monies to purchase the full version of the mayor's court software. Mrs. Spencer recommended tabling the matter for the time being.

Ms. Marlow inquired how the proposed grant monies from the police department grant could be used. A brief discussion ensued and it was general consensus of Council to table the matter for further discussion.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mrs. Dufau presented the 2023 permanent appropriation budget for Council's approval.

Resolution 23-04

Motion by: Mr. Wilson

Seconded by: Mrs. Spencer

To approve the 2023 permanent appropriation budget.

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

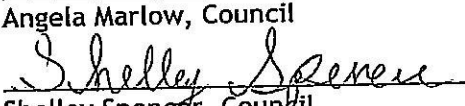
Other Business

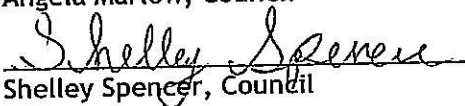
Mr. Louie Luttrell, Village Electric Employee, requested a pay raise. Ms. Marlow inquired when was the last time the Council and Mayor had received a pay raise. Solicitor Grime's stated that council members and the mayor could not receive pay raises during their terms. Mrs. Spencer recommended tabling Mr. Luttrell's request.

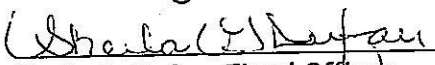
Mr. Justin Jones inquired if the police cruiser dashcams had been installed. Chief Sutton reported they had not yet been installed due to lack of funding to do so.

There being no further business, Motion by: Mr. Wilson, Seconded by: Mr. Owsley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

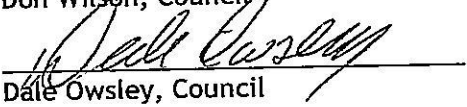

Wayne Hill, Mayor

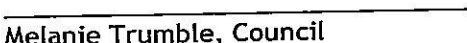

Angela Marlow, Council


Shelley Spencer, Council


Sheila G. Dufau, Fiscal Officer


Don Wilson, Council


Dale Owsley, Council


Melanie Trumble, Council


Mary Edwards, Council