

VILLAGE OF HAMERSVILLE
Village Council Meeting
August 21, 2023

The Council of the Village of Hamersville met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on August 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Shelley Spencer, Dale Owsley, Melanie Trumble, and Mary Edwards.

Also present were: Mayor Wayne Hill, Police Chief/Village Administrator Guy Sutton, Sgt. Travis Stone, Asst. Village Administrator Melissa Zahn, Utility Supervisor Jason Larue and Solicitor David Grimes, and Temporary Fiscal Officer Sandra Arrasmith.

Residents Angela Marlow, Beverly Coomer, Jesse Spencer, Bob Pollitt, Leslie Lovell, and Charlene Bronner.

Mayor Hill called the meeting to order with the pledge at 7:07 p.m.

A representative of AEP was scheduled to attend the meeting but could not make it.

Ms. Edwards moved and Mr. Owsley seconded to approve the minutes from the July regular meeting. Motion carried.

Financial:

Ms. Trumble moved and Ms. Spencer seconded to approve payment of the current bills. Motion carried.

Financial reports for July were reviewed.

Public Comments

Mayor Hill presented questions from residents:

Leslie Lovell –

how many committee meetings have there been since the last regular meeting?

One Finance Committee meeting.

How many times can a citizen sue the town?

As many times as they want.

Charlene Bronner –

how did change of meeting procedure occur?

The Mayor charged Ms. Spencer with creating an agenda to help streamline the meetings.

Who is the new sewer employee?

JC Larue was hired part time at \$11 per hour.

This is a great Council team. You can't control what has happened in the past, only move forward.

Old Business:

Ms. Spencer – mail delivery: I contacted our State Representative and got the USPS contact info. At box renewals, with documentation of your address, if you don't get mail delivery, the box is free.

Mayor – the postmaster has a policy that if the PO box is not listed, the mail is set aside for a month before sending it back. You can ask if any mail has been set aside.

Committees:

The Finance Committee met to discuss the audit, credit card policy, public records request policy, and utility billing adjustments review.

Mayor's Court

Recommendation is to turn everything in by the first of the month.

Deposits are always made by the 7th.

Other:

Do policies need to be read in their entirety?

Mr. Grimes – caption and title is enough.

Council will take home and read over.

Ms. Spencer – need to order a records poster.

After five years, unclaimed funds can be moved into the General Fund. There is currently \$8771.90 in the Unclaimed Fund.

Resolution 23-22

Ms. Spencer moved and Ms. Edwards seconded to move the money from Unclaimed Funds to the General Fund. Motion carried.

Sandra Arrasmith, a Visiting Clerk with the Auditor of State's office, is being considered as Temporary Fiscal Officer. This would be on a temp to hire basis at \$25 per hour.

Resolution 23-23

Ms. Edwards moved and Ms. Trumble seconded to hire Sandra Arrasmith as temp to hire Fiscal Officer at \$25 per hour, effective immediately. Motion carried.

Utilities:

Mr. Sutton - fire hydrant down by Ms. Spencer's house, would like to recognize how much time and effort was put in to repair that.

Police:

There's been a lot of concern about the bodycam issue. We have the cameras but haven't had a tech savvy person to put them in. We now have someone to take care of it. We are 100% compliant.

There was a comment at the last meeting about the K-9 and 96 hours of training. It's only required that dogs be able to pass certification.

ARPA grant:

Ms. Spencer sent letter of intent for the ARPA grant. The deadline for the application was August 15th but they recommend to send the application anyway.

Mr. Sutton will get the sidewalk estimate to Ms. Spencer.

Mayor – what's the worst section?

Mr. Larue – Lucas down to Mill St. Around 600 feet.

Sewer:

Ms. Spencer – we need to go to Mt. Orab and see if they can buy out the sewer system or something. At least go to their Council meeting and have the conversation. Costs are going up every year.

Mr. Larue – the system is 25 years old.

Mr. Sutton – I don't know how much is left on the bond.

Mayor – maybe we could renegotiate the pricing. I will contact them to initiate the conversation.

Mr. Sutton – if they take over everything, they can raise the prices to whatever they want.

New Business:

Mayor – we've gotten three veteran's banners.

Ms. Spencer – now five.

Rename street between Fire station and Police Dept. for Denny Schneider and James Canter.

Ms. Spencer – the job postings in the newspaper are pretty vague.

Have we done any drug testing or background checks?

Mr. Sutton – background checks were done, random drug testing.

Ms. Spencer – I printed off a job description for Fiscal Officer; it was two pages. If the Visiting Clerk doesn't stay, we need to make sure we hire someone who has the knowledge needed to do the job.

Ms. Spencer – will we be doing the Halloween decorating contest again?

Mayor – yes. Halloween is on a Tuesday. Tentatively, Beggar's Night will be on the 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., with a rain date of October 31st.

Mr. Sutton – how much to allocate for candy?

Mayor – ask for donations, go from there.

Ms. Spencer – schedule the tree lighting?

Mayor – Thanksgiving is on the 23rd. We usually do it the next day.

Tree lighting will be on the November 24th.

Ms. Trumble – will cookies with Santa be on the same day?

Mayor – we can talk about it at our next meeting.

Ms. Zahn – I'd like to have an employee time off request form. It can be tracked better and make payroll easier.

I also get asked 'why is there a minimum bill that I have to pay?' Would like to have a policy that could be given with a utility application that explains why.

Presented drafts of both.

Mr. Sutton – time off request form would go against policy. When you take time off, you're not requesting it; it's earned.

Ms. Spencer – there needs to be something to track the time off.

Discussion.

Mayor – let's work on a form that's acceptable for everyone.

Ms. Edwards – this is a good starting point.

Ms. Edwards moved and Ms. Trumble seconded to accept the draft policy explaining rates.

Motion passed by yes vote of all, except Ms. Spencer.

Ms. Spencer – can we wait until the sewer rates go up before sending the info out? Rates are going up this month.

Mayor – vetoed. Will revisit at the next meeting.

Ms. Marlow – who is the sewer worker coming from Mt. Orab? Not Jason's son.

Mr. Larue – he's coming from the EPA.

Ms. Zahn – I've done some research with other villages about notifications of possible water leaks. Theirs seem to work better.

Mr. Larue – could put a notice on the door that there may be a leak.

Draft policy for water leak, notification and payment arrangements.

Discussion.

The Mayor presented an ordinance establishing a Records Commission as an emergency measure. The Commission would consist of the Mayor, Village Clerk, and a Council member appointed by the Mayor. A secretary would also be appointed.

Ms. Spencer moved and Ms. Edwards seconded to approve establishing a Records Commission.

Motion carried.

The Mayor appointed Ms. Spencer to the Records Commission. Possibly Melissa?

Ms. Marlow – I thought according to the Ohio Revised Code, there should be three disinterested parties.

Mr. Grimes – Village is different than a city. The Committee doesn't have to be formed tonight. Also, doesn't need to be open to the public.

Ms. Edwards moved and Ms. Spencer seconded to enter executive session at 8:46 p.m. to discuss litigation.

Motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Spencer – yes, Mr. Owsley – yes, Ms. Trumble – yes, Ms. Edwards – yes.

Ms. Spencer moved and Ms. Edwards seconded to exit executive session at 8:53 p.m. Motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Spencer – yes, Mr. Owsley – yes, Ms. Trumble – yes, Ms. Edwards – yes.

No action taken.

Angela Marlow, Beverly Coomer, and Matt Miller-Novak are to be paid \$9500.

Ms. Spencer – I have put together advance notification of meetings. You can request to be put on a mailing list. The notice will be sent five days in advance.

Ms. Edwards – Shelly, great job with the post office. Your drivers license, or a utility bill can be used for documentation for a PO box.

Mr. Sutton – there's been so much misinformation put out on Facebook, I want to address it. Tim Schroeder does towing for the Village. There were pictures posted of him getting arrested; he was not charged.

Charlene Bronner – there were also posts that we're related; we're not.

Mr. Sutton – the ARPA grant money was not for sidewalks, snowplows, etc. The grant is only to supplement the Police Dept.

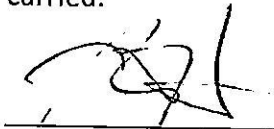
Another post was about policing for profit. The budget for the whole Village is around \$2 million. The Police budget is around \$100,000, 5% of the total budget. We're not stopping cars that are only a few miles over the speed limit.

Cops don't always agree with the laws but their job is to enforce it.

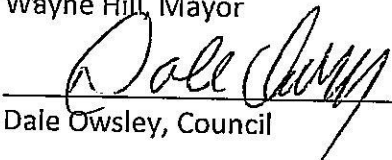
There were discussions about the K-9s. Mine isn't certified yet; he got hurt. I paid for the K-9 out of my own pocket. Travis had a fundraiser for his. The only thing the Village has paid for of any significance is vet bills.

Ms. Spencer – I have also been personally attacked. Backhanded comments that don't need to happen. That's why I'm not on Friends of Hamersville on Facebook. I joined this Council to help the Village.

Ms. Spencer moved and Ms. Edwards seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried.



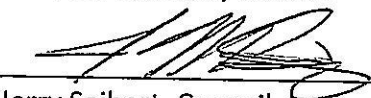
Wayne Hill, Mayor



Dale Owsley, Council



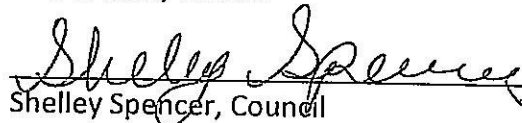
Melanie Trumble, Council



Jerry Seibert, Council



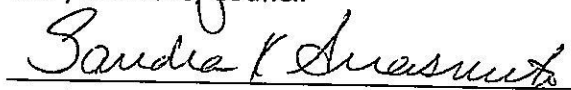
Don Wilson, Council



Shelley Spencer, Council



Mary Edwards, Council



Sandra Arrasmith, Fiscal Officer