

VILLAGE OF HAMERSVILLE
Village Council Meeting
September 19, 2022

The Council of the Village of Hamersville met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on September 19, 2022 with all members present.

Also, present was: Guy Sutton, Travis Stone, Jason LaRue, Jake Spencer, Jack Hanes, Ashley Smith, Eric McKinney, Abigail Marlow, Anton Schoenbechler, Beverly Coomer, Justin Jones, Teresa Gall and David Grimes.

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

Public Participation

Mr. Eric McKinney, Clark Township Trustee, addressed Council and provided information regarding the township's upcoming fire/EMS tax levy renewal. A brief discussion ensued regarding the proposed tax levy renewal.

Mr. Anton Schoenbechler addressed Council regarding the following matters:

- Waterline dug up on his property approximately four weeks ago that has still not been leveled out.
- Property which a join his that the yard has not been maintained all summer.
- Incorrect street signs
- Dips in the street where the gas lines were installed.

Council discussed all the matters and concerns Mr. Schoenbechler presented.

Motion by Mr. Wilson, Seconded by Ms. Edwards to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 22, 2022. Motion passed unanimously

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

Old Business

Mayor Hill reported he had made multiple phone calls regarding the veteran banner program but had not been able to reach anyone regarding the matter.

Mrs. Spencer inquired if any follow-up had been done regarding purchasing a side-by-side for snow removal. Council discussed possible options for snow removal.

Resolution 22-16

Motion by: Mrs. Spencer

Seconded by: Ms. Marlow

To approve retaining Clark Township for snow removal in the Village. The Village to compensate Clark Township for their labor, equipment and materials.

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

Mrs. Spencer inquired if any follow-up had been done regarding accepting utility bill payments online. A brief discussion ensued regarding the matter including the possibility of setting up a village website.

Mrs. Spencer recommended Council amend its current noise ordinance to clarify the times and type of noise. Ms. Marlow recommended committees be established, one committee to review current ordinances and make recommendations for amendments if necessary. Ms. Trumble concurred that committees should be established.

Mrs. Spender inquired if actions were being taken to address the past due utility accounts. A discussion ensued regarding the matter.

Mrs. Spender inquired the status of the ARPA funding. Chief Sutton reported he had received confirmation the Village would be receiving approximately \$160,00.00 over a two-year period to be used as supplemental income for the police department. Mrs. Dufau confirmed the ARPA grant was different funding than that of the American Rescue Plan funds which the Village had already received. Mrs. Dufau further explained what those funds could be utilized for.

Mr. Owsley inquired the status of Hanna Park. Chief Sutton reported he was still trying to obtain approval from the village's insurance company for the hold harmless agreement required by Duke Energy. Mayor Hill reported they had tried to obtain other property for a village park but were not successful.

Mrs. Spencer asked Solicitor Grimes if had further information regarding the mail delivery issue in the Village. Solicitor Grimes recommended Council approve an ordinance permitting mailboxes for delivery on village side streets. After further discussion, it was general consensus of Council that Mayor Hill and Solicitor Grimes look into the matter further.

Ms. Edwards inquired the status of addressing residents desire for owning chickens in the Village. Council briefly discussed the matter with general consensus to table the matter until the next meeting.

Ms. Marlow requested Chief Sutton provide more police department statistics and mayor's court information in his monthly reports he submits to Council.

Ms. Marlow expressed she was still waiting for a copy of the village's emergency plan and inquired if there was an inventory of supplies for an emergency. A discussion ensued regarding the matter with Chief Sutton expressing that the village is short-staffed and there were not enough support personnel to do all the thing Ms. Marlow requests and recommended she prioritize her request. The discussion continued regarding the village's emergency plan with Mr. Wilson expressing that people should take personal responsibility for their own safety plan.

Ms. Marlow requested a copy of the work Chief Sutton had completed on a sewer grant. Chief Sutton explained that the grant and work he had completed on it was prior to COVID-19 and the grant was no longer valid nor any of the work he had completed would be pertinent. Ms. Marlow continued to press Chief Sutton on the matter causing disruption to the meeting. Mayor Hill struck the gavel calling the meeting to order and expressed to Ms. Marlow that he would not permit her to badger or harass any village employee.

Ms. Marlow inquired if village police officers wear body cameras. Chief Sutton reported the Village owns body cameras as well as cameras for the police department cruisers. He further reported the cruiser cameras had not yet been installed and once both types of cameras are functional the department will be utilizing them. Ms. Trumble recommended Council members do a ride-along with a village police officer as she had done two ride-along and learned a great deal about the department and its officers.

Mayor Hill reported he had been researching options for a village sewer plant. Two possible options include approaching the owners of the Flash Football property or possibly obtaining a loan. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding financing options for building a sewer plant. Council directed Chief Sutton to obtain further information regarding the matter and report his findings at the next meeting.

New Business

Chief Sutton reported on the following:

- Contacted by FEMA regarding funds still due to the Village
- Obtained a K-9 for Officer Travis Stone

Mayor Hill reported the judging for the Halloween Decorating Contest will be Friday, October 28, 2022.

Mayor Hill requested Council set the date for the Village Christmas tree lighting ceremony. After a brief discussion it was general consensus of Council to hold the ceremony on November 28, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Dufau requested Council approve an ordinance regarding refunding overpayments of mayor's court citations.

Ordinance 2022-05

Motion by: Mr. Wilson

Seconded by: Ms. Edwards

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING REFUNDS OF OVERPAYMENTS AND DECLARING THE SAME AN EMERGENCY

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

Ms. Marlow inquired how the management of the village sign was going to be handled. A discussion ensued regarding the matter with Solicitor Grimes recommending Council adopt a policy governing the sign usage. Mayor Hill expressed the sign is governed by the Village and he would approve the content that was put on the sign.

Mr. Jason LaRue, Utility Supervisor, reported the water would be shut-off for one day for repairs at West Main, Travis and Adkins Street. Residents would be notified.

Mayor Hill requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion by: Mrs. Spencer, seconded by: Mr. Wilson, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion passed unanimously. Time Out: 8:50 p.m.

Motion by: Mrs. Spencer, seconded by: Mr. Wilson, to return to regular session. Motion passed unanimously. Time In: 9:20 p.m.

Resolution 22-17

Motion by: Mr. Wilson

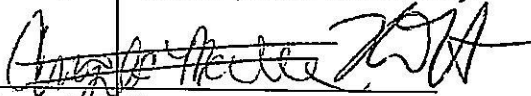
Seconded by: Ms. Edwards

To approve increasing Melissa Zahn's payrate to \$18.00 per hour effective pay period beginning September 17, 2022.

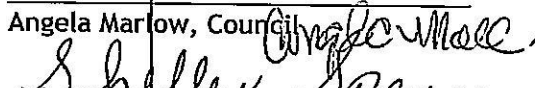
Vote: Ms. Edwards, Yes; Ms. Marlow, Yes; Mr. Owsley, Yes; Mrs. Spencer, Yes;
Ms. Trumble, Yes; Mr. Wilson, Yes

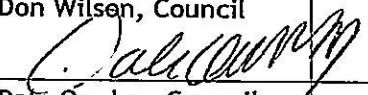
Mayor Hill reminded Council that their online presence should reflect positively on the Village.

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

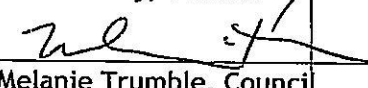
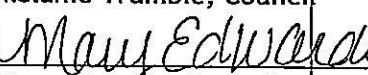

Wayne Hill, Mayor


Don Wilson, Council

Angela Marlow, Council

Shelley Spencer, Council


Dale Owsley, Council


Sheila G. Dufau, Fiscal Officer


Melanie Trumble, Council

Mary Edwards, Council