

VILLAGE OF HAMERSVILLE
Village Council Meeting
January 15, 2024

The Council of the Village of Hamersville met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on January 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Mary Edwards, Beverly Coomer, Jerry Seibert, Melanie Trumble, and Don Wilson. Also present were: Mayor Justin Jones, Police Chief/Village Administrator Guy Sutton, Sgt. Travis Stone, Asst. Village Administrator Melissa Zahn, and Temporary Fiscal Officer Sandra Arrasmith.
Residents: Angela Marlow, Teresa Gall, Shelley Barger, Wayne Stacey, Keith Skaggs, Jonathan Seibert.

The meeting was called to order with the pledge at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Wilson moved and Ms. Edwards seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Financial:

Mr. Wilson moved and Mr. Seibert seconded to approve payment of the current bills. Motion carried.

December financial reports were reviewed.

Old Business:

Ms. Edwards moved and Mr. Wilson seconded to approve the second reading of the ordinance renaming Clark Street to Dennis Schneider Street. Motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Edwards – yes, Ms. Coomer – no, Mr. Seibert – yes, Ms. Trumble – yes, Mr. Wilson – yes. Ms. Coomer did not approve the reading because there is no copy of the ordinance to be read.

There needs to be a new contact for the veteran's banners. Shelley Spencer was handling that. Ms. Edwards – we need to secure them better. The wind is ripping them loose. Mr. Seibert volunteered to be the contact person for the veteran's banners.

Mr. Wilson moved and Ms. Edwards seconded to approve the second reading of the ordinance 1999-23 amendment on the zoning change from lot size of 20,000 square feet to 14,500 square feet. Motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Edwards – yes, Ms. Coomer – yes, Mr. Seibert – yes, Ms. Trumble – yes, Mr. Wilson – yes.

There was discussion of the proposal from Community Savings Bank for checking. They offered 3 % for one year. Peoples Bank has offered 3.5% for six months, with a possible extension after six months. There are time constraints on the Fiscal Officer at this time of year and it would be difficult to make the change at this time. It was tabled until next meeting.

The Village Administrator recommended hiring Tim Saylor as an independent contractor for snow plowing. It would cost \$350 for each job.

Mayor Jones – he could also do part time maintenance.

Mr. Seibert – thought the Village had a plow.

Mr. Sutton – there's a 4-wheel drive truck but no plow.

Resolution 2024-01-15-1

Mr. Seibert moved and Ms. Edwards seconded to approve hiring Tim Saylor for snow plowing and part time maintenance. Motion carried.

Matt Johnson is a sewer plant operator out of Blanchester. He has a Level 3 license. He could handle all of the EPA paperwork and do five inspections per month at a monthly charge of \$1200.

Ms. Edwards – who is reading the meters?

Mr. Sutton – no one this month. They were estimated.

Resolution 2024-01-15-2

Mr. Seibert moved and Mr. Wilson seconded to approve hiring Matt Johnson as an EPA liaison. Motion carried.

Mr. Sutton – have gotten a few applications for the Utilities job. Have also talked to Jason Larue. He is willing to rebuild the Barnes pumps for \$200 each. The parts kit for each one is \$2000+.

Mr. Seibert – I think I can figure out how to rebuild the pumps.

Mayor Jones – spread the knowledge; the more people who know how, the better.

Discussion of options.

Resolution 2024-01-15-3

Mr. Seibert moved and Ms. Trumble seconded to approve hiring Jason Larue to rebuild the pumps. Motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Edwards – yes, Ms. Coomer – yes, Mr. Seibert – yes, Ms. Trumble – yes, Mr. Wilson – yes.

Mr. Sutton – we need to look into getting a front loader or rough terrain forklift to move the pumps.

Ms. Coomer – is there anyone who wants full time?

Mr. Sutton – yes, but each person needs to be evaluated on qualifications, bonding, licenses.

Mr. Seibert – what's the pay for full time?

Mr. Sutton – \$20 per hour.

Mayor Jones – David Gast doesn't have the time to be Magistrate. He recommends Jacqueline O'Hare.

Ordinance 2024-01-01

Ms. Edwards moved and Mr. Seibert seconded to approve hiring Jacqueline O'Hare as Magistrate at \$500 per Mayor's Court session. Motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Edwards – yes, Ms. Coomer – yes, Mr. Seibert – yes, Ms. Trumble – yes, Mr. Wilson – yes.

Mayor Jones – should we change the password to the Facebook account? Not sure who handled it. Maybe Wayne Hill or Shelley Spencer.

Ms. Edwards – have we looked into the possibility of having a ‘one call’ communication system?
Ms. Zahn – I have checked into it. They’ll get back to me.

Mr. Sutton – the ARPA grant that we have now, would like to amend. I want to see what they’ll let me do for the Officers we have since we have a hard time finding Officers. Will try to get higher pay for a year.

The Police Dept. only has around a \$100,000 budget, aside from the grant.

Mr. Wilson moved and Mr. Seibert seconded to approve amending the ARPA safety grant purpose. Motion carried.

Mr. Sutton - a pre-grant application for the infrastructure grant needs to be in by the end of the month.

Mr. Seibert – what are the parameters for the pre-grant?

Mr. Sutton – scope of the project, length of the project. The EPA doesn’t like funding Villages.

Mr. Wilson – the Village has a 0% chance of growth without infrastructure.

Ms. Marlow – thought at one time Council voted to look into a grant writing firm.
That’s been a while ago.

Mr. Sutton – I don’t care who does it, just as long as it gets done.

Mr. Seibert – give me the information and I’ll take care of it.

Ms. Barger – how long have we had this? Why is it just now being brought to Council?

Mr. Sutton – brought it to Council last year.

Mayor Jones – I just found out about it right before I was sworn in.

Mr. Wilson moved and Ms. Edwards seconded to move forward with the infrastructure grant.
Motion carried.

Mr. Stacey – how many Officers would be sharing in that ARPA grant money?

Mr. Sutton – four.

Ms. Coomer – how long does the grant money last?

Mr. Sutton – the end of February 2025.

Mr. Stacey - \$350 to plow. Will they be doing the back streets?

Mayor Jones – yes. ODOT does 125 and 774.

Ms. Barger – did we get bids on any of this? Matt Johnson and Tim Saylor.

Ms. Edwards – when we advertise, we can’t get anyone.

Mr. Stacey – the Brown Co. paper is the least effective way to advertise.

Ms. Edwards – just using this person for the next six months to get the EPA off our backs.

Mr. Stacey – what makes someone unbondable?

Mr. Sutton – a felony conviction, drugs.

Ms. Barger – advertise on Facebook. It’s free.

Ms. Marlow – or Ohio Means Jobs.

Ms. Barger – if Guy is retiring in March, are you waiting until he retires to find someone else?

Mr. Sutton – Travis Stone.

Mr. Skaggs – you can't put new sidewalks in until new storm drains are installed. Should be in the minutes from 10-11 years ago.

Ms. Barger – can we look at the minutes to see if a grant writer was approved and paid for a couple of years ago?

Mr. Sutton – we paid Katy Bobeck \$500 about five years ago.

Ms. Marlow:

You voted that the ordinance was read twice but there is no ordinance to read. How can the ordinance be read?

When someone signs up for utilities, they get paperwork. I signed up two years ago and got nothing.

I think you need to vote to put an ad in the paper for a lawyer.

Open Council seats have been handled in different ways. I'm requesting that Council approve and ordinance on procedure for open Council seats.

Ms. Trumble needs to be sworn in.

Six months ago, you voted to consult a firm about a sewer grant.

You said the ARPA grant can be amended. You should amend it to include technology.

I didn't know the Mayor's Court Fund was separate. Reports should be brought to Council once a year and it should be audited four times a year by the Mayor's Court Clerk.

Mr. Seibert – I gave the Mayor my resume when the Council seat was open.

Mr. Stacey – the Mayor asked by a few questions about my background but did not ask for a resume. Said he'd call but he didn't.

Ms. Marlow – need to check on conflict of interest in positions.

Ms. Zahn – everyone gets the form with instructions and procedures when signing up for utilities. Gave copy to Justin.

Mr. Seibert moved and Mr. Wilson seconded to enter executive session to discuss personnel compensation. Motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Edwards – yes, Ms. Coomer – yes, Mr. Seibert – yes, Ms. Trumble – yes, Mr. Wilson – yes.

Ms. Coomer moved and Ms. Edwards seconded to exit executive session. Motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Edwards – yes, Ms. Coomer – yes, Mr. Seibert – yes, Ms. Trumble – yes, Mr. Wilson – yes.
No action taken.

David Grimes contract expired December 31st. Need to advertise for attorney.

Mr. Seibert – can place ad on Indeed for \$7.

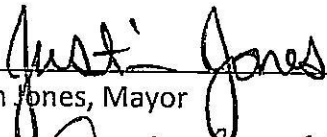
Facebook is free until you expand to other than friends and family.

Ms. Coomer – need to advertise electronically.

Mr. Seibert moved and Ms. Trumble seconded to the update ordinance 1990-16 for five locations to post notifications in the Village: Administration building, Police Dept., school, post office, and McKinney Mart. Motion carried.

Ms. Marlow – need to post public records policy in the administration building.

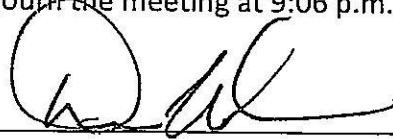
Ms. Edwards moved and Mr. Wilson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.


Justin Jones, Mayor


Dale Owsley, Council


Melanie Trumble, Council


Jerry Seibert, Council


Don Wilson, Council


Beverly Coomer, Council

Mary Edwards, Council

Sandra Arrasmith, Fiscal Officer