

**REGULAR MEETING
December 4th, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by Mayor Barbara J. Lloyd with the recitation of the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

Roll Call – In Attendance – Paul Lowe, Kim St. Clair, Ed Harlan, Bo Coconis, Mike Nunley, and Greg Gibson

Paul motioned to accept the minutes of the Regular Village Council Meeting held November 2nd, 2023. Seconded by Mike. Lowe – yay, St. Clair – yay, Harlan – yay, Nunley – yay, Coconis - yay, and Gibson - yay. Motion Carried.

Ed motioned to accept the minutes of the Special Village Council Meeting held November 20th, 2023. Seconded by Bo. Gibson – yay, Coconis – yay, Nunley – yay, Harlan – yay, St. Clair - yay, and Lowe - yay. Motion Carried.

Ed moved to dispense with the Fiscal Officer’s Bank Reconciliation Report for November 2023 as we are awaiting the bank statement. Seconded by Greg. Lowe – yay, St. Clair – yay, Harlan – yay, Nunley – yay, Coconis - yay, and Gibson - yay. Motion Carried.

Mayor Lloyd asked Council if they saw the November 2023 Mayor’s Court Data?

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

Drake Prouty – I am here to speak on a very important topic and that is I decided to run for County Commissioner. I am running for the seat currently held by Molly Crooks as she is not running for reelection in the 2024 election. I received the Republican endorsement earlier this year and the March primary is just around the corner. I thought I would come and introduce myself to those who don’t know me. Public Service has been my life. For 30 years I have been on the Dresden Fire Department, 30 years in law enforcement (5 years at the Village of Dresden and 26 years at the Muskingum County Sheriff’s Office). My full-time job is at Sidwell Materials for the past 18 years (in human resources and safety) so I am a south ender but live in the Dresden area. My plans for South Zanesville and all of Muskingum County is to bring my experience of 5 terms as a Township Trustee in Jefferson Township and now my first term in Case Township. My goal is economic development as well as staking care of our established businesses. That is my platform and it will continue to be. Another thing is employer retention, we have 900 plus employees at the county and keeping those employees is very difficult so we need to figure out how to get wages and benefits packages up so we can retain our people here within the county. The cost of homes and the lack of renting all of that is very important and we all need to come up with a strategic plan to bring some affordable housing to our county. I also have 12 years of water and sewer experience on the Muskingum County Water Board. There is no surprise that the Maysville Water Authority does need some assistance and I think the County can help. Mayor Lloyd wished Drake all the luck and said if it mattered that she would endorse him as well. Drake said it does matter.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Administrator – Danny Wiseman

Nothing

Fire – Russell Taylor

There was a total of 109 runs for the month of November 2023 along with 1 dropped call. YTD Call is up to 1,134 calls and we will break last year’s record. They were as follows:

Fire – 18 Calls	EMS – 91 Calls
2 Fire Calls	72 Transports
5 Service Calls	16 Refusals
9 Canceled Calls	5 Lift Assists
1 Hazmat Call	2 Mutual Aid Transport
1 False Alarm	3 Mutual Aid MVA/No Pt of Contact

The breakdown (location) of where the 101 calls for service are as follows:

Springfield Township – 64	Village of South Zanesville – 25
Newton Township – 16	City of Zanesville – 4

We had 3, 839 people show up for pancake day.

The Christmas parade went really well, but we already spoke to the person that owns the Family Dollar lot and the start could be moved down there. This year there was over 100 entries.

Meat raffle went really well and the Fire Depart had a really good Christmas Party. The next meat raffle will be on January 13th.

Police – Mark Ross

In the month of November 2023, the Police Department, with 1 fulltime and 1 part time officer, handled 62 incidents. Last year, in November of 2022, with two fulltime officers, we handled 86 incidents. Out of the November 2023 stats we had 24 traffic enforcement actions, 1 warrant arrest, 2 misdemeanor arrests, 3 felony arrests that included a DV, Sexual Pandering and Passing bad checks.

As you know, 2023 Election night did not fair well for our Police Levy, failing with 192 yes votes and 208 no votes. Due to the failure of the Levy, the Muskingum County Prosecutor, Ron Welch, reached out to me and wanted to help with purchasing needed equipment that the levy would have generated. Welch decided to upgrade our in-car Computers purchasing 3 new Panasonic Toughbook touch screen tablets. That includes mounts, internal GPS, Verizon hotspots, vehicle power supplies and lighted up wireless keyboards in the amount of \$13,608.00. The Computers are on order and will be expected to arrive around the middle of January 2024.

In addition, a member of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, knowing our situation with Unit #3 and the loss of our levy, directed me to contact the OSP fleet supervisor about obtaining a fully equipped Dodge Charger. Contact was made, a letter was drafted to explain our situation and on November 16th I received a call from the OSP Fleet Supervisor that we were approved for a fully equipped Dodge Charger with 3 to 4 weeks. OSP is in the process of transitioning to Dodge Durango's and they are pulling off all their Dodge Chargers from patrol. I was advised we would be getting a well maintenance vehicle to replace Unit #3.

Finally, I have yet to receive any applications for the fulltime officer position. However, I was able to replace an Auxiliary position with Officer Kurtis Rogers, he works fulltime with the postal service. I'm still actively searching for a fulltime officer. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to bring those to my attention.

Council Member Coconis said one thing I would like to do is type up a thank you to Prosecutor Ron Welch and all of us to sign in appreciation for the computers at the January 2024 meeting. Obviously that is something we were not expecting. Chief Ross said that Ron did ask if there could be a media session when we get everything received and installed. Get WHIZ TV/Radio and the Zanesville Times Recorder involved.

Council Member St. Clair stated that she has had a few people when this levy was going through about how glad they are to have you here in the Village and I think with these relationships you have outside the Village really benefit us as well.

Water – Danny Wiseman

We 22 Work Orders, 21 completed and 1 new. We also had 37 locates.

Update on the Generators is that the Water Plant Generator is supposed to put in operation tomorrow and AEP is trying to make final hookups tomorrow at the Well Field.

Street – Danny Wiseman

We are getting ready to purchase our load of cold mix so we will have it on hand for patching during the winter.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Personnel Committee – Council Member Gibson – We discussed the hiring of a new police officer and we felt we need to raise the hourly rate and advertise it at \$18.50 per hour and after 6 months (probationary time) up to \$19.00 per hour. If that does not work we will try some other stuff. Mayor Lloyd asked for a motion for that recommendation. Kim motioned to have the starting salary of the new Police Officer to be \$18.50 per hour and then \$19.00 per hour after the probationary 6-month period. Seconded by Bo. Gibson – yea, Coconis – yay, Nunley – yay, Harlan - yay, St. Clair, and Lowe - yay. Motion Carried.

Finance/Insurance Committee – Council Member Lowe – We looked at all of the options and quotes and of course the plans with consideration for the employees to ensure appropriate coverage, similar to what is already in existence to this past year. We may have to adjust some. With this new plan that we are recommending is ALLSTATE Core Value which the rate is about the same as last year. Last year it was \$21,642 per month and change and this plan comes in at about the same number (cost). The coverage is better if you compare numbers. Rate and benefits are good. You have good providers locally and even if you go out of network it will be covered with a little more out of your pocket, so we recommend as a committee that we go with ALLSTATE Core Value instead of renewing with Anthem. Council Member Coconis asked if that was for the Core Value at \$5,500. Council Member Lowe said yes. Mayor Lloyd asked for a motion. Council Member Coconis motioned that we move forward with ALLSTATE Core Values \$5,500 plan. Seconded by Paul. Lowe – yay, St. Clair – yay, Harlan – yay, Nunley – yay, Coconis - yay, and Gibson - yay. Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND LETTERS

- A. Police Department Job Description**
- B. Issue I – round 38 Street Paving Info**
- C. Mayor/Council Committee Listing: New Combined Committees**
- D. Natural Gas Aggregate Purchasing Program Agreement – Need Approval.**
Ed motioned to authorize the agreement. Seconded by Kim. Gibson – yay, Coconis – yay, Nunley – yay, Harlan – yay, St. Clair - yay, and Lowe - yay. Motion Carried.
- E. Medical Insurance Renewal Info**

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 2023-12 AN ORDINANCE FOR THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH ZANESVILLE TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION TO SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

Ed motioned to pass the 3rd Reading of Ordinance 2023-12. Seconded by Kim. Lowe – yay, St. Clair - yay, Harlon – yay, Nunley – yay, Coconis – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

Ordinance 2023-13 AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH TO BE THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH ZANESVILLE AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULED SUGGESTIONS FOR THE YAR 2024

Ed motioned to pass the 3rd Reading of Ordinance 2023-13. Seconded by Bo. Gibson – yea, Coconis – yay, Nunley – yay, Harlan - yay, St. Clair, and Lowe - yay. Motion Carried.

Ordinance 2023-17

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH ZANESVILLE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY

Ed moved to suspend with the three separate readings rules of Ordinance 2023-17 pursuant to statute 731.17 of the Ohio revised Codes and declare it an emergency. Seconded by Paul. Lowe – yay, St. Clair - yay, Harlon – yay, Nunley – yay, Coconis – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

Paul motioned to pass Ordinance 2023-17. Seconded by Greg. Lowe – yay, St. Clair - yay, Harlon – yay, Nunley – yay, Coconis – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

Ordinance 2023-18

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE KEEPING OF LIVESTOCK WITHIN THE VILLAGE LIMITS OF THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH ZANESVILLE

Mike motioned to pass the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2023-18. Seconded by Ed. Gibson – yay, Coconis – yay, Nunley – yay, Harlan - yay, St. Clair, and Lowe - yay. Motion Carried.

Resolution 1110

A RESOLUTION TO MAKE THE ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF POSITION AN HOURLY PAID POSITION

Ed motioned to pass the 3rd Reading of Resolution 1110. Seconded by Greg. Lowe – yay, St. Clair - yay, Harlon – yay, Nunley – yay, Coconis – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

Resolution 1113

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUSKINGUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ACT AS THE PURCHASING AGENT AND GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATOR FOR NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM FOR THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH ZANESVILLE

Ed moved to suspend with the three separate readings rules of Resolution 1113 pursuant to statute 731.17 of the Ohio revised Codes and declare it an emergency. Seconded by Paul. Gibson – yay, Coconis – yay, Nunley – yay, Harlan - yay, St. Clair, and Lowe - yay. Motion Carried.

Greg motioned to pass Resolution 1113. Seconded by Paul. Lowe – yay, St. Clair - yay, Harlon – yay, Nunley – yay, Coconis – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

Resolution 1114

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL PERMANENT TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, ITS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND AMBULANCE SERVICES IN THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH ZANESVILLE, OHIO, AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY (RC 5705.19, RC 5705.19(I)(U) AND (W))

Ed moved to suspense with the three separate readings rules of Resolution 1114 pursuant to statute 731.17 of the Ohio revised Codes and declare it an emergency. Seconded by Mike. Lowe – yay, St. Clair - yay, Harlon – yay, Nunley – yay, Coconis – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

Ed motioned to pass Resolution 1114. Seconded by Bo. Lowe – yay, St. Clair - yay, Harlon – yay, Nunley – yay, Coconis – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Ross stated as December 7th, 2023 marijuana will be legalized in the state. According to the new law it is not a constitutional right however adults 21 years or older will be able to purchase & possess 2.5 ounces and grow 6 plants per adult to a max of 12 per household.

Being a Law Enforcement Officer for approximately 43 years enforcing our drug laws to keep drugs off the street I feel this is a bad law which there will be consequences that other states that legalized it has already seen.

- 1. People 12 to 20 years old were 5 to 6 percent more likely to try marijuana for the first time when medical use was legalized. It causes dependency and abuse.**
- 2. Marijuana use can harm learning, thinking, and memory development, and the use of the drug has been linked to mental health issues, including psychosis, as well as other physical health problems.**
- 3. Crash statistics in states after legalization, showed death rates go up 4.1% and injury rates go up 5.8% on average.**

The Ohio House Bill 341, sponsored by Representative Gary Click (R-Vickery), was introduced last Tuesday to make several revisions to the recreational marijuana law, including allowing municipalities to ban marijuana dispensaries and the home growing of cannabis plants.

I propose an Ordinance to ban marijuana usage in our parks, in public, ban dispensaries and growing marijuana within the Village. I feel if we don't you will eventually see people selling from their homes, smoking in public, and more homeless drug users in our village.

Mayor Lloyd said these are all very good points, so I am going to put this into the Rules Committee and address it again in January. Council Member Coconis stated I think every business is to ensure everything, including policies, are updated for employees as there will be some challenging aspects of this new law.

Mayor Lloyd swore in Landon Duhamel as the new Assistant Fire Chief and Jennifer Campbell and Ethan Secoy as Lieutenants.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fire Chief Taylor stated he forgot to bring up that on EMS collections we have now received over \$246,000. Kerby is now figuring it to be around \$260,000 by the end of the year.

ADJOURN

Ed moved to adjourn, seconded by Mike. Mayor Lloyd asked all to vote by stating I. All did. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Barbara Lloyd - Mayor

Chris Kerby - Clerk/Fiscal Officer