LEESBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL 5/21/2020 Mayor Shawn Priest

Mayor Shawn C. Priest called the regular May session of the Leesburg Village Council to order on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. in the Leesburg Municipal Building. No invocation was given and Mr. John Michael led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL: Present: Council Members Mrs. Rita Smith-Daulton ⊠

Mr. John Michael ⊠

Ms. Blythe Pelham ⊠

Mr. Chris Runyon ⊠

Mr. Richard Tolle ⊠

Mr. Kenny Worley ⊠

Also Present: Police Chief Shane Nolley \boxtimes

Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans ⊠

Solicitor Fred Beery ⊠

Also attending: Mr. Charlie Anderson (by phone) and Mrs. Dianna Robertson Fordyce. **I. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a. John Michael moved and Kenny Worley seconded to approve the minutes for the April 16, 2020 Regular Council meeting. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.
- b. Council reviewed the bills paid in April 2020. Richard Tolle moved and Blythe Pelham seconded the bills be approved. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.
- c. Kenny Worley moved and John Michael seconded to approve the April 2020 Utility Adjustment Journal. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

II. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Charlie Anderson – (Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans called him and put him on speaker per Mr. Anderson's request due to being quarantined for COVID-19.) Mr. Anderson wanted to approach Council regarding his property located at 54 East Main Street. Mr. Anderson stated he came down to the property last week with intentions to mow but after a couple of strips, the mower quit. Mr. Anderson stated he has another mower and wants to come down again this weekend and try to clean the property up. Mr. Anderson asked the Council if they would be willing to give him two more weeks to abate the nuisance. Mayor Priest answered Mr. Anderson by telling him maybe if he had attempted over the past couple of months to do something with the property, but you have not. In addition, the Village has mailed (sent certified) letters to you since last summer which you have refused. Mr. Anderson responded by saying he broke up with his girlfriend and she was withholding his mail. Mayor Priest stated we have tried on our end to communicate over and over again with no response. Chief Nolley also called Mr. Anderson and talked to him personally in December 2019. Mayor Priest said she feels like all of Council agrees with her that no extra time should be given and that Mr. Anderson would have to pay the \$1,000 fine as indicated in the nuisance letter. Mayor Priest stated the final answer is no extra time granted with the \$1,000 fine added in addition to the bill for the Village cleaning up the property. Mr. Anderson thanked Council for their time. Solicitor Beery stated the bill for the clean-up along with the \$1,000 will be assessed on Mr. Anderson's

property in August. Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans informed Council that after inspection by our Village Administrators, the property is covered with poison ivy/poison oak which Administrator Jason Campbell is extremely allergic to. Therefore, she suggest this job be contracted out to avoid a Workers Comp claim. After discussion, Council agreed it was okay to contract out.

Mrs. Dianna Robertson-Fordyce approached Council regarding the downtown area filling up with businesses and the need to address parking issues. Solicitor Beery stated parking violations are almost impossible since we cannot chalk tires. Councilman Chris Runyon said he feels it's time we look into downtown zoning. Mrs. Fordyce said she would like to have a Council that cares enough about the Village to do what's right and implement zoning. Council said they would look into this and thanked Mrs. Fordyce for coming.

III. LEGISLATION:

None at this time.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Chris Runyon of the Utilities Committee reported the committee met on Thursday, April 23, 2020. Those present were Chairman Chris Runyon, John Michael, Ken Worley, Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans and Mayor Shawn C. Priest. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss payment/credit card options for the Utility Department. Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans presented the Committee with information from the three choices previously discussed: Lexus Nexus, Square and Invoice Cloud. After discussion, the Committee recommends that we go with Invoice Cloud which charges \$4.95 for each transaction to the user. In addition, they will charge the village a monthly fee of \$100 for a 24 month contract to intergrade with the Village software. This payment method will be available 24 hours a day to our residents and the Utility Clerk. In addition, the Committee request the residents to be charged a yearly fee of \$2.00 on their utility bills, starting July 2020, and after that it will be charged in January of every year to pay for the software upgrade.

*Blythe Pelham moved and John Michael seconded to accept the Utilities Committee recommendations. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

V. REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Report of Police Chief Shane Nolley:

➤ Police Chief Shane Nolley's report was submitted.

Report of Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans:

- Passed around monthly reports and credit card statement for Council to sign.
- Informed Council the house located at 74 S. Fairfield Street has a small parcel of land attached to it that belongs to the Village. According to Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans, there is a sale pending for this property by Josh and Brandi Tolle and they asked if the Village would be willing to sell the parcel to them. Tracy stated she has talked to Administrator Jason Campbell and he stated there are no utilities on either parcel and currently the Village is responsible to mow this small piece of land which is a nuisance. Solicitor Beery stated the options for the Village are to sell the lot to the resident, give the lot to the resident or to give the resident a permanent easement. After discussion Council agreed to give the small parcel to the resident.

- *Kenny Worley moved and Chris Runyon seconded to give the parcel to Josh and Brandi Tolle. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.
- ➤ Informed Council the Special Audit of the Village will be starting soon.
- Tire pick-up day is set for July 17th and the Village Clean-up Days will be July 25-31st.
- ➤ Informed Council that residents will be able to pay their Utility Bills on line as of June 1, 2020.

Report of Utility/Streets Department:

➤ No Administrators Report submitted.

Report of Regional Income Tax Association (RITA):

Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans reported that \$33,042.36 was collected for the month of February 2020, \$44,036.05 was collected for the month of March 2020 and \$28,295.86 was collected for the month of April 2020.

Report of Mayor Shawn C. Priest:

- ➤ Informed Council she was recommending Council start the nuisance paper work for the Leesburg Market.
 - *Richard Tolle moved and Blythe Pelham seconded to start the nuisance paper work for the store. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.
- ➤ Informed Council there would be a parade for the Senior Class of 2020 on Friday, May 22, 2020 at the conclusion of graduation.
- ➤ Presented Council with a breakdown of the grants Jim Henry is writing for the water plant and the connection to Highland County. In addition, she gave Council a copy of a letter she wrote to Jim Henry with Solicitor Beery's approval to continue with the grant.
- ➤ Candle-lite is up and running and expanding.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Councilwoman Blythe Pelham asked Chief Nolley about the Stop Sign at the corner of South and High Street. According to Ms. Pelham, semi-trucks going to Candle-lite speed through the stop sign and the intersection. Ms. Pelham asked if we could purchase a bigger sign or a sign with blinking lights. Chief Nolley stated the stop sign is standard and regulated.
- Councilwoman Rita Smith-Daulton asked Solicitor Beery about Social Media forums and if Council look in to creating a Social Media Policy for all elected and village employees to follow. Solicitor Beery stated that "Freedom of Speech" would apply. However, having everyone sign a conflict of interest form or disclosure agreement would be a good idea but could not be enforced.
- ➤ Councilman Kenny Worley stated he wanted to discuss getting our Village Administrators some summer help. Mayor Priest requested this be tabled until we have the Committee Meetings on June 3, 2020 at 1:00 PM.
- ➤ Councilman Chris Runyon stated while he missed some Council meetings at the beginning of the year, Council discussed a new procedure for the Village mowing the abandoned/nuisance properties and he wanted to know what the new process is. Councilwoman Blythe Pelham stated she wanted to take a softer approach to mowing by having a face to face with the resident (if possible) before any letter is issued. Councilwoman Rita Smith-Daulton

stated when she voted for this new procedure, she wasn't aware of the current Ordinance (Ohio Basic Code) in place and she thinks we need to go back to the original process enforcing the Ohio Basic Code. Mayor Priest stated she agrees that we need to be less harsh. After discussion, Council decided to keep the current process enforcing the Ohio Basic Code during COVID 19 to avoid the face to face contact.

MISCELLANEOUS:

➤ Richard Tolle moved and Kenny Worley seconded to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Roll call vote 6-0. Meeting adjourned.