LEESBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL 6/17/2021

Mayor Shawn Priest

Mayor Shawn C. Priest called the regular June session of the Leesburg Village Council to order on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. in the Leesburg Municipal Building. No invocation was given and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all present.

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

Mr. John Michael ⊠

Ms. Blythe Pelham ⊠

Mr. Chris Runyon

Mr. Richard Tolle ⊠

Mr. Joel Morris ⊠

Also Present: Administrator Kenny Worley ⊠

Police Chief Shane Nolley ⊠

Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans ⊠

Solicitor Fred Beery ⊠

(arrived late)

Also attending: Mrs. Erika Hurless Miller, Mrs. Heather Hughes and Mrs. Casey McIntosh

I. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Rita Smith-Daulton moved, and Joel Morris seconded to approve the minutes for the May 20, 2021, regular Council meeting. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.
- b. Council reviewed the bills paid in May 2021. John Michael moved, and Blythe Pelham seconded the bills be approved. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.
- c. Blythe Pelham moved, and John Michael seconded to approve the May Utility Adjustment Journal. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.

II. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mrs. Casey McIntosh (along with Erika Hurless Miller and Heather Hughes) approached Council regarding the Leesburg Festival. With the Covid restrictions lifted the Leesburg Festival Committee was inquiring if there were any objections to having the festival. Mrs. McIntosh stated the festival would be on a smaller scale this year. Regardless of the festival, the Fire Department Fish Fry will still occur on Friday, August 6 and Saturday, August 7th. In addition, the 2024 World Heritage Designation may possibly be coming through during this time and could bring a quarter million people to visit our area, we need to keep the festival going. After discussion, council agreed to close Pope Street during the time of the festival for the committee. Also, John Michael said he would like to continue the donation of \$2,000 for the festival.

*Richard Tolle moved, and Rita Smith-Daulton motioned to close Pope Street for the festival. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion closed.

*John Michael moved, and Joel Morris seconded to re-instate the \$2,000 festival donation. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.

III. LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-06

AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY IN THE VILLAGE WITHOUT A PETITION.

*Blythe Pelham moved, and John Michael seconded to approve Ordinance No. 21-06. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 21-05

RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION

Whereas the Highland County Commissioners administer a financial assistance program for solid waste, recycling, and litter management purposes through the 2021 Revolving Fund Grant Program.

*Blythe Pelham moved, and John Michael seconded to approve Resolution No. 21-05. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Blythe Pelham, of the Housing Committee, reported the committee met on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Those presents were Blythe Pelham, Rita Smith-Daulton, Mayor Shawn C. Priest, Administrator Kenny Worley, and Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans (Solicitor Beery was called), John Michael and Richard Tolle were absent. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Ordinance 06-05 regarding trailers. The Committee believes this Ordinance needs to be re-written with the definition of a mobile home, a modular home, and a trailer. Solicitor Beery said there is a lot of confusion between the differences, but he describes them as follows: a trailer has a title, a metal side, metal frame and a tongue. However, the title can be surrendered to make the title real-estate. A single wide is a dressed-up trailer conveyed the same manner as a trailer. The Village can regulate single wides and trailers. A Double wide is allowed if they meet HUD certifications. A Modular Home is stick built and transported on a lot with a permanent foundation. Trailer Parks are regulated by the State. After this description from Solicitor Beery, Council asked him if he could re-write our current ordinance with notes provided by the committee and add exhibits of examples as given above.

V. REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Report of Police Chief Shane Nolley:

Chief Shane Nolley reported for the month of May 2021, there were 356 calls for service. Hours worked were as followed: Chief Nolley-160 regular, 17.5 overtime; Officer Dawson-164 regular, 0 overtime; Officer Thompson – 38.75 regular, 0 overtime; Officer Bunner-164 regular, 0 overtime. There was 1 Traffic Crash Reports, and 16 Offense Reports. Arrest Information: Arrests - 4, Traffic Citations - 4, and Warning Citations - 8. Police vehicle information: Unit 1 - 2017 Police Interceptor – 1,141 miles driven, Unit 2 - 2020 Police Interceptor – 492 miles driven, Unit 3 - 2015 Police Interceptor – 608 miles driven. Repairs: \$0 and Training: \$0.

Additional Information from Chief Nolley:

- ➤ The Police Department has 107 active case reports.
- ➤ The departments total reports received for the month of May 2021 were 16 reports, an increase of 6 reports from May 2020.

Report of Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans:

Passed around the monthly reports and credit card statement for Council to sign.

- Asked Council if they wanted RITA to send letters to our non-filing tax residents or if they wanted letters and subpoenas. After discussion Council decided to send both the letters and Administrative Subpoenas.

 *John Michael moved, and Joel Morris seconded to send both letters and Administrative Subpoenas to our non-filing residents. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.
- Asked Council if they wanted to remove the one time yearly administrative fee of \$2.00 on the utility bill since we are adding the \$1.00 monthly Storm Sewer Charge. The Admin Fee was originally placed on the bill once a year to help pay for the credit card charges. However, the credit card has proved to be highly successful, and the admin fee really is not longer needed. After discussion, council agreed to remove the fee.
 - *Blythe Pelham moved, and Rita Smith-Daulton seconded to remove the one time yearly administrative fee of \$2.00. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.
- Informed Council the yearly newsletter with the CCR report information would be going out to the residents with the July utility bills.

Report of Utility/Streets Department from Administrator Worley:

- ➤ Chris Hurless hung the Senior Banners and provided the manlift for the Village to take them down and hang the Veterans Banners.
- ➤ The company that inspected the water tower was unable to find the leak. They cleaned and serviced the tower while they were here.
- ➤ Pulled the lift station at the school because of the high meter readings. Found a pair of shorts caught in the pump which was causing all the problems. In addition, the impeller and flute need repaired before school starts up.
- Replaced starter and off float at the pump station that feeds the sewer plant.
- Repaired generator at the sewer plant.
- > Replaced voltage regulator on Swift's generator.
- > Replaced culvert pipe on Forest Avenue.
- ➤ New mower has been delivered and mowing around the Village has continued.
- > Repaired electric box downtown.
- Along with student volunteers, cleaned and mulched the Veterans Memorial.
- ➤ Bucket truck is no longer useable. Administrator Worley stated he found a Bucket Truck in Circleville in great shape for \$22,000 and informed Council he was planning on purchasing the truck.

Report of Regional Income Tax Association (RITA):

Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans reported that \$47,069.71 was collected for the month of May 2021.

Report of Mayor Shawn C. Priest:

- ➤ Informed Council the Historical Society had a drive through cookout to raise funds for the Depot that was highly successful.
- Toured the Mason Company with Blythe Pelham, Rita Smith-Daulton, and Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans. We were extremely impressed with their plant and the tour.

- ➤ Ms. Julie Bolender, the new Highland County Economic Developer met with me, Administrator Kenny Worley, and Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans. Ms. Bolender stated she was checking in to the feasibility of installing a railroad spur to help the Industrial Park. In addition, Ms. Bolender stated that the Village could possibly join the county CIC and purchase some of these dilapidated properties around town if the property does not have a lien or squatter. And the CIC could possibly lend the Village some seed money to help with our outlined projects.
- ➤ Juneteenth is not a federal holiday included on our approved list therefore, it will not be observed.
- Mayor asked Council to approve Dan Ridgeway as the Village representative to the Highland County North Joint Fire and Ambulance Board.
 *John Michael moved, and Blythe Pelham seconded to appoint Dan Ridgeway as the Village's representative to the NJFA Board. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.
- Informed Council the alley by Miller Street needs to be discussed. One map shows the alley as being open, but another map of the same year shows the alley as being closed. In addition, there is a sign at the entrance of the alley that states the alley is closed and there is no proof of an alley at that location. Mayor Priest asked Solicitor Beery if we close the alley would the property owners automatically get the land that butts up to their properties. Solicitor Beery stated the property owners would split the land down the middle. Solicitor Beery also stated that a closed alley does not necessarily mean a vacated alley. Mayor Priest asked if we vacate the alley would we need to deed the property to the residents that it butts up against. Solicitor Beery stated the property owners would need to survey the area (they could split the cost) and record the deed to their property. Solicitor Beery stated we would have a public hearing and include with the legislation for the next meeting.
- Mayor Priest asked Solicitor Beery if the village needed to deed the vacated area on Depot Street to the residents and he stated no.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- ➤ Regarding the tornado siren Mayor Priest and Administrator Worley are working on getting estimates to either replace or repair the current siren.
- ➤ Regarding abandoned properties Solicitor Beery stated we are still waiting for a response from the final nuisance letters that were sent.
- ➤ Regarding the grocery store no news.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

➤ Councilwoman Blythe Pelham stated there are a lot of vehicles and shrubbery around town that are blocking the sidewalk and obstructing views of drivers. Councilwoman Pelham stated there needs to be a sight distance of 15' for driveway/alley and 30' for an interstate. Ms. Pelham asked all of Council to pay attention to their areas.

MISCELLANEOUS

➤ Richard Tolle moved, and Joel Morris seconded to adjourn at 8:16P.M. Roll call vote 5-0. Motion carried.