

LEESBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL
5/19/2022
Mayor Shawn Priest

Mayor Shawn C. Priest called the regular May session of the Leesburg Village Council to order on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Fire Department Annex Building. No invocation was given and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all present.

ROLL CALL: Present: Council Members Mr. Robert Barrett Jr. ☒
Mrs. Rita Smith-Daulton ☒
Mr. John Michael ☒
Mr. Joel Morris ☒
Mrs. Kim Pavey ☒
Mr. Richard Smith ☒
Also Present: Administrator Amy Palmer ☒
Police Chief Shane Nolley ☒
Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans ☒

Solicitor Fred Beery

Also attending: Mrs. Karen Piatt, Mrs. Stephanie Ortlieb, Mr. Brian Ortlieb, Mr. John Gebhart, and Mr. Rodney Donley.

I. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Joel Morris moved, and John Michael seconded to approve the minutes for the April 21, 2022, regular Council meeting. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.
- b. Council reviewed the bills paid in April 2022. Joel Morris moved, and John Michael seconded the bills be approved. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.
- c. Council reviewed the April Utility Adjustment Journal. Kim Pavey moved, and John Michael seconded to approve the April Utility Adjustment Journal. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

II. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mrs. Karen Piatt – informed Council she was upset about receiving a letter regarding her motor home and the Village telling her it can not be hooked up to utilities. Mrs. Piatt stated she was upset that nobody from the Village took the time to speak with her about this issue instead of just sending a letter. Mrs. Piatt said her son sometimes stays in the camper so he can have privacy. Mayor Priest stated if her son is not living in the camper 24 hours a day then it is okay. Mrs. Piatt said that he was not. Mr. & Mrs. Ortlieb said they stay in their camper when its hot outside and want to know why it is not allowed? Mayor Priest stated we (the Village) are going by Ordinance 21-08. Councilwoman Rita Smith-Daulton said the letters being sent to residents from the Village is getting out of hand and we need to speak to the residents first before a letter is sent. Councilman John Michael told Mrs. Piatt she had five days to file an appeal, and this meeting could serve as her appeal. Mayor Priest said we will discuss this further at the next meeting when Solicitor Beery will be present and hopefully get a clear answer. This appeal has been tabled until that time.

- Mrs. Stephanie Ortlieb – supporting Mrs. Piatt
- Mr. Brian Ortlieb – supporting Mrs. Piatt
- Mr. John Gebhart – supporting Mrs. Piatt

Mr. Rod Donley – representing Highland County Non-profit Housing Services informed Council they have purchased a vacant lot on West Main Street and plan to build a house for MRDD individuals. This house will be built for individuals that are capable of living on their own but need some assistance. The individuals will be checked on everyday and assistance will be provided for them as needed to help with everyday household tasks. MRDD currently have 9 homes in the Hillsboro and Greenfield area and would like to expand to Leesburg. The Board has secured funds to build the home in the Stevens Sub-division, typically 2 – 4 Individuals will live in the house. If the house should need repairs, Highland County Community Action will keep the house maintained on a regular basis. Mr. Donley addressed a question from Councilwoman Pavey regarding the subdivision stating only single-family homes allowed. Mr. Donley answered there are no dividing walls in the home, and the entire area is under one roof, and this is what makes it a single-family home. In addition, Mr. Donley said the home will be stick built and valued at \$350,000. Councilwoman Pavey asked if ten years down the road the house was not a viable option for what it was intended for, what would happen to the home? Mr. Donley stated the board just recently sold one of the single-family homes last year because it was costing them too much in repairs. Mr. Donley told Council a survey of the property will be done to make sure the boundary lines are within their means. In addition, Mr. Donley said he would provide a copy of any paperwork requested by the Village.

III. LEGISLATION:

None currently

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rita Smith-Daulton of the Events Committee reported the Committee met on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Those present were Rita Smith-Daulton, Robert Barrett Jr., Kim Pavey, community member Margret Barrett, and Mayor Shawn C. Priest. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Memorial Day events and each member present was assigned a task to complete before the May 11, 2022, meeting.

Rita Smith -Daulton of the Events Committee reported the Committee met on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Those present were Kim Pavey, Rita Smith-Daulton, community member Margret Barrett and Councilman Richard Smith was just observing. Councilman Robert Barrett and Mayor Shawn C. Priest were absent. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss tasks performed since last meeting. The Committee discussed purchasing flags for residents to display in their yard. After hearing the different proposals, the Committee recommended purchasing 200 flags at \$1.50 each for residents to display for Memorial Day. In addition, Councilwoman Kim Pavey stated she talked to the music teacher from the school, and he could get some band members to perform once a date was set for the Memorial Day festivities. Also, they discussed the possibility of hosting a Farmers Market, Ice Cream Social, and a Car Show. The Committee is planning the following events: May – Memorial Day Service and Flag display, June – Cruise in with food, ice cream and store fronts open, July – Flags displayed for July 4th, August – Leesburg Festival, September – Flags displayed for Labor Day, October – Trick or Treat, November – Thanksgiving food drive, December – Luminaries.

*Joel Morris moved, and John Michael seconded to accept the Event Committee's recommendation to purchase 200 flags for residents. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

John Michael, Chairman of the Street Committee reported the Committee met on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 5:30 PM. Those present were Robert Barrett, Rita

Smith-Daulton, John Michael, Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans, Administrator Amy Palmer, and Mayor Shawn C. Priest. Councilman Richard Smith was observing. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss parking on bridges and the drainage plan. After discussion, the Committee recommended keeping Ordinance 22-04 that prohibits parking on bridges as passed in the last meeting. In addition, the Committee recommended not adding a Drainage Plan to the Building Permit at this time and to discuss further at the Council meeting.

*John Michael moved, and Robert Barrett seconded to keep Ordinance No. 22-04 as passed in the last meeting. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

*Kim Pavey moved, and John Michael seconded not to add a Drainage Plan to the Building Permit at this time. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

*John Michael moved, and Joel Morris seconded to increase the price of a Building Permit from \$10 to \$25. Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

Joel Morris, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, reported the Committee met on Monday, April 25, 2022. Those present were John Michael, Robert Barrett, Joel Morris, Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans, Administrator Amy Palmer, Utility Supervisor Sam Spargur and Mayor Shawn C. Priest. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of hiring a full-time water/sewer employee. The Committee recommended revisiting this topic in the fall.

V. REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Report of Police Chief Shane Nolley:

Chief Shane Nolley reported for the month of April 2022, there were 330 calls for service. Hours worked were as followed: Chief Nolley-160 regular, 9.93 overtime; Officer Dawson-168 regular, 0 overtime; Officer Michael – 168 regulars, 10.5 overtime; Officer Townsend – 21.25 regular, 0 overtime. There were 2 Traffic Crash Report, and 13 Offense Reports. Arrest Information: Arrests - 1, Traffic Citations - 3, and Warning Citations - 8. Police vehicle information: Unit 1 - 2017 Police Interceptor – 729 miles driven, Unit 2 - 2020 Police Interceptor – 396 miles driven, Unit 3 - 2015 Police Interceptor – 755 miles driven. Repairs: \$59.85 and Training: \$0.

Additional Information from Chief Nolley:

The Police Department has 103 active case reports.

The departments total reports received for the month of April 2022 were 13 reports, a decrease of five reports from April 2021.

All officers received training in Cultural Humility, Diversity, Domestic Violence, and Narcan.

Report of Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans:

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

Report of Utility/Streets Department from Administrator Amy Palmer:

Administrator report submitted.

Administrator Amy Palmer reported the Veteran's Banners have been hung.

Informed Council she would be taking vacation May 23 – May 27.

Presented Council with Village of Leesburg logo pictures submitted by students from Fairfield High School and asked Council to vote on the logo they liked best. (The names of the artist were withheld until the winner was chosen) After discussion, Council chose the logo drawn by Hanna McKinley. Administrator Palmer said she would reach out to Ms. McKinley and ask her to clean up the picture and then she will be awarded the \$100 prize.

*Joel Morris moved, and Robert Barrett seconded to choose the picture drawn by Hanna McKinley for the new Leesburg logo. Roll call vote 5-1 with Rita Smith-Daulton voting no.

Report of Regional Income Tax Association (RITA):

\$50,186.49 was collected for the month of April 2022.

Report of Mayor Shawn C. Priest:

Informed Council after the 4 votes of “abstain” were made last month against Ordinance No. 22-04, she had done some checking and you can not abstain from a vote to avoid conflict. You must either vote yes or no; you cannot abstain unless you have a valid point. If a Council Member is not sure how to vote, then the issue needs to be tabled until more information can be provided.

Regarding bridges, Mayor Priest stated we need to post the weight limit signs on all bridges and we need to get them inspected to determine the weight limit for each one.

The Senior Parade will be on Friday, May 20, 2022, between 7 – 8 PM.

Mr. Fred Cox is asking the Village to pay for repairs to a residence he owns due to a sewer back up into the property. Mayor Priest sent this request to Solicitor Beery including the letter we have sent to residents several times regarding the need of back-flow preventers. Solicitor Beery recommended that we do not pay for these repairs.

Requested Council grant a variance to Dale Morrow for the barn he replaced on his property. The mayor feels the barn does meet the requirements with the easement his son granted him. In addition, this barn is in a back alley and not in the downtown area.

*Richard Smith moved, and Joel Morris seconded to grant a variance to Dale Morrow for his new barn. Roll call vote 5-1 with Robert Barrett abstaining.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Regarding abandoned properties – Administrator Palmer reported:

Brad Yerian has contacted her and is willing to sign his property on Middle Street over to the Village. Admin Palmer is turning this over to the Landbank and it should be managed quickly.

Sanderson Property – foreclosure in 2009 but pulled out by bank and not sure why.

Gary Bailey -willing to sell his property on South Street.

Dessie Cox – abandoned house located at 133 North Fairfield Street. The

price of the house is estimated to be \$35,000.

Regarding the grocery store – Mayor Priest informed Council a default judgement has been filed and we should have a date next week for the auction.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

None currently.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Richard Smith moved, and John Michael seconded to adjourn at 8:34 P.M.

Roll call vote 6-0. Meeting adjourned.