

Village of Westville Regular Meeting**October 18, 2023****6:00pm**

Mayor Weese called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Present at Roll Call: Trustees J Slavik, Strebin, Hughes, Ellis, McFadden and Gallion, as well as Village Attorney Barney, Village Clerk V Slavik, Village Deputy Clerk Rhoden and Village Treasurer Larson.

AGENDA Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the agenda and place on file. Motion by Hughes; second by Gallion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donna Haluska asked about the MPUA gas contract; Weese said we are still trying to get out of it. Nick Pierce asked about getting a tree picked up that was laying down. Bennett said Klugow was getting that for us.

MINUTES: Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 09-20-2023 and Police Committee Minutes of 10-11-2023 and place on file. Motion by McFadden; second by Gallion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Claims and place the report on file. Motion by Ellis; second by McFadden. Motion carried.

CLERK REPORT: Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Clerk Report, turn the money over to the Treasurer and place the report on file. Motion by Hughes; second by Gallion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Larson's report was for September 2023. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Treasurers Report and place on file. Motion by Hughes; second by Gallion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: (none)

POLICE REPORT

Chairman Strebin deferred to Chief Varvel. Chief Varvel's report was for September 15 through October 12, 2023. There were 19 Reports, and 273 calls handled this reporting period. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to accept the Police Report and place it on file. Motion by Gallion; second by McFadden. No further discussion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS

Streets & Alleys Chairman Slavik reviewed some snow removal points he had discussed with the Mayor regarding how many vehicles, plows, and workers we have available and the possibility of hiring previous employees to help plow snow or entering into an inter-governmental agreement with the school district. He said Seth Miller from the school district is going to look into it. He said the Mayor will check into and follow-up on the possibilities.

Sewers Chairman Ellis said they did some sidewalk work after sewer projects at E. Williams, Jefferson and at Locust.

Gas & Water Chairman McFadden said they had lots of resumes, and they are looking at them.

Sidewalks Chairman Ellis said Biava (Atlas Total Home) is finishing projects, and he is putting a list together for the next budget year.

Park Chairman Gallion said the curly slides are done and he and Larson completed some additional paperwork for the grant, and our grant should be signed by the end of the year. He said Westville Lions Club has food truck vendors in the park 10/28 and 10/29 from 11am-8pm, craft vendors the 28th and 29th from 10am-5pm and Trunk or Treat will be held the 28th from 6-8p.m.

Bldgs./Grnds.-Comm. Beaut. Chairwoman Hughes said new tan mulch was added at the welcome signs, and she does not know the dates yet for two properties to be torn down.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT BY MICHAEL BENNETT September 15, 2023 – October 12, 2023

In the Water Department: Changed meters, Worked on repairs, Took routine water samples, Changed daily totalizer chart, Calculated daily usage, Took chlorine residuals, Swept and mopped water plant, Water Survey are still being turned in MANDATORY RESPONSE REQUIRED PLEASE REMIND YOUR NEIGHBORS They installed 2 new water services on the south side of the park, 1 yard hydrant 1 drinking fountain, had the flux capacitor replaced at the water plant, installed new water spigot only service 313 N State, winterized both water towers, had thermostat replaced on wall heater in the new Pump Station, Jake attended Water Apprentice training in Hoopeston 9.22.23. **In the Gas Department:** Changed meters, Worked on repairs., Changed daily high/low charts, Checked odorizer daily, Patrolled gas system, Took odorant readings, installed new gas service 7 Murray Dr., relocated a gas service 1602 S. State cut off old gas service, cut off gas service at 113 Illinois St. House will be torn down, car hit gas meter at 1706 N State property owner will pay and seek reimbursement from her insurance company, will have Operator Qualification training on pressure testing in Sullivan. Mike/Jake will attend October 25th and Brandon on the 26th. LiHeap/CAP program opens call 217-554-9110 730a-430p for fall funding gas bills, **WILL BE SHUTTING OFF ALL DELINQUENT GAS AND WATER ACCOUNTS.** **In Village Business:** Mowed Ellsworth to Jules along Cook St Mowed grass, weed eat: Village park, retention pond, police station, Bridgett St. hill & Solomon @Bridgett, north & south water towers, 3 gas houses, Depot, Village lots: E. Main; across from DQ & on Madison, Pump Station, end of Park and Maple St., S. Ranch ditch, end of Virginia St., weed eat East and West Main, Rt. 1 city limits to city limits both sides of road, City Hall, still accepting applications for Public Works Laborer, John Martin, had oil changed on the 2019 F250, 2011 F250 and the 2022 GMC, had the lights replaced on the 2011 F250, had the dump bed hydraulics repaired on the Chevy 3500, removed and replaced the mulch at both north and south welcome signs, replaced the float switch on the suvac, will be having Public Awareness Audit, Rob Cope started working on light for power pole in park. 41 J U L I E CALLS, 16 Gas & Water Work orders, 25 Water Work Orders, 6 Gas Work Orders, 14 Public Works Work Orders, 1 CO Calls, 1 Odor Call.

LICENSES/INSURANCE: Chairman McFadden had nothing to report, but Larson said Travis Mains is going to come and talk to the employees regarding a FLEX program.

BUSINESS DISTRICT UPDATE: No applications received as of yet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Two bidders submitted bids for demolition of 311 S. State St., which the Village owns. B&B Construction submitted two separate proposals. Proposal #1 was \$53,500.00. Proposal #2 was that the Village deed the property to Sofia's Stefanis, and he would tear it down at no cost to the Village. The other bidder was Snider's of Danville, bid was \$72,000.00. Discussion as to whether B&B Proposal #1 or Proposal #2 was best. Motion made by McFadden; second by Hughes to accept Proposal #2. Ellis votes "YES", Gallion votes "NO", Slavik votes "NO", Strebin votes "NO". Mayor Weese votes "NO" to break the tie; motion did not carry. Motion by Slavik; second by Ellis to accept Proposal #1. McFadden votes "NO", Gallion votes "YES", Strebin votes "YES", Hughes votes "NO". Motion carried. Barney will have Huffman's firm draw up the contract and it will include that the project must be completed within six months.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Chairman Gallion said that the park will be closing October 30th, so the restrooms will be locked, and John Martin will winterize them.

Ordinance #23-1514 changes the residency requirement for all employees except the Police to be changed from six miles from the Village limits to within ten miles of the Village limits. This should allow them time to respond to gas emergency calls and be on-site at the emergency within 30 minutes, which is required by ICC. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Motion by Gallion; second by Slavik. Motion carried. Barney will draft an ordinance to amend the residency requirement.

Resolution #23-03 adds Juneteenth and Columbus Day to the holiday schedule. Most local offices and schools are closed already. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Motion by Slavik; second by Hughes. Motion carried. Barney will draft an ordinance to adjust the holidays.

The GoGov app was discussed. Varvel presented statistics on its use and explained how much it helps him in his job. Consensus is to try it for another year and review the usage data. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to continue using GoGov for another year. Motion by Slavik; second by Strebin. Motion carried.

The park pavilion rental fee will be reduced to \$20.00 (schools and clubs are exempt) beginning in 2024. The fee helps cover the cost of supplying the park. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to resume charging and dropping it to \$20.00 beginning in 2024. Motion by Hughes; second by Gallion. Motion carried.

The recipient of new liquor licenses is decided by the Mayor, who also serves as Local Liquor Commissioner. After discussion regarding adding one more Class A Liquor License, bringing the total to thirteen, Mayor Weese entertained a motion to add the additional Class A license. Motion by Hughes; second by McFadden. Gallion votes "YES", Slavik votes "YES", Strebin votes "NO", Ellis "ABSTAINS". Motion carried. Barney will draft an ordinance to amend the ordinance regarding the number of Class A licenses allowed.

Renters in apartments and homes will receive their security deposits back if they have paid their monthly bill within 30 days of the due date for a period of five years, and the deposit returned will be in the form of a credit on the account. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to make this change. Motion by Ellis; second by Hughes. Motion carried. Barney will draft an ordinance to amend the code to reflect this.

Slavik raised the possibility of giving a 30% credit to current customers who are current on their gas bill who had a gas bill from February 2020 to offer some relief. The Village borrowed money but did not have to use it to pay their \$1.2 million bill because Missouri Gas gave them three years to pay the bill with no interest; but he argued that residents were required to pay within 12 months. After further discussion including the manpower it would take to make the adjustments, the Mayor suggested they wait to see if they get anything back from Missouri Gas.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Weese entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:30p.m. Motion by McFadden; second by Gallion. Motion carried.

(Minutes taken by Deputy Clerk Rhoden, prepared by Village Clerk V Slavik)