

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

February 10,

2020

Attendees: Mayor-Ken James, Council Members-Angi Deere, Chris Foster, Mark May, Paula Jones, Thad Kauffman, Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Andrew Johnston-Solicitor. Others Present-Bradley Ingle, Jonathan Thompson, Steve Shaurer, Harry and Linda McKenna, Evan James, Robert Presley, Susan Wieser, Dept. McReynolds, Joe Gibson, Paul Reece.

Previous Minutes:

Minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes, with the following correction: add Monte Evans to the Zoning Board Committee. Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff Report: None, Council had no questions.

Citizens Comments: 1. Paul Reece and Joe Gibson introduced themselves and stated they were running for sheriff and county commissioner, respectfully. Both gave a brief explanation of why they were running for office.

2. Harry & Linda McKenna. Mr. McKenna handed over folders, keys and credit card of the village. Mr. McKenna, speaking on behalf of his wife stated that she deserved a pay increase for cleaning the village building. There has not been a pay increase in the position since she'd been cleaning. She would like Council to consider a pay of \$150.00 per month. Mrs. Deere asked how long it took to clean the building, Mrs. McKenna noted one to one and a half hours, and the building is cleaned once a month. The Board would address this later in the meeting.

Solicitors Report: 1. Junk Ordinance/301 South Main St. Mr. Johnston noted meeting with the McGuffy's, they have a court date of the 6th. The McGuffy's believe they have cleaned up their property. They wanted to meet with Council. Mr. James stated the property has been substantially cleaned up. Mr. Johnston asked if someone could look at the property and give him an update. We'll look at the property tomorrow.

2. Updating Sewer/Water Ordinance. Mr. Johnston will have these next month.

BOPA: 1. Water Tower/Water Rates. Mr. Thompson reviewed the process that led the BOPA to ask Council to consider raising the water rates by \$10 per month from \$32 to \$42. This would raise enough revenue in three years to meet our share of the grant. With money already appropriated or money to be appropriated, we would have around \$107,000. This would also give us some cushion. After the three years, the Board would then use \$5.00 to maintain the loans, and review where the remaining \$5.00 would be best used. We would review the ordinance and make appropriate changes. Mr. Thompson noted he thought that this increase in rates would make the utilities stable enough that we shouldn't have to raise rates for a long time. He noted the new rate should be ready for the March meeting to make sure we can have the three readings of the ordinance; this would make sure we are lined up with going forward with the grant process. The deadline is June or July for the grant process.

Mr. May stated the Village received a letter from the EPA, about the age of the tower. They also have some concern. Mr. James asked if we considered the cost of demolition of the old tower, Mr. Thompson stated that cost was included in the grant. Mr. James suggested a public meeting for explanation and questions, Mr. Thompson suggested using One Call also.

Mr. Foster asked if we could stretch out the cost increase to residents with something like a \$5.00 increase the first year, and an additional \$5.00 for the next two year. The last two would be the \$10.00 increase Mr. Thompson was seeking. Mr. Kauffman thought it might be better if we just go with one increase instead of two.

Mr. May suggested we consider preparing the new ordinance, hold a special meeting in a couple of weeks and allow residents a chance to hear proposals. Council liked this idea and set a special meeting for February 24, at 7:00pm to allow residents a chance to hear the proposals and make suggestions.

Mr. Kauffman made a motion to increase water rates from \$32.00 to \$42.00 per month. Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed. Mr. Johnston is working on the ordinance.

Old Business: 1.Davis Voice & Data. No Report

New Business. 1. Second and Chestnut Streets. There was a question about the water shut off at this property. Mr. Vore had taken care of this before he left in December.
2. Building Cleaning. Mrs. Deere suggested an increase of \$25.00 for cleaning the building. This would make the total \$75.00. Mr. Foster asked Mrs. McKenna if \$75.00 would work, Mrs. McKenna stated it would not. Mr. May agreed with the \$25.00 increase. Mrs. Deere made a motion to post a notice for cleaning the village building, for a monthly rate of \$75.00; we will look at applicants at next month's meeting. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.
3. Solicitor's Salary. We will wait until we get our information from the county and look at appropriations, hopefully next month.

Bills. Mrs. Deere motioned to pay the following bills. Mr. Kauffman seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

PERS	\$833.39	DP&L	\$1040.16
Frontier	161.27	Linda McKenna	50.00
Gretchen Slagle	390.75	Ken James	108.76
Shipman Dixon	130.00	Jason Hoop	630.00
Cincinnati Insurance	75.00	Gretchen Slagle	153.96
Jim Stubbs	628.30	Post Office	4.20
Robert Presley	25.00		

Mr. Foster motioned to close the meeting. Mr. May seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk