

# Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

August 9,

2021

**Attendees:** Mayor-Ken James, Council Members- Angi Deere, Chris Foster, Mark May, Thad Kauffman, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Absent- Paula Jones, Gretchen Slagle-Fiscal Officer.

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the July 12, 2021 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the minutes with the following corrections: Citizen's Comments – the siren is set off during the day, not at night. Solicitor's Report #1- Adam Rex asked about possible tax revenue from a marijuana dispensary, not Mr. Jackson. Mr. Kauffman seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

**Sheriff Report:** None. Mr. James noted we appreciate the amount of coverage from the Sheriff's Department. Mr. James stated people are still running the stop sign at Pike and Main Streets, but we realize this is a hard thing to cover. He also asked that the next time Laura has the speed trailer in town, if it could be placed on the other side of Pike Street, by the restaurant, so people coming east into town can see their speed.

**Citizens Comments:** 1. Marijuana Businesses. No comments.

**Solicitors Report:** 1. Town Cleanup Letters. Mr. Johnston noted letters were sent to 17 N. Main Street, 406 S. Main Street and the property on South Main Street where the old railroad station was (Randy Meyer is that property owner). The letters were sent out the end of July, so the property owners still have some time to respond. Mr. James stated the car at 17 North Main Street is gone, that has been cleaned up. Mrs. Deere noted we didn't get any response from Mr. Meyer, when we sent a letter to clean up his property a few years ago. A letter was then sent to the health department, then the barned burned. There is still a lot of debris, weeds and burned wood on the property. Mr. Johnston suggested contacting the Health Department again. Mrs. Deere noted on our map, the property was listed as being on Railroad Street. Mrs. Deere noted the driveway was chained at one time, and asked if we could put a chain across the driveway. Mr. Johnston noted regardless of who owned it, the property needed to be kept within minimal levels for safety.

2. Medical Marijuana Dispensaries We planned to allow a few months for the community to have input and talk about allowing marijuana businesses in town. We've had a few electronic inquiries from businesses interested in possibly locating in town. Mr. Johnston stated Council has many options which are wide ranging, when considering marijuana legislation. Mr. Foster asked if we could make recreational use of marijuana illegal and still allow medical dispensaries? Mr. Johnston said in Ohio, recreational marijuana is still illegal, statute is very specific as to what could be done concerning dispensary versus cultivation versus warehousing. Most communities seem to totally ban or totally allow marijuana businesses.

3. Vaccine Mandates. Mr. James asked our options for dealing with vaccine mandates. He knows this is still early in the whole process. Mr. Johnston noted there are different issues for government and private entities. Since the Village is a government entity, without many employees, if Council wanted to set up mandates, they would first want to talk to him about legalities. If Council doesn't want to do anything, not much is required. Mr. May noted we chose to not put a lot of attention toward mask mandates during the first round of COVID. Mr. Johnston noted that according to our oath of office, if Council decides we are doing our duties, from a government position, we are okay. If mandates progress and change, we may have to adapt.

**BOPA:** 1. EPA Inspection/Sewer Plant. The EPA inspected the sewer plant, it was a good report. There is some infiltration of one of the lift stations around Eldon Hinkle's house.

2. CCR Report. The report was dated for the year of the testing.

3. PEP Insurance Inspection. It was suggested a fence be put up around the water tower, to prevent someone from climbing the ladder. Mr. May noted a ladder had to be brought to the tower to access our ladder. The Board is concerned about putting money toward a tower that is going to be removed. Mr. James noted the insurance noted a fence would add another layer of protection as far as our insurance was concerned. The BOPA should try to get bids for fencing.

**Old Business.** 1. Griffin Pavement Striping Quote. Mr. James had a revised quote for \$3986.90 for striping the crosswalk around Dollar General and the crosswalks and a stop line at Pike and Main Streets. Mr. May asked if Council would consider piano key style striping at the 4-way stop at Pike and Main Street, he thought it made the crosswalk more visible. Mr. Kauffman agreed, he also liked the piano key style. The difference in cost would be \$642.40. Mr. May made a motion to approve the Griffin Payment Quote with an increase of up to \$700 to change the crosswalks at Pike and Main Streets to piano key style striping.

The new total would be up to \$4686.90. Mr. Kauffman seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

2. Tree Trimming/South Main Street. Mr. Kauffman looked at the trees along South Main Street and didn't think they would warrant any letters being sent.

3. Street Sweeping. No Report. Arcanum is supposed to send a quote.

4. 8 School Street/Trees/Bushes in Street. The Fire Department was going to trim the limbs out of the street, but decided not to. We need to send a letter to the property owner to have the limbs trimmed or we will hire someone to trim them. The bill will be sent to the property owner.

**New Business.** 1. Resolution 8-21/Street Lighting Assessment. Resolution 8-21 was presented. This is a 5-year contract with Miami Valley Lighting, for 2022-2026. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the resolution, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

2. Election Seats. We need to ask Mr. Johnston about appointed seats.

3. Miami County Veterans Service Commission Letter. Ms. Slagle forwarded an email to Council from Miami County for a 911 Tunnel to Tower Welcome Reception. Mrs. Deere thought it would be good if we participated we could, if the deadline hasn't passed. Mr. James will check on the deadline.

4. Bent Sign in Sidewalk/ Pike and Main Streets. Mr. Foster noted there is a bent sign post at the 4-way stop by his house, he doesn't know how it got bent. It's bent so bad, it's hard to walk on the sidewalk without having to go around it. Mr. James and Mr. Foster will try to fix it.

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

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$859.03
Frontier	170.45	Ken James	108.76
Gretchen Slagle	427.70	Shipman Dixon	150.00
Amy Elmore	75.00	Mobile Sanitation	125.00
AAA Tree & Landscape/	-----	Terry Zellers	1250.00
Mulch on Demand	254.70	Menards	321.85
Angi Deere	109.32	Paula Jones	108.70
Chris Foster	108.70	Thad Kauffman	108.70
Mark May	109.32		

PERS	\$879.66	AES	\$928.29
Frontier	170.45	Ken James	108.76
Gretchen Slagle	427.70	Shipman Dixon	150.00
Amy Elmore	75.00	Mobile Sanitation	125.00
Staples	125.91	OnSolve	32.00
OPWC	2321.92	Laura Post Office	750.00
Rumpke	602.01	Arens Corp	52.00
Angi Deere	36.44	Paula Jones	36.23
Mark May	36.44		

Mr. Kauffman motioned to close the meeting. Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

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Kenneth James, Mayor

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Gretchen Slagle, Clerk

