

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

July 12,

2021

Attendees: Mayor-Ken James, Council Members- Angi Deere, Chris Foster, Mark May, Paula Jones, Thad Kauffman, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston, Gretchen Slagle-Fiscal Officer. Others Present- Adam Rex and son, Glen McSparran.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the June 12, 2021 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Special Meeting: Minutes of the June 22, 2021 Special Meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Abstain, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Abstain. The motion passed.

Sheriff Report: None

Citizens Comments: Adam Rex and his son asked when the town siren is used. We've had a few bad storms and they would like to know the circumstances when the siren is set off. Mr. Kauffman stated the siren is tested on the first and third Mondays, with a short blast. The siren does not get set off during the day. In the evening, in event of a fire call, the siren cycles until it is manually turned off. Miami County remotely sounds the siren in case of a tornado.

Solicitors Report: 1. Medical Marijuana. Mr. James asked Mr. Johnston if the Village has any code or ordinance allowing a marijuana dispensary in town. We have had some interest from a couple of businesses. Mr. Johnston had handouts with some language for a proposed ordinance. He noted we do not have anything in place that would prohibit a dispensary from coming to town. He stated he could provide an ordinance for whatever Council would like to do on the subject, we could put a moratorium on for 6 months and give Council some time to research and decide, we could do nothing and allow the dispensaries, we could put specific language in the code as Council deems. Council had several questions and concerns and discussed. Mr. May noted our business district isn't far from the residential district. Mr. Foster asked if it is still a federal offense to have marijuana. Mr. Jackson asked about tax revenue for the village. Mr. Johnston wasn't sure about the tax revenue. Mr. Foster asked if it would benefit us to ask the residents. Council agreed it was a good idea to get input from residents. Mr. Deere suggested putting notice on the website and at the village building letting people know we would be discussing this at the August meeting. We will address this more next meeting.

BOPA: 1. Special Meeting. Mr. Thompson asked that it be noted in the minutes that Council agreed the money from American Recovery Act Fund that we are supposed to receive will be used for the new water tower. Council agreed the money would be used for the new water tower.
2. New Generator/ Miami County Grant/Water Plant. We need a 230 watt, 3-phase generator.
3. CCR Report Date. No Report on the correct date on the report.

Old Business. 1. Water Faucet/Village Building. Jonathan Cress from Cress Plumbing Unlimited will replace the faucet for \$400. We'll have to expose the faucet from the records room. Mr. Kauffman will do all the work to get it ready, and finish the wall when the work is done. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve up to \$400 for repairing the faucet on the side of the building. Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

2. Crosswalks. We have a quote from Wagner Paving for \$14,795 to install one ADA crosswalk. This would not include the painting of the crosswalk. Council has spent quite a bit of time gathering prices and trying to find ODOT and ADA requirements. Mr. Kauffman stated we should just do one crosswalk, close to the Dollar General. The crosswalk would be around the horseshoe alley beside 119 North Main Street and cross St. Rt. 571 to the sidewalk on the Dollar General side. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve Wagner Paving installing one ADA crosswalk at the designated area. 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. Mr. James will contact Wagner Paving and also try to get an updated quote from Griffin Pavement Striping for painting the crosswalk. He will try to have the quote for the next meeting. Money from the State Highway fund would be used for the crosswalk. It's getting hard to get small projects done by construction companies who work on larger projects most of the time.
3. Street Sweeping. Mr. Kauffman reported speaking with a few municipalities about sweeping our streets. Pleasant Hill contracts with DDS. West Milton has their own equipment and might be interested in sweeping our streets and will try to get a quote to us. Arcanum also does their own sweeping and will try to get a quote for us. Most towns don't do leaf pick-up. Arcanum does pick-up the leaves and will try to give us a quote for that also. It might be nice if we could get a contract to do both sweeping and leaf pick-up. Mr. Kauffman noted the pear trees along South Main Street may be a problem if the limbs are hanging out over the street. Council discussed how to address trimming the limbs and who is responsible for trimming them. Mr. Kauffman stated he would look at how many trees might need trimmed, and how big a project it could be. Council discussed sending letters to residents asking them to trim the problem trees, or maybe asking residents who couldn't trim the limbs to contact the village. We'll work on this more next meeting.
4. Bee Street Pothole/Groundhog. A groundhog is back, burrowing under a part of Bee Street behind Mr. Kauffman's house. A pothole in the street will need patched. Mr. Kauffman will work on getting rid of the groundhog.
5. Dumpster/Town Clean-Up. Mrs. Deere reported the dumpster is gone. A whole tree was dumped inside, Mr. Deere removed the tree. There are always issues with what is put in the dumpster, it's hard to monitor it the entire time it's here.
6. Park Signs. Mrs. Deere had two examples of signs showing park rules. Mr. James will try to get some costs for similar signs for the park.
7. Zoning /25 Laura Circle. Things are moving forward.

New Business. 1. Property in front of Water Plant/Railroad Property. Council has previously tried to get this property cleaned up. The barn on the property collapsed and partially burned, there is still a lot of debris on the original barn site. Ms. Slagle thought the last action that was taken was by Mr. Johnston, sending letters to the property owner, whose last name was Myers. Mr. James will talk to Mr. Johnston.

2. 4 North Main Street/Rubbish. The side of the building at this property has accumulated tires, skids and other debris. Ms. Slagle will send a letter to have the owner clean the property.

3. **Resolution 7-21/ 2022 Budget.** The 2022 budget was sent to Council for review. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the budget, Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

4. 5-Year Plan. Mrs. Deere noted she thought we needed to keep the Chestnut Street reconstruction project on our radar. Ms. Slagle stated the BOPA had a 5-year plan that was a list of projects they hoped to accomplish. Council thought it was a good idea to compile a list of projects and timelines that would help prioritize goals and allow consideration for budget, grants, etc. Council members will bring ideas to the next meeting.

5. Website. Mr. May asked if anyone thought our website was slow to load. We currently use a Google service, WordPress. It would cost around \$20-30.00 to switch to a faster service if Council thought it would be better to have the website load quicker.

6. Mayor's Association Dues. Annual dues for this are \$50.00. Mrs. Deere noted she thought if Mr. James thought it would be beneficial to belong to this, she would like to see him belong. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the \$50.00 annual dues, 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.

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	\$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. Jones seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

