

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

October 11,

2021

Attendees: Mayor-Ken James, Council Members-Angi Deere, Chris Foster, Mark May, Thad Kauffman, Gretchen Slagle-Fiscal Officer, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Absent- Paula Jones. Others Present-Glen McSparran, Marianne Guess, Wayne Miller, Will Sanders, Tonya Hinkle.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the August 9, 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, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Minutes of the September 13, 2021 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes with the following corrections: Bills- Mrs. Deere salary was incorrect; the correct amount was \$72.88. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Abstain, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff Report: None. Mrs. Deere noted drivers seem to be going down Main Street faster than the speed limit and people driving golf carts in town.

Citizens Comments: 1. Medical Marijuana. Marianne Guess was present to ask Council to consider banning any type of medical marijuana business in town. She noted problems in other cities of increased traffic on streets, student test scores go down, depending on the type of business, some of them are set up as lounges, sales of edibles could end up with young children. Mrs. Guess said she didn't think the medical marijuana issue was going to go away, businesses would continue to seek towns in which to establish businesses.

Will Sanders asked about tax revenue. Mr. Johnston noted the Village does not have an income tax, this revenue would go directly back to the village. Property Tax would go to the County, there could be potential for revenue from school tax and sales tax, but it most likely would be a small amount. There could be minimal impact for revenue for the Village.

Council and residents discussed.

Mr. May noted the town is small, the commercial district is so close to the residential district, this may cause issues for residents. We've had Dollar General build in a residential zone, and other businesses could apply for a conditional use variance. Mr. Johnston noted we could create a zoning district that could be strictly a conditional use district.

Mr. James stated the Village is located at the edge of the county, since we don't have a police department, it could take longer for the Sheriff Department to respond to calls.

Mr. James noted we also have rentals; these properties tend to have more frequent turnover.

Mr. Kauffman noted there could be increased traffic and wear and tear on our streets. He didn't see any value in having a medical marijuana business in town.

Mrs. Deere agreed, and stated if we didn't see any added value for this type of business in town, what would we do to prevent it from coming into town. Mr. Johnston stated he had given us the information to create an ordinance to ban any medical marijuana business in town. We would have three readings and then it would be an ordinance.

Mrs. Deere made a motion to ban any type of medical marijuana business in Laura. Mr. Kauffman seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Mrs. Deere read the first reading of the proposed ordinance to ban medical marijuana in the Village of Laura.

2. Intersection of N. Main St. and St. Rt. 571. Mrs. Guess noted how hard it is to see oncoming traffic heading West on St. Rt. 571 at this intersection. She asked if a mirror or something might be placed on a pole or something, that would help drivers see traffic heading west on St. Rt. 571. Council agreed it's hard to see oncoming traffic at that intersection. Mr. Kauffman stated we might have to check with ODOT, since they are responsible for State Routes.

Solicitors Report: 1. 25 Laura Circle/Nuisance Ordinance/Wayne Miller. Mr. Johnston sent Mr. Miller a contract, Mr. Miller asked about including expenses in the contract. Mr. Johnston stated this was standard procedures. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve the contract with Mr. Miller with an amendment to add up to \$500 in expenses. The expenses must be approved by the Mayor or Solicitor. Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

BOPA: 1. Everything is running well.

Old Business. 1. Water Faucet/Village Building. Things are ready for Mr. Kauffman, when he is ready to work on the entry door for the faucet. We'll We need to move the boxes out of the records room.

3. Leaf Pick Up. Mr. Kauffman stated he had not heard from Arcanum. He spoke with West Milton, they would be willing to pick up leaves and sweep the streets. West Milton would offer two leaf pick-ups dates. Each load would cost \$150.00 and he estimated two loads per pick up, approximately \$600.00 total. The dates would be one pick up around the end of November and one pick up in December.

Street Sweeping would be approximately \$350.00 per trip, this would be an hourly charge. West Milton may not get street sweeping done this year. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve West Milton to pick up the leaves in town and also sweep the Village streets for the proposed costs.

Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

3. Weeds around 405 S. Main Street. Mrs. Deere stated we need to do something about weeds growing along the street from 405 S. Main Street down to the water/sewer plants. Every year they get out of control. We need to have them mowed or sprayed each year.

4. Crosswalk/Dollar General Area. We have a bill from Wagner Paving for \$3410.00 for installing the ADA compliant sidewalk for the crosswalk. Mr. Kauffman asked if it was compliant, Mr. James stated Wagner Paving quoted it as ADA compliant. We are waiting for the crosswalk to be painted by Griffin Pavement Striping. Mr. Kauffman asked if we should go ahead and have another crosswalk done since we talked about doing more than one crosswalk. Mr. May suggested waiting to see how much use this one gets, then if we need another one, address it in the spring. Mr. James will put up the crosswalk signs.

New Business. 1. Laura Fire Company Contract. We have a new three-year contract for fire protection, it covers 2022-2024 for \$4000.00 per year. Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the contract, Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Abstain. The motion passed.

2. Snow Plowing Contract/Jason Hoop. We have a quote from Mr. Hoop for snow plowing Village streets for 2021/2022 snow season. The rates are the same as last year: \$320.00 per plow, and \$155.00 per ton salt (an average of 1.5 tons of salt per application). Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve Jason Hoop plowing the Village streets, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

3. Beggars Night. This will be October 28.

4. Miami County Budget Commission Tax Rates. Mr. May motioned to accept the 2021 tax rate of 3.40 Mills, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

5. **Resolution 10-21/ Miami County Solid Waste District Management Plan.** Mr. James explained the plan. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve this resolution. Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

6. Miami County Council Meeting. Mr. James stated he wouldn't be able to attend the next meeting. Mr. Foster will attend.

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, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$1157.16
Frontier	296.44	Ken James	108.76
Gretchen Slagle	427.70	Shipman Dixon	165.00
Amy Elmore	75.00	Mobile Sanitation	125.00
Terry Zellers	500.00	Robert Presley	75.00
Miami Valley Lighting	3069.00	Wagner Paving	3410.00
Internal Revenue	494.76	Ohio Dept of Tax	78.51
School Tax	109.02		

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

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk

