

# Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

August 8,

2022

**Attendees:** Mayor-Ken James, Angi Deere, Monte Evans, Mark May, Glen McSparran, Chris Foster, Gretchen Slagle-Fiscal Officer, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Others Present-Lonnie Robinson, Ken Saunders.

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the July 11, 2022 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. McSparran made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Abstain, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

**Sheriff Report:** Mr. James asked that when the speed wagon might become available, could the Sheriff Department set it around the crosswalk at Dollar General. The Deputies stated they would. Mr. Foster noted he appreciated the continued coverage he has seen around Dollar General.

**Citizens Comments:** 302 Chestnut Street/Lonnie Robinson. Mr. Robinson asked about the progress of repairing the storm drain at his house. Mr. James stated he was able to get Henry Cress of D.A.C. Concrete and Excavating to give us a quote. The quote to repair the storm drain was \$9000.00. We haven't been able to get a quote from Wagner Paving or Bob's Excavating, Mrs. Deere asked if we thought it was a reasonable quote. Mr. James noted he didn't know, but Mr. Cress said the cost of the asphalt was a major part of the quote. Mrs. Deere made a motion to accept the quote of D.A. C., Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

2. Ken Saunders/ Laura Fire Company/Fireworks. Mr. Saunders was present to ask Council to consider prohibiting fireworks within Village limits. As a member of the fire department, they have been called to help put out house fires as a direct result of fireworks. Fall out from some fireworks can be 80-150 feet, we have houses in close proximity to each other, and they are easily be within the fall out area. We have also been having some extremely dry summers, which could also lead to fires from the fireworks. Mrs. Deere read some statistics relating to house fires caused by the use of fireworks. She asked that we consider a total ban for the Village. She would like to proceed with establishing an ordinance, asked that we put up notices for next month's meeting, asking for input from residents, and then start the process of ordinance adoption. We will put notices out asking for resident input at next month's meeting.

3. Girl Scouts/Tree Planting in Park. Sandy, Hope and Faith Baker of a local Girl Scout Troop were present. Faith and Hope spoke about offering to plant six trees at the Village park, as part of a merit badge project. The girls would plant trees with consideration to location, height, maintenance required, etc. They would use Brown's Nursery or The Arbor Day Foundation as a resource for the trees. Sandy Baker noted the tree planting would be an immediate action the girls would work on. They are also working on a merit badge where they would collect pop bottle lids, a park bench or GaGa ball pit would be made out of the lids. The benches last a very long time. This project would be something they would work on in the next few years, collecting enough lids for a bench or the GaGa ball. Mrs. Deere made a motion to allow the planting of 6 trees at the park, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed. Mrs. Baker will work with the Park Committee to plan and make sure Council is okay with locations, etc.

**Solicitors Report:** 1. 25 Laura Circle/Nuisance Ordinance. Mr. James noted he has been receiving calls from residents about this property, there are more vehicles in the front of the property than before the trial. He noted some frustration from residents about getting the property cleaned up. Mr. Johnston noted that Judge Nasal has been known to take some time to make some decisions. Mr. Johnston stated we have done everything we needed to do, his best advice would be to wait for the verdict. Mr. James asked about Mr. Rex running a business out of his house, this is a violation of our zoning code, his property is a residential property. Mr. Johnston said this would be a civil action, whereas the current suit we filed is a criminal suit. Council members general concern was what our next steps could be, Mr. Johnston stated Council should try to hold on and allow a verdict to be reached.

2. Security Camera/Records Retention Ordinance. We need to establish a commission to review and amend our Public Records ordinance for the security cameras. The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, Solicitor and a member of the Village would need to meet with Mr. Johnston. The commission would present the proposed ordinance to Council and we could start the proceedings to amend our ordinance with legislation for the security cameras. If we establish a commission, and let Mr. Johnston know, he can meet with the committee and they can revise the ordinance.

**BOPA:** 1. Mr. May reported the following:

1. BOPA Meeting was postponed.

**Old Business.** 1. Outside Faucet. Fixed.

2. Weed Control/South Main Street. Mr. James has quotes from TruGreen for \$1400.00 to spray weeds around town. Monroe Grounds has a quote of \$2600.00. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve TruGreen to spray all the weeds in town. Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.
3. Phone Service. We need to contact Davis Voice & Data to see if we have internet at the water plant.
4. Flooding/Pemberton Road. No Report.
5. 2770 Pemberton Road. No Report.

**New Business.** 1. Snow Plowing. Mr. James wanted to know when Council would like to ask for snow plowing bids. Council agreed to send notices to Early Bird, Stillwater Advertiser, post around town and on our website, for bids to be opened at our next meeting.

2. Curb Painting. Mrs. Deere asked if we should paint our curbs, some of them are looking bad. Council agreed to get some quotes. Mr. James will try to contact some people.
3. 4 North Main/Clean up Parking Lot. There is a lot of debris, skids, tires, etc. accumulating in the parking lot. Ms. Slagle will send a letter asking them to clean the lot up.
4. Chestnut Street Reconstruction. Mrs. Deere asked Council to consider working on a grant to redo Chestnut Street. We paid off the loan for S Main Street recently, Chestnut Street is the last of the streets that needs to be redone. We will work on getting some quotes from Engineering firms.
5. 2020-2021 Audit. Someone from the State Auditor's Office will be here August 16 to collect information for the audit. The cost of the audit is \$400.00.
6. Website. Mr. May stated our license for villageoflaura.com is about to expire. We also own lauraohio.com, which runs our website. Villageoflaura.com forwards any correspondence to lauraohio.com, but we don't really use villageoflaura.com other than that. It costs \$13-15 a year. Mr. Evans made a motion to pay the annual fee for villageoflaura.com, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed. Mr. May noted we receive 300-400 visits a month to our website.
7. Internet. Davis Voice and Data experienced an outage of service for a few days over last weekend. They are up and running now.
8. 113 N. Main St./Grass. Mr. James stated Doug Ganger was executor of this property. We sent a letter about the tall grass on the property to be cut, but did not hear back from him. We had the property mowed twice so far, we will send a bill to him, or assess if it is not paid. Mr. James asked that another letter be sent to him again, since we weren't sure of the property owner the first time the letter was sent.

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

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$1041.78
Frontier	124.38	Ken James	108.76
Gretchen Slagle	431.12	Shipman Dixon	150.00
Amy Elmore	75.00	Kurt Troutwine	630.00
Porta Klein	190.00	Kurt Troutwine	670.00
Rolf Plumbing	300.00	LIS	1652.00
Ohio Dept of Tax	75.65	School Tax	144.59
AIM Midwest Media	40.50		

Mr. Foster made a motion to close the meeting, Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

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Kenneth James, Mayor

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Gretchen Slagle, Clerk

