

# Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

October 10,

2022

**Attendees:** Mayor-Ken James, Angi Deere, Evans, Mark May, Glen McSparran, Chris Foster, Gretchen Slagle-Fiscal Officer, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Others Present-Bradley Ingle, Julie Dunn, Miami County Sheriff Deputy.

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the September 12, 2022 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. McSparran made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: #5 New Business-Curb Painting should be in Old Business. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Abstain, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

**Sheriff Report:** Mr. James thanked the Sheriff's Department for putting the speed wagon by Dollar General and asked that if the wagon was available, could we use it and put it on the other side of the road at Dollar General, going toward Greenville.

**Citizens Comments:** 1. Julie Dunn/25 Laura Circle. Mrs. Dunn was present to express her concern about the condition of the property at 25 Laura Circle. There's an RV parked in the yard, the number of cars and things on the property is out of control, and could be dangerous. Mr. James noted charges were filed in June against the property owner, we are waiting on a verdict from the Judge. Mr. Johnston stated he had checked last week and has heard nothing about a verdict. Mr. James noted frustration from residents and Council.

**Solicitors Report:** 1. 25 Laura Circle/Nuisance Ordinance. Mr. Evans noted things have gotten worse at the residence. There's a RV parked out front, and there are unlicensed vehicles on the property. Can we have the Sheriff write tickets for these violations of the ordinance? Mr. Johnston stated the process to do this, (like our ordinance takes a lot of specific steps by the Sheriff Department. He stated we have three options: we wait on the Judge's verdict, we can file new charges, and we can file a civil suit, citing something like harm to the community, and we would want to abate the nuisance. Mr. May asked if we refiled charges, would we likely get a different judge. Mr. Johnston said there were two judges, so our chances were 50/50. Mr. May asked the down side of refiling the charges? Mr. Johnston noted additional costs to retry, the unknown verdict of the current judge, and how he might rule if he was assigned the case again. Mr. Foster asked if the charges filed were cumulative. Mr. Johnston stated they could be. Mr. Foster asked about contacting the EPA. Mr. James noted we previously contacted the EPA, the Health Department and Children's Services, he wasn't sure it would help to contact them again. Mr. James asked about the zoning code of running a business from a residential property. Mr. Johnston noted there are things to be considered like grandfathering, and other issues. Council discussed. Mr. May made a motion to authorize Mr. James and Mr. Johnston to contract with Wayne Miller for up to \$2500.00, for his services, and to pursue filing charges against the property owner of 25 Laura Circle to have them clean up their property. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

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

1. 104 S. Main St. There is a crack in the septic tank at this property, the property owner has been dealing with septic issues a long time. The Board has scheduled replacement of the tank.
2. Water Tower Controller. The Board is working on possible options to find the problem of the water tower overflowing.
3. Pool Fees. The Board is looking into options for doing away with pool fees.

**Old Business.** 1. Leaf Pick-Up. Mr. James noted West Milton will pick up the leaves this year for a cost of \$475.00 per pick-up, last year the cost was \$350.00 per pick-up. Mr. May made a motion to approve West Milton doing two pick-up dates this year at \$475.00 per pick-up. Mr. Evans 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. James will let us know the dates.

2. Snow Plowing/2022-2023. We have one bid for plowing and salting of streets this year. Haney's Mowing and Landscaping has a bid of \$115.00 per hour/per truck, minimum of three hours for plowing, and a cost of \$340.00 per ton of salt. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve Haney's Mowing and Landscaping to plow and salt Village streets. Mr. May 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. Curb Painting. Mr. James noted a resident used yellow paint to repaint their curb to discourage people from parking in front of their house, next to the restaurant. The paint is wearing off at various places around town. Council would like to repaint the curbs. We'll have to contact the companies during the winter to see if we can get on their schedules to paint the curbs this coming spring.

4. 2020-2021 Audit. We've received the results of the audit, there were a couple of comments concerning public records, everything else was good.
5. Water Plant Internet. No Report.
6. Phone Servers/Internet. Mr. May reported our internet phone and website server was suddenly dropped by the supplier, he replaced it with another similar server.
7. Fireworks Ordinance. Mrs. Deere asked if Council had decided to go forward with the ordinance to prevent fireworks being used in town. Mr. May noted there had been no interest from residents, no one came to the meetings, he thought that until there was a problem, or residents complained about fireworks, he was inclined to let it go as is. Council discussed considerations like noise, limiting hours to be used, containing the fireworks within the resident's property. Mr. Evans noted it could be an ordinance that could be hard to enforce. Mr. Evans made a motion to table indefinitely, the discussion of a fireworks ordinance. Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-No, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

**New Business.**

1. Beggar's Night. The date will be October 31, 6:00-8:00pm.
2. Miami County Budget Commission 2022 Rates. Mr. Foster made a motion to accept the 2022 rates of 3.40 mills, Mr. May 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. Limbs/Foliage/S. Main St. Mrs. Deere reported a tree limb hanging into the street between 301 and 303 S. Main Street. She would like a letter sent to the two property owners requesting whoever is responsible to remove the limb from overhanging the street. Ms. Slagle will send the letters.
4. Limbs/Stop Sign 10 Ludlow Street. The limbs need trimmed away from the stop sign at the corner of Pike and Ludlow Streets. Ms. Slagle will send a letter.
5. Village Maps. Mrs. Deere noted we might look into updating the map of the Village. We can contact the Map Department at the County for an updated one.
6. Girl Scouts/Park Project. The Girl Scouts have picked out some trees for the park. Mr. Foster will try to coordinate as to where the trees should be planted.
7. 4 N. Main St./Clean-Up. The lot has been cleaned up.
8. Mowing 2023. Mr. Troutwine has presented a quote for mowing Village properties for 2023. The rates would be the same as this year. Council is happy with Mr. Troutwine's service. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve Kurt Troutwine to mow the Village properties next year at the same rate as this year. 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.
9. Street Light/110 Pike. The resident at this address has let us know the street light is out. Ms. Slagle has contacted Miami Valley Lighting. Bradley Ingle stated he has a light pole at his property that had a "double down arrows" sign placed on it. Mr. Ingle researched it and found the sign meant the pole needed replaced. Ms. Slagle will also note Mr. Ingle's concern when she checks with Miami Valley Lighting about the pole at 110 Pike Street.
10. Speed Limit Sign/Pemberton Road. Mr. Ingle noted seeing a speed limit sign being hit by a truck and the sign put in the back of the truck. The truck was a Wagner Paving truck.
11. St. Rt.571 Speed Limit Sign. Mr. May brought to Council's attention the speed limit sign around the curve at Dollar General says 40MPH, the speed limit through town there is marked 35 MPH. We might want to look into that. Mr. James noted the Village is homed ruled, we can remove the sign if we want to.

**Bills.** Mrs. Deere made a motion to pay the following bills, 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.

PERS	\$866.51	AES	\$476.68
Gretchen Slagle	431.12	Ken James	108.78
Amy Elmore	75.00	Shipman Dixon	337.50
Porta Klein	190.00	Kurt Troutwine	670.00
Twillo	5.78	Arens Corp	130.00
Aim Midwest Media	40.50		

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

