

## Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

October 9,

2023

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

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. May made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: Citizens Comments-#1 the address should be 129 St. Rt. 571. Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Abstain, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

**Sheriff's Report:** 1. 17 N. Main Street. The red car sitting on the street has not been moved. Dept. Thobe will check the verbiage in the ordinance and address.  
2. Beggars Night. Mr. James asked if there were any available units, could someone come out during trick or treat. He will let them know the date.

**Citizens Comments:** 1. None

**Solicitors Report:** 1. 25 Laura Circle. Mr. Johnston discussed the Rex conviction. Mr. Rex had ninety days to significantly clean up his property, if he doesn't he could be jailed. Mr. Johnston suggested we take some pictures of the property a few days before the sentencing date, if the property has been cleaned up that would be great, if not, we would have proof, then let Mr. Johnston know it hasn't been cleaned up. He suggested using drone pictures again. Mr. James noted he thought Mr. Johnston did a good job representing us, he thought Mr. Johnston's closing was very effective. Mr. James would like an audio transcript of the hearing.  
2. 111 Pike Street/ Demo. Mr. James noted getting in contact with Mr. Noble's sister. We are working with Miami County to try to get some grant money to demolish the remains of the house.  
3. Utility Ordinances/ Zoning Code. The BOPA has been seeing some concerns about issues with residents and use of outbuildings that are installing bathrooms/or connecting to our septic or water system. There have been a couple of residents asking for permits to build sheds, barns, or are redoing an existing outbuilding and putting in living space and bathrooms. The property at 27 N. Main added bathrooms and living space, and intended to use it as a rental or business, our zoning prohibits this. The property at 107 Second Street has a building listed as a barn, but looks like a livable space. The Board is considering redoing our ordinances, or adding language that would be more specific for some things we are seeing people do, making sure our water and sewer systems are not being breeched. Mr. Johnson noted he thought it may be good to leave the ordinance in place, and add a paragraph or two to specify our intent. Mr. James noted the zoning code prevents changing an outbuilding into a residence on most properties. Mr. James noted that when we issue a zoning permit, we only look at placement of a fence, shed, addition, etc. most of the time, Laura has no code for electric, plumbing or building inspection. Mr. Johnston noted that even though Laura has no code for those, every building built in the County needs a permit. We should tell people they need to check with the County for electric, plumbing and building permits.

**BOPA:** Mr. May reported:

1. Low water pressure in the morning, at a few residences. We don't know if the size of the main could be an issue. Wagner Paving may be pulling water for their trucks around this time.

**Old Business.** 1. Union Township Regional Unification Meeting. Mr. May went to a meeting in West Milton. West Milton is leading an effort to inform area communities of possible grant monies for joint sewer/utility projects. The EPA is requiring more and more from small towns, Ludlow Falls has recently switched to using West Milton's sewer system, they already use Milton water. Potsdam is looking at sewer issues. Our water and sewer systems are in good shape. West Milton is going to write a letter of interest in seeking grant money and asked the other towns to also support this by sending a letter of support. The deadline for sending a letter was before our Council meeting, so we did not send a reply.

2. Davis Voice & Data. Mr. James spoke with Mr. Davis about installing a camera at the water plant, it was supposed to be installed as part of our contract. Mr. Davis stated he is working on a solution.
3. No Parking Sign. Have not been made yet by Miami County Engineers Office.
4. B Street Stop Sign. No Report.
5. Leaf Pick Up. No Report.

**New Business.** 1. 2024 Mowing. Mr. Troutwine has sent a quote for mowing for next year. There is a \$15.00 increase from last year's cost. Council is happy with the mowing. Mr. Foster made a motion to approve Kurt Troutwine mowing the village properties for 2024, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

2. Drone Pictures/25 Laura Circle. Mr. May made a motion to have Wayne Miller take some drone pictures of this property, before the court sentencing date. Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

3. Overgrown Shrubs/Pemberton and Adam's Alley. Mr. Foster noted limbs need trimmed away from the street at this property. Mr. Foster will send a picture to Ms. Slagle where the shrubs are. Ms. Slagle will send a letter asking them to trim the shrubs.

4. Beggars Night. Council sets Beggars night as October 26, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

5. Clerk Continuing Education Class. Ms. Slagle has signed up for an all-day class on October 19, at Austin Landing, as part of the CE classes needed. The cost is \$100.00. Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the \$100.00 cost, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

6. Sunshine Laws Update. Ms. Slagle noted she has taken the webinar on the Auditor of State website. She represented all the officials on Council, BOPA and the mayor. We are up to date on this.

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

PERS	\$1040.86	AES	\$978.84
Gretchen Slagle	431.12	Ken James	108.78
Amy Elmore	75.00	Shipman Dixon	637.50
Kurt Troutwine	420.00	Rumpke	169.16
Twillio	6.30	LIS	450.00
Treasurer of State	100.00	Miami Valley Lighting	3078.00
Treasure of State-UAN	762.00		

Mrs. Deere made a motion to close the meeting, Mr. May seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

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Kenneth James, Mayor

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Gretchen Slagle, Clerk

