THE VILLAGE OF PHILLIPSBURG

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 11/19/2024

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Members present were Mayor Shawna Newsom, President Pro-Temp Brandon Myers, Donna Mullins, Heather Craft, Hope Hoard, Chris Steiner. Steve Booker excused, Michelle Phillips excused. Mark Wysong excused, and Chris Rohwer not excused. Also present were Wendell Harleman and Ben Mazer.

Mayor Newsom asked for approval of minutes from October 1, 2024, Donna Mullins motioned, Chris Steiner 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Newsom asked for approval of minutes from October 15, 2024, Donna Mullins motioned, Chris Steiner 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Newsom asked for approval of Resolution #2018 Advancing Funds from the General Fund to the Fire Department and declaring an emergency. Donna Mullins motioned, Chris Steiner 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Newsom asked for approval of Ordinance #797 Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a contract with Miami Valley Lighting and declaring an emergency. Mayor Newsom stated this is a 5-year contract with no changes. Hope Hoard motioned to table Ordinance #797 for two weeks until the next council meeting, Heather Craft 2nd, and asked if they had received three estimates, Chris Steiner – yes, Hope Hoard – yes, Heather Craft – yes, Donna Mullins – no, Brandon Myers – yes, motion passed, tabled for next meeting.

Mayor Newsom stated that we currently have no zoning planning commission and approval is needed to consolidate two parcels into one parcel for the new gas station/convenience store. Mr. Johnson who is involved with the gas station/convenience store project, needs the council's approval to consolidate two parcels into one parcel. Brandon Myers motioned to consolidate the two parcels into one parcel, Donna Mullins 2nd. Approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Newsom stated in Mark's absence that he mailed out 4 zoning letters yesterday.

Mayor Newsom stated she has heard complaints about the broken equipment at the playground, and she wanted to explain the process of fixing the equipment. Mayor Newsom stated that any repairs that cost more than $750 must be approved by council vote. Hope Hoard stated that the slide is broken and she's okay with taking it down. Hope plans on applying for grants in the spring to replace the playground equipment. Wendell will take the slide down.

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Guest, Josh Simpson complained that another slide was broken and the cost for a new slide is $1,000, Mayor Newsom explained that council would have to vote on any purchase over $750 and we would need three estimates. Mayor Newsom stated there will be time at the end of the meeting for public comment.

Mayor Newsom stated that we have received lots of public records requests recently, lots of time-consuming requests, asking for any and all is too broad of a request, the requests need to be more specific with dates, times and exactly what you want. Mayor Newsom wanted to remind the public that we are a part time entity.

Mayor Newsom stated that the Village should be receiving the Fire check for $38,573.13 from Clay Township soon.

Donna Mullins asked for approval for the reallocation of appropriations for October and November 2024. Donna motioned, Brandon 2nd, All approved by unanimous vote.

Wendell Harleman stated the last day for leaf pick up will be next Wednesday, he said that he has taken 8 dump truck loads of leaves to Browns Nursery.

Donna Mullins motioned to approve and pay bills, Hope Hoard 2nd, All approved by unanimous vote.

Donna Mullins motioned for one council meeting per month, Chris Steiner 2nd, Hope - no, Heather – no, Brandon – yes, Donna – yes, Steiner – yes. Approved by majority vote.

Mayor Newsom stated that Ordinance #797 Miami Valley Lighting contract will be tabled for one month.

Brandon Myers wanted to thank council member Hope Hoard for putting on the Village Halloween Party.

Chris Steiner gave an update on the Speed Signs, Chris stated that he has all the poles installed and he still needs to purchase the brackets to install the panels. Chris stated the signs will be up and running by the middle of next week.

Hearing from the public, each attendee will get three minutes to speak.

Kay Dawson – Register Herald, Kay stated that she heard a rumor saying she was being treated like dirt from the Village. Kay wanted to make it clear that she had never been treated poorly by the Village.

Village Resident (did not state their name) wanted to know when the Dollar Store is going to take care of the fallen down fence in her back yard.

Josh Simpson wanted to thank everyone for helping clean up the school and asked the council if they were aware of the fire chief's resignation last Friday.

Mayor Newsom stated that they would be going into executive session for discussion.

Josh Simpson stated that the previous fire fighters that live in town are willing to come back and save the fire department but not with the current mayor sitting in the seat, he has a petition to recall the mayor. Josh stated they have formed an association and will start fund raising for the town.

Village Resident (did not state their name) stated that the residents are sponsoring a Christmas Decorating Contest, she has the information listed on Facebook in the Phillipsburg groups.

Lori Hartman stated that she is not a resident but lives outside of the Village, her son lives on Lutheran Road and the property next to him on Lutheran Road, someone shoots at the property with an automatic gun. Lori stated that she has called 911 and there's never an officer on duty and Clay Township Police will come out, but they have no jurisdiction in town, and nothing ever gets done about it. She has complained about this since 2019. Lori stated that she has photos and video tapes and would like to speak to someone about it.

Village Resident (did not state their name) stated that he is getting signatures to recall the mayor he will have the petition on December 1st if anyone would be interested in signing it, they can reach out to him.

Keith Koontz stated that this problem has been going on for 11 years because no one enforces the new ordinances in town. Keith stated that we all know what the problem is, and no one wants to enforce it and the problem continues.

Jill Settles stated that information was being withheld from her regarding the tree. Jill stated that she was not aware that Santina did not have homeowners' insurance. Jill stated that she is insured and not liable for the damage. Jill stated that if the Village would have notified her that they were not going to take the tree down she would have had it removed. Jill stated that the cost of the tree removal should be split three ways, she pays a portion, the Village pays a portion, and Santina pays a portion of the cost. Jill is asking the Village to revote on who is paying for the tree removal. Mayor Newsom stated that the council will vote at the next meeting on who is sharing the cost of the tree removal. Mayor Newsom stated that they may have a special meeting to vote on the tree removal.

Ilona Yannekus asked if we were enforcing zoning codes, she stated that it doesn't appear to be so. Ilona asked about the code of conduct for the committee, she stated that if you're not in the meeting you cannot act however you want before the meeting.

Keith Koontz asked about the website and stated it is out of date. Keith received some village history information dating back 200 years that he would like to be added to the website.

Ilona Yannekus asked if there is an appeals board, she stated there is no board that she can appeal to. Mayor Newsom stated that we do have an appeals board right here, it's the council. Ilona stated that she had spoken to a council member, and they told her repeatedly to call a lawyer.

Josh Simpson stated that the same person is doing the Police Chief and Code Enforcement Officer jobs and it's a conflict of interest, we need a new zoning officer. Josh had heard

complaints on how many hours the Police Chief works, we need more police patrols. Josh stated that we always get crappy people because we are hiring at the lowest rates.

Village Resident (did not state their name) stated that she wants to know what can be done with all of the feral cats in town. The resident stated that she has had thousands of dollars ruined on her property because of all the cats and wants to know who she can contact. Mayor Newsom stated that she will get her contact information after the meeting.

Brandon Myers motioned to go into executive session at 7:52 pm to discuss employment issues at the Fire Department and Fiscal Officer position, Brandon stated when they come back from executive session, they will make an announcement in regard to the appointment, employment, dismissal and complaints against public employees. Donna Mullins 2nd, All approved by unanimous vote.

Brandon Myers motioned to go back into regular session at 8:29, Donna Mullins 2nd, All approved by unanimous vote.

Brandon Myers stated that Fire Chief Chris Rohwer resigned effective December 4, 2024, and the MOU with the Village of Pitsburg has been cancelled and the fire chief car will be returned. Fiscal Officer Michelle Phillips resigned effective November 27, 2024. Brandon stated that the positions will have to be filled immediately, without the Fiscal Officer we cannot access any funds. Brandon stated if anyone knows anyone to let them know, they will post the jobs on social media and in the newspaper. Brandon stated that Shelly did a good job and the whole council agrees but with the stress of the job it wasn't worth it.

Brandon Myers motioned to adjourn the meeting at (time was not noted), Donna Mullins 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor: Shawna Newsom

Fiscal Officer: Michelle Phillips