THE VILLAGE OF PHILLIPSBURG

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 12/9/24

Called to Order: 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Members present were Mayor Shawna Newsom, President Pro-Temp Brandon Myers, Donna Mullins, Heather Craft, Hope Hoard, Steve Booker and Chris Steiner.

Mayor Newsom announces that there will be several executive sessions during this council meeting. Village members were asked to wait in the Community Center during executive sessions.

Donna Mullins motions to enter Executive Session to consider Matthew Buker for appointment to interim Fire Chief. Chris Steiner seconded motion. Unanimous vote to enter Executive Session.

Council enters Executive Session.

Brandon Myers motions to adjourn Executive Session. Donna Mullins seconded motion. Unanimous vote to resume regular session.

Regular session resumes at 7:23pm.

Mayor Newsom appoints Matthew Buker as interim Fire Chief of the Village of Phillipsburg for a probationary period of not more than 6 months, contingent to drug screening, background check and previous employment records. Donna Mullins motions to appoint Matthew Buker as interim Fire Chief. Steve Booker seconds. Unanimous vote to appoint Matthew Buker.

Mayor Newsom swears in Matthew Buker as interim Fire Chief of the Village of Phillipsburg.

Mr. Buker will pick up the chief vehicle from Mr. Reser and notify Mayor Newsom when that is completed. Mayor Newsom will notify the council.

Donna Mullins motions to enter Executive Session to discuss the vacant fiscal officer position within the village. Steve Booker seconds the motion. Unanimous vote to enter Executive Session.

Mayor Newsom invites legal council and Steve Woolf to remain for this executive session and excuses the village members.

Council enters Executive Session.

Regular session resumes at 8:45pm.

Mayor Newsom states there is not much to report regarding the vacant fiscal officer position after the executive session.

Mayor Newsom opens the floor for public comment.

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A gentleman comments regarding how former Chief Rohwer turned his keys into the village upon resignation without an executive session, and 24 hours later Mr. Reser was appointed emergency interim Fire Chief, which the gentleman states is within legal limits. He further states that the council stated they would not appoint Mr. Reser because of the investigation regarding Mr. Reser's current situation, and further the council had also inquired about the captain taking the interim Chief position. None of those things occurred and this gentleman disagrees with the decisions.

The gentleman continues to state that the mayor allowed the interim chief to change SOPs and then put out an application for fire chief, which he believes should not have happened. He states that the Mayor and Donna have no qualifications or certifications for reviewing a potential candidate for fire chief nor do they know anything about the fire department that would allow them to do so. He believes that it should have been a process of checks and balances, not the mayor and Donna, who called her mom on record, which is unprofessional. Also, the gentleman states the fire liaison was not utilized in the application review process, nor was the Miami Valley EMS Council.

Mayor Newsom states she did contact the Miami Valley EMS Council, who reported back to her today.

This gentleman states that regardless, he believes a committee should have formed to review applications. He also states that he questions the process when the mayor "cannot spell chief". He reiterates the changing of SOPs by an interim chief. He addresses the council and states that they continue to agree with the things the mayor does, but some of their positions are up this year and they can be recalled as well if they want to continue to "play into the corruption".

The gentleman asks about the salary of the fire chief and if that information will be made public. Mayor Newsom and the council state that information can be disclosed and it's the same as the previous chief. Response by the gentleman was inaudible.

The gentleman asks if Nate Reser is going to be assistant chief and the outcome of the investigation. Mayor Newsom states they have not made that determination yet. Another council member states they have not discussed it yet.

The gentleman states that the council members are deliberating in an email, and he believes this is a violation of the Sunshine Law.

Mayor Newsom states that the gentleman is over his 3-minute limit.

Mayor Newsom calls for any other public comment. No responses.

Brandon Myers motions for adjourning the meeting. Donna Mullins seconds. Unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Mayor: Shawna Newsom

Fiscal Officer: Vacant