

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Bethalto, IL

January 9, 2023

7:00pm

Council Chambers

The Village Board of Trustees met on the above date in the Council Chambers of Village Hall in a regular meeting called to order by Mayor Bost at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the “Pledge of Allegiance”. Roll call was taken by Village Clerk Sue Lowrance. Present: Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull in attendance. Also present: Police Chief Mike Dixon, Fire Chief Brian Buhs, Public Works Director Rod Cheatham, Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick, and Joseph Hughes.

Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Tweedy, to approve Village Board meeting minutes of December 12, 2022, as printed. All members voted aye viva voce. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISORS:

Fire Chief Brian Buhs presented his report for December, noting 162 calls for the month with a total of 1,675 for 2022. This is an increase of 278 calls from 2021, and Buhs stated that the year is off to a busy start as well. Commercial fire inspections are continuing, with most businesses responsive to issues. Buhs noted that this program is important to help ensure the safety of employees and patrons. Some of the violations were discussed, ranging from exit lights not working to loose wires to hazardous materials storage. There have been a few businesses who have complained, but Buhs said in general things are running smoothly. Trustee Lowrance asked if business district funds would be available for any business that needed assistance in funding major repairs; some repairs would be eligible for funding. Trustee Tweedy asked how the department’s run count compares to other local departments; Buhs answered that we run more calls than East Alton, Maryville, etc. There were no further questions.

Police Chief Mike Dixon presented the monthly activity report for December along with the department's annual report. Dixon noted that policing has helped to decrease some incidents that we have control over; domestic battery cases increased significantly over 2021. The state's Safe-T Act is on-hold as it faces legal challenges; Dixon added that this is a good thing for police departments and prosecutors and that bail & bond is still active. Dixon reviewed some significant cases and commended his officers for jobs well done. Residents are reminded to keep vehicles locked at all times to help deter theft. There were no questions.

Public Works Director Cheatham presented his monthly report by department. Interceptor lining has stopped until the ground dries out or it gets colder. The lowest bid for the replacement of the remaining 5 media filters at the water plant came in at \$97k, so those will be replaced soon. A sewer overflow was discovered on Olin property during the prep work for lining; this has likely been an issue for many years and Cheatham will be meeting with the IEPA regarding that situation this week. The Village has had many complaints and issues with Clearwave on the installation of fiber optic lines throughout town, and at one point Cheatham shut down work entirely due to working after permitted hours. Cheatham met with executives from the company to discuss the many concerns; an "operation to move forward" agreement was reached, but Cheatham added that any further violations will force the Village to shut down Clearwave's work for 30 days at a time until they can adhere to our rules. Demolition work on the interior of the old water office is nearing completion. There were no questions.

Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick reviewed the monthly zoning activity, noting that permits have dropped significantly; we ended the year with a decrease of 11.27%. Reddick updated the board on commercial construction projects and nuisance properties. There were 20 code violations issued, a decrease from November. The attorney for the appeal at 58 N.

Williams has missed every deadline, so Reddick is unsure how that will play out in court. Reddick encouraged anyone with questions or concerns regarding the safety inspection program to contact him, and businesses can be re-visited if needed in order to clarify violations/concerns. There were no questions.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nathaniel Rainey, 408 Winona Street, addressed the board with concerns over the infrastructure on Winona Street and the deterioration of his driveway and yard due to sinkholes and settling of ground. He presented a letter to each trustee and requested follow up on his concerns.

Jeff Allsman from Bethalto Spirit addressed the board to thank the Village and its employees for assistance with Christmas Village, the Christmas Parade, and the Victorian Christmas Walk. He also added a thank you to Public Works for updating the Spirit Building restroom.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-01 A Resolution Authorizing Mayor to Apply for Park Commission Funds from Madison County was presented. This PEP Grant would fund approximately \$41k for fencing at the Splash Pad playground and lighting upgrades in the parking lot at Central Park. Estimates for these projects came in at \$50k, so the remaining funding would come from the General Fund. **Motion made by Mull, seconded by Dugger, to approve Resolution 2023-01 A Resolution Authorizing Mayor to Apply for Park Commission Funds from Madison County.** Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

ORDINANCES

There were no ordinances presented for consideration.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Village offices will be closed January 16 for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There will be a Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals hearing & meeting on January 26 at 6pm regarding adding a special use category for specialty agriculture in RS5 and RS8 zoning districts. This will be discussed further at the January committee meeting.

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT:

The December Treasurer's report was presented with revenues and expenses reviewed. The Village's ending cash balance decreased approximately \$100k from the previous month. There are only 8 more quarterly TIF loan payments to be made. There were no questions.

Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Mull, to approve the Treasurer's Report for December, 2022. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee meetings will be held on January 23 at 6pm.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Motion made by Lowrance, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$356,296.43. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

WATER & SEWER FUND

Motion by Perkhiser, seconded by Mull, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$167,165.08. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

AUDIT FUND

Motion by Lowrance, seconded by Dugger, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$17,400.00. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

GARBAGE FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Tweedy, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$63,218.28. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

TIF FUND

Motion by Mull, seconded by Lowrance, authorizing payment of bills in the amount of \$125.00. Trustees Dugger, Lowrance, Perkhiser, Tweedy, Keister and Mull voted aye; nays none. Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 13, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Council Room of Village Hall.

Having no further business, **a motion was made by Mull, seconded by Dugger, to adjourn the meeting.** All trustees voted aye viva voce. Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk

Gary Bost, Mayor