

**VILLAGE OF BETHALTO
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2023 6:00PM
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Members Present:

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| Gary Bost | Tim Lowrance |
| Brady Dugger | Tim Tweedy |
| Maria Perkhiser | Terri Keister |
| Jeff Mull | |

Also Present:

Village Clerk Sue Lowrance
Zoning Administrator Randy Reddick
Village Attorney Ken Balsters
Public Works Director Rod Cheatham
Fire Chief Brian Buhs
Police Chief Mike Dixon

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gary Bost at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers of Village Hall.

MABAS MASTER AGREEMENT

Fire Chief Buhs announced that a resolution will be presented at the February meeting in order to adopt a new master agreement with MABAS. This is necessary to come into compliance, as there hasn't been an updated agreement since 1988. Buhs stated that the Village does utilize MABAS frequently, and they have made it clear that unless an updated agreement is signed, we won't be able to utilize their assets. Annual dues are paid for participation in the program. Attorney Balsters noted that the current agreement can be found at Appendix B in Chapter 30 of the Code; Mayor Bost will email out the updated agreement for Trustees' review.

FINANCE DIRECTOR UPDATE

The Personnel Committee has completed the interview process and is recommending a candidate for the Finance Director position; until the candidate is offered the job and decides, Mayor Bost wants to keep their identity confidential out of courtesy to the applicant. Bost will be contacting the candidate this week with an offer of employment.

SPECIAL USE APPLICATION

Zoning Administrator Reddick announced that there is a public hearing and meeting of the PC/ZBA set for Thursday in order to consider the creation of a special use category for specialty agriculture in RS5 and RS8 zoning districts. Reddick emphasized that this process is for the creation of the category and not for any specific property at this time. The PC/ZBA will receive public input on the proposal and, should they decide to create a category, determine what the category parameters should be. Reddick explained the options available to the PC/ZBA, which

is to continue until the next meeting, to forward a recommendation to proceed (and develop parameters for the category) or to reject the proposal. The final say on the proposal lies with the Village Board.

305 VIRGINIA STREET UPDATE

There will be a resolution presented at the February meeting regarding 305 Virginia, which has been a nuisance property since April, 2022. The property has been cited for tall grass & weeds and a deteriorating pool and deck. The property owner started off with some minimal effort to clean up, but after several additional citations it is apparent that they are not going to clean up the property. A resolution is required in order to proceed to allow the Village to clean up the property on its own; a lien will be placed on the property for Village expenses.

LIQUOR LICENSE GUIDELINES

Mayor Bost announced that he has had several recent inquiries about liquor licenses, and he would like the board's input on guidelines as to what types of businesses we'd consider issuing liquor licenses to. Bost noted that many recent inquiries are from people who want to have gaming machine establishments, or their primary objective is video gaming, so Bost wants a consistent set of guidelines for when requestors call. Bost has been researching the guidelines of other local municipalities, and shared those with the Board. There was discussion, with the consensus being that we don't want to encourage gaming-only establishments. Therefore, at this time we will only issue licenses to full-service restaurants, full-service bars, and gas stations. It was noted that we will need to work on defining "full service" and other requirements so that there is no room for interpretation in the Code.

Before adjournment, Trustee Lowrance stated that he would not support the hiring of a Finance Director without the hire living in Bethalto. There was discussion, noting that this position is considered a specialized skill and residency is not required. Trustee Perkhiser added that there were no qualified applicants from Bethalto. It was further noted that current union employees are allowed to live outside the Village limits, with police officers allowed to live up to 30 miles away from Village Hall. The candidate in question lives within 30 miles of Village Hall, which satisfied Lowrance.

Having no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Bost at 6:42pm.

Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk