

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

*Minutes of the:*

*Regular Meeting of Council*

*Held on:*

*February 20<sup>th</sup> 2024*



## VILLAGE OF WEST JEFFERSON COUNCIL

### MINUTES

**February 20th, 2024**

**Council Members:** President Jennifer Warner, Vice President, Linda Hall, Erica Bogner, Samantha Cahill, Jimmy Little, Jeff Patterson & Howard Wade  
**Mayor:** Ray Martin

### CALL TO ORDER

President Jennifer Warner called the Village of West Jefferson Council Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.

·Roll Call.

Council Members: Erica Bogner, Samantha Cahill, Linda Hall, Jimmy Little, Jeff Patterson, Howard Wade, and Jennifer Warner.

**Quorum Declare: 7 present, 0 absent.**

Village Employees in attendance: Mayor Ray Martin, Director of Information Technology, Mark Crosten; Assistant Director of Finance & HR Manager, Jackie Tiberio; Chief of Police, Brandon Smith; Director of Public Service, John Mitchell; Building & Zoning Code Enforcement Official, Kristie West; and Clerk of Council, Tisha Edwards.

### PRAYER & PLEDGE

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:

**Motion to Adopt the Agenda** Moved by Jeff Patterson and seconded by Samantha Cahill.

·All in Favor

**Motion to Approve the Minutes** of the February 5th, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council. Moved by Jeff Patterson and seconded by Samantha Cahill.

·All in Favor

### RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

Mayor Ray Martin and Chief Brandon Smith recognized Officer Mallory Teders for her efforts in a cold case discovery. Officer Teders who is responsible for handling all of the crime evidence as the Department Property Clerk, as well as a Police Officer, discovered DNA information from a 2004 sexual assault case that matched a current incarcerated inmates DNA. The information was turned over to the crime lab that ultimately led to the inmate's indictment. The case is currently pending. Chief Smith presented her with an award. Mayor Martin also commented that this is just one of the amazing things that Officer Teders has done within the community. She is always

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on her A game, and he has received multiple positive calls on how she handles herself while on duty in the Village. When his brother passed recently, he received calls of how she handled herself during his funeral and the respect that she showed. He presented her with the Mayoral Service Award as well and thanked her for her service.

Patty Hamilton arrived at the podium to speak of her run for Ohio State Representative in 2024. Mrs. Hamilton supplied the Council members, Mayor, Directors, and other staff with a flyer that provided her information and desire to run for Representative. Mrs. Hamilton is a retired Lieutenant Colonel who served 30 years in the Army Reserves. She is highly educated and has carried many civilian jobs while traveling with her husband who is a retired Command Sergeant Major. She is a proven Conservative who is endorsed by many organizations and a member of many Societies and Committees. She has a passion in fighting against Industrial Solar Fields and has been successful in doing so. They are working on fighting the 3rd suggested industrial solar field in Pickaway County. She has heard that it will be over 7,000 acres and only produce 800 megawatts of energy whereas a 5-acre natural gas supplier would supply over 940 megawatts of energy. She suggests using either Natural Gas or Nuclear energy for our power sources. She does not believe that CRT book agendas belong in our schools. She also will fight for the right to carry personal weapons to protect ourselves. She is a member of the NRA and is a current CCW holder. Another strong belief is that non-citizens should not be able to purchase land in OH or in the United States and that it should stop. She has received push back and she stated why sell them the land, just lease it. She believes that Parental rights are incredibly important. The schools should not be telling the parents that children have to wear masks or receive vaccines in order to attend school. She wanted to remind everyone that early voting begins tomorrow, February 21<sup>st</sup> for the March 19<sup>th</sup>, Primary election. You can feel free to email her with any questions at [pattyhamilton@patty4ohiorep.com](mailto:pattyhamilton@patty4ohiorep.com).

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of ORDINANCE 24-022, AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR POSITION.**

**Motion to adopt Ordinance 24-022** Moved by Jimmy Little and seconded by Howard Wade.

**Deliberations began. "Any questions or comments?"** Council member Jeff Patterson asked if the position has already been posted. Director of Public Service, John Mitchell and Assistant Director of Finance & Manager of Human Resources, Jackie Tiberio, both stated that it has not been posted. They have waited to post the job until they receive Council's approval for the appropriations.

**Deliberations ended.**

**Roll call.**

**VOTED YEA:** Erica Bogner, Samantha Cahill, Linda Hall, Jimmy Little, Jeff Patterson, Howard Wade, and Jennifer Warner.

**VOTED NAY:** None

**ABSTAINED:** None     **Motion Carried 7/0/0**

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### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Public Service and Special Events** (Chair, Erica Bogner) None.

**Finance** (Chair, Samantha Cahill) None.

**Employee Benefits** (Chair, Jimmy Little) None.

**Parks and Recreation** (Chair, Jeff Patterson) None.

**Development** (Chair, Linda Hall) None.

**Police** (Chair, Howard Wade) None.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**Report for Mayor** – Mayor Martin reported that he seen AEP fixing streetlights today and was excited to see them working on those. The areas of Eastgate and Converse were two areas that he hopes they will be focusing on because they are dark. He is excited that Spring is coming, and he is ready to start some of the programs that will be going on. There will be a free lunch downtown this summer with hotdogs provided. More information will be presented in the months to come. He would like to personally thank Council for their work, and he believes they are off to a strong start this year. As Steve Johnson used to say, "Let's kick this can down the road and do the job."

**Report for the Director of Public Service**– Director, John Mitchell was welcomed back by the President, and he reported that today the Village opened 2 bids. One is for the pedestrian crossing at St Rt 40 and N. Franklin Street by the Post Office which we had to rebid because the first time they received no bids. This time they had 5 bids. The bid went to Perram Electric from Wadsworth Ohio. Perram was almost \$10,000.00 under the budgeted amount and about \$10,000.00 under the Engineers estimated amount. Director Mitchell has already sent them the notice of award and did a background check with Choice One. The paperwork and processing will now start, and the equipment will be ordered and then it will be 6-8 months probably before it begins.

The other bid that was opened was for the paving program. The program was recently switched. The initial project was supposed to be in the Depot Jackson, Burnham/Washington area because we need to replace a storm sewer lines in that area. We will not be able to accomplish that this year and it was not budgeted in the bid. We are hoping to either do this in house or bid it out for later this year or next year. The paving program was switched to West Jeff Kiousville from Lilly Chapel down to the High School which is in very bad condition and is highly traveled. The other area will be Blendon Road. There were 7 bids that came in for these jobs. We have always done well with the paving bids because we bid them out in January or February and the Contractors are really looking for work during this time. The winning bidder was Cox Paving at \$216,000.00 and it was budgeted for \$375,000.00. We will have about \$35,000.00 to \$50,000.00 worth of work that will be done to the sidewalks as well. Cox Paving has done our last 3 paving projects. We will be reimbursed by the County either this year or next year for a portion of this due to some of the area falling within the County lines. The amount should be about \$45,000.00. The County share area is from Lilly Chapel to Converse.

Director Mitchell would like to meet with the Mayor and the Public Service Committee to discuss the upcoming trash contract. The upcoming renewal will be at the end of July. We have had some concerns with the current contract, but he believes most of those issues have been resolved and they are doing a good job. The option would be to bid it out or renew the contract. Director Mitchell also stated that he will be talking with the Parks and Recreation Committee in regard to Converse Park. They will be looking at the cost to replace the basketball court and possibly adding a pickleball court. With pickleball becoming more popular that is

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something to be looked at. Director Mitchell learned on his recent vacation that the average age of pickleball players 3 years ago was 72, now it's 32.

Council member Howard Wade asked if the department was still looking into putting a bathroom in at Westwood Park. Director Mitchell stated that he recently received back plans from an Engineering firm for the bathroom. There is money left over from last year's budget that he is hoping to use for that purpose. President Jen Warner asked the Director if he had heard back from 101 Mobility on an updated quote for the chair lift for the Village Hall. Director Mitchell stated that he has not received the updated quote but will contact them this week to follow up on that. He will let everyone know when he has the update. Vice President Hall asked if the sidewalk leading up to the Santa house had been completed for handicap access. Director Mitchell said with the upcoming season, they will begin working on that.

**Report for Recreation and Special Events Manager** – Mr. Stanley was not in attendance and Director Mitchell reported for his Department. The Spring Shop Hop will be on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Easter Egg hunt will be March 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The egg hunt will start at 11 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Rabbit will be in attendance and there will be 12,000 eggs to hunt. Recently some updates have been done to the restrooms at the Community Center and will continue to be updated. The Office for the staff has received new flooring and some updates.

**Report for Director of Finance** – Director Rebecca Shipley-Arnott was out of town. No report was given.

**Report for Chief of Police** – Chief, Brandon Smith reported that there are several felony cases that have progressed to prosecution. The Madison Gardens theft case has progressed to prosecutor review. Diego, the Village K-9 Officer found evidence that returned positive for crystal meth in a recent search. They are completing interviews for the next few weeks for the Detective position that needs to be backfilled. The Village recently hired a Police Officer that will begin on February 26<sup>th</sup>. He has experience as a Police officer in South Carolina and the Richland County Sheriff's office. Our current Detective is in training that will allow him new tools for interview techniques. There were 113 traffic stops since last reported, 74 on Main Street and 77 resulted in citations.

**Report for Director of Development** – Director Tom Hale was not in attendance. Planning & Zoning Code Enforcement Officer, Kristie West attended and stated that there was no report at this time.

**Report for Director of Information Technology** – Director, Mark Crosten, had no report at this time.

**Recognition of Clerk and Council** – Council Member, Jimmy Little stated that many of us are familiar with the Erie trail that runs from Cleveland to Cincinnati and a portion of that is in Madison County. He is a current member of the Friends of Madison Counties Parks and Trails. He was at a meeting that made mention of a long-term plan for a trail running from West Jefferson to the Current trail that runs through Lilly Chapel and London. He went to a meeting last Thursday that MORPC held in Central Ohio and in that meeting they discussed a 2.4 million grant that would be divided between 6 communities to help develop 500 more miles of bike trail. With this grant they will provide design services as well. Our town would fit the demographic of who they are looking for. They are asking for a letter of commitment from the interested Villages/Cities and a \$25,000 contribution. President Warner asked if this is something that the rest of Council would be interested in. They all agreed that they are but would like more information. Jimmy will get the information from MORPC and find out if the cover letter is an intention and not a guarantee. It was suggested that after finding out this information that the letter should be reviewed at a Special Meeting of Council, and they will vote. A concern too was that they only heard about this last week and the deadline to respond is the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. More information will be given as Council is made aware.

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The Mayor mentioned that the owner of the pharmacy that was here in town until recently, asked if he could come and speak to Council. Mayor Martin told him to contact the President or Clerk to be added to the agenda.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**-None.

**PAY THE BILLS**

**Motion to Pay the Bills** Moved by Howard Wade and Seconded by Samantha Cahill.

·All in Favor

**ADJOURN**

**Motion to Adjourn by President Jen Warner at 7:44 p.m.** and reconvene at the March 4th, 2024, regular meeting of Council. Motion moved by Jeff Patterson and Seconded by Erica Bogner.

All in favor.



*Tisha Edwards*  
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 Tisha Edwards                      Date  
 Clerk of Council

*Jennifer Warner 2-20-24*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jennifer Warner                      Date  
 President of Council