Held 17 January 2022

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2022

<u>Called to Order:</u> President Conway called the Village of West Jefferson Council Meeting to Order and asked for a Roll Call at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Council Members Samantha Cahill, Mike Conway, Linda Hall, Richard King, Jeff Patterson Howard Wade, and Jennifer Warner [Also attending were Chief of Police Chris Floyd; Finance Director, Becky Arnott-Shipley; Clerk of Council, Jimmy John Hall; Mayor, Ray Martin].

Quorum Declare: 7 present, 0 absent.

Prayer: Rev. Jimmy John Hall.

What does the number 01-056 mean to you? It is the number to the piece of legislation where that Council affirmed their continued reliance upon "God, the Supreme Being" after the events of 911. They also affirmed that He hears and answers prayers. What does the number 29:2 mean to you? It is a reference to Proverbs 29:2, which says that when the righteous are in authority, then the people rejoice. There have been many comments of thanks made about this present Council from the public ... an attestation to that infallible truth. We are thankful for our Council, our Mayor, and each Department Head.

Let us pray. Almighty God, we come to You tonight confessing we need wisdom and the holy ability to pursue peace and to govern. Help us to that end by Your Holy Spirit and for Christ's sake. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance: Jeff Patterson.

I (we) pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The Agenda:

Motion to Adopt the Agenda moved by Mr. King and seconded by Mr. Wade.

VOICED VOTE AFFRIMED

Motion Carries 7-0.

The Minutes:

Motion to Adopt the Minutes of the January 3, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council moved by Mr. Patterson and seconded by Mr. King.

VOICED VOTE AFFRIMED

Motion Carries 7-0.

Committee Reports: None.

Department Reports:

Report from Mayor:

<u>Mayor Martin</u> said there has been a small outbreak of the virus in the administration building. It is starting to slow down. We have been trying to purchase tests, but the government has bought up a large supply. There is a snowstorm blanketing West Jefferson and the snow crews have been out since early this morning. We are beginning to see improvements on the roads. During these winter months, we are focusing on training. We contacted Kessler concerning the sign as it needs obvious repairs. Mayor Martin also handed out the 4Q 2021 Development Report from David Kell.

Report from Director of Public Service: Read by Mayor Martin.

<u>Mayor Martin</u> said over the past week, there has been staffing issues due to the ongoing COVID issues. Yet, six staff members covered all the need and responsibilities in an exemplary way. In the next week, we should be interviewing three potential IT Managers. Choice One Engineering also designed some more way-outs and way-ins for the playground equipment.

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Report from Recreation and Special Events Manager:

<u>Shelton Stanley</u> said when John Mitchell gets back, he also wants to do a special event meeting and parks and recreation meeting. We have the upcoming Valentine's Day Dance on February 11, 2022, at 7-9:00 pm, at the Community Center. Recently, the back conference room was cleaned out. Now, we are getting ready for the Spring and Summer; Lunch and Learn, Friday Night Up Town, and many other activities.

Ms. Hall asked about the facility lights at the Community Center.

<u>Shelton Stanley</u> said AEP has been contacted and they will change the streetlight out to a brighter LED light.

<u>Mayor Martin</u> said we have about 300 other lights in town, and they will get to this according to the request and maintenance priority.

Mr. Wade asked if there are any activities planned around the nice new shelter house?

<u>Shelton Stanley</u> said once park is finished, we might do all three Friday Night Up Town events at that location.

Report from Director of Finance:

<u>Becky Arnot-Shipley</u> said the Finance Department is hoping to distribute the financials to Council in time for the next meeting. The Income Tax figures are final for 2021, December was up 17%, and 2021 was up 34% overall. We are still working through end of the year procedures. We are working through the 2021 Financials and Footnotes that are due to the Auditor of State by February 28, 2022. Lastly, we had one payment item to Cargill Salt.

Report from Chief of Police:

<u>Chief Floyd</u> said the new Police Officer had a first good week in uniform. We also have a new Auxiliary Officer ready to be sworn in. Lastly, over the previous two weeks, we had 131 traffic stops and 58 resulted in citations.

Report from Development Director: None.

Recognition of Clerk and Council:

Jimmy John Hall said the Annexation Workshop was a success. Now we have the material for anybody who would like to listen to the course. Second, something is going on with Tech Support as we have not had any response since January 5. We have several outstanding issues. Third, a new newsletter will begin. It's called "Council's Corner." This will spotlight the previous month and looks ahead to the next month. Lastly, we are going to pursue people from the community to pray and lead the pledge. Then, a short bio will be incorporated in the newsletter.

Ms. Hall asked could we have some of our Police Officers involved?

<u>Jimmy John Hall</u> said that is exactly what is trying to be accomplished; Police Officers, Chaplains, and other people.

Mr. Wade suggested a local student of the month at the local school.

Ms. Cahill asked if this newsletter is too much to do?

<u>Jimmy John Hall</u> said nobody asked the Clerk to it. But how can the community see and hear about Council more and how can people from the community be involved more? This is just a small part.

<u>President Conway</u> suggested highlighting one of the Council members or Department Heads each month with a picture and short biography.

Recognition of Guests:

Old Business:

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New Business:

Resolution 22-013 authorizing Pandemic Pay Policy and making the Policy effective retroactively to March 31, 2021.

Discussion: President Conway invited Council Discussion.

Becky Shipley-Arnott said the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act Policy (FFCRAP) has not been extend and we need authorization to continue to pay the wages of people who have gotten the virus during this subsequent wave of sickness. We are following, as close as possible, the CDC guidelines. But instead of staying home for 5 days, we are asking people to stay home for 10 starting from the onset of symptoms.

(inaudible)

<u>Mayor Martin</u> said the new guidelines state to take 5 days off, then return to work and wear a mask for 5 days. Instead of wearing a mask for 5 days, we want people to come back to work healthy.

Jimmy John Hall said some doctors are saying that people can still text positive some time after getting well. Furthermore, there is no such thing as passing the virus during an asymptomatic state. When the body starts to be productive with a response, then it can be passed. This legislation reflects that, namely, if you have symptoms and test positive, you need to stay home. Also, some people have other health issues that are made worse by wearing a mask.

Ms. Warner asked about the extension to up to June 2022.

Becky Shipley-Arnott said hopefully the pandemic is done by then.

Ms. Warner said a text should be done upon symptoms.

Becky Shipley-Arnott said a text will need to be done in order to receive the benefits.

<u>Jimmy John Hall</u> said a One-Size-Fits-All approach doesn't fit for everybody. That's why the legislation has the words of accommodation sought with an immediate supervisor. Other professionals agree about the lack the efficacy of the mask as they do not protect against this virus but do against global virus scenarios such as the seasonal flu.

Ms. Cahill said the other problem is the availability of tests.

Mr. Wade said CVS has some but its expensive.

(inaudible)

<u>Mayor Martin</u> said if people don't come to work for a couple of days, then we will know why and ask for a test to start the process.

<u>Becky Shipley-Arnott</u> said we will start paying on the day symptoms begin up to the tenth day. If they are still sick, then they have to use their own days off.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 22-013 moved by Mrs. Warner and seconded by Mr. Wade.

VOTE YEA: Ms. Cahill, Mr. Conway, Ms. Hall, Mr. King, Mr. Wade, and Ms. Warner.

VOTE NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: 1, Mr. Patterson.

Motion Carries 6-0-1.

Resolution 22-014, accepting the property values, tax rates, and estimated tax revenue for calendar year 2022 as estimated by the Madison County Auditor.

Discussion: President Conway invited Council Discussion.

Becky Shipley-Arnott said this is what the County sends to us every year.

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Motion to Adopt Resolution 22-014 moved by Ms. Hall and seconded by Ms. Cahill.

VOTE YEA: Ms. Cahill, Mr. Conway, Ms. Hall, Mr. King, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Wade, and Ms. Warner.

VOTE NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7-0.

Resolution 22-015, setting the Pay Rate for Full-time Assistant to the Mayor/Community Engagement Officer, Jill Sorenson, at the One-Year Level, and making the Rate effective retroactively to January 3, 2022.

Discussion: President Conway invited Council Discussion.

Ms. Warner asked who is the back-up in the Water Department now?

<u>Becky Shipley-Arnott</u> said twenty-five percent of her salary came out of water and twenty-five percent came out of sewer. Her hours were over 2,080, which is enough to recognize prior service.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 22-015 moved by Mr. King and seconded by Ms. Hall.

VOTE YEA: Ms. Cahill, Mr. Conway, Ms. Hall, Mr. King, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Wade, and Ms. Warner.

VOTE NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7-0.

Resolution 22-016, creating Council Committees to assist various Departments and Commissions for the 2022 term of Council.

Discussion: President Conway invited Council Discussion.

Ms. Hall said the structure of the Committees are being changed but what about signatures and nondisclosures? Should this be talked about before we vote on it or make a Tabling Motion? How are votes going to be conducted?

<u>President Conway</u> said the Committee Meetings are meeting whether three people show up or the entire Council.

Ms. Hall asked if there will still be a chairperson?

<u>President Conway</u> said there are still chairpersons. So, the change is including the entire Council on the Committee. Also, on January 31, the Assistant Law Director is going to go over the Sunshine Laws with Council.

Ms. Cahill asked if Ms. Hall could chair the Finance Committee?

<u>President Conway</u> said Ms. Hall can be the Finance Committee Chair and Ms. Cahill can be the second signer.

Ms. Warner asked why there is no Police Committee?

<u>President Conway</u> asked if we needed a Police Committee? The Chief of Police makes his report during the Regular Meeting of Council.

Ms. Warner said so does the Director of Finance but there is a Finance Committee.

<u>Becky Shipley-Arnott</u> said a lot of times, we have to go through several committee meetings to bring something to Council.

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	President Conway said he sees their point.	and the second second		
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Ms. Warner said we have always had three people fill committees, anybody was welcome to come, and the recommendation came from the committee. How is that done with seven people? Seven people is a Council meeting.

Ms. Cahill said this is a tautology. Everybody is already there only to do the same work later at a Council meeting. We would effectually be recommending it to ourselves to vote on it by ourselves.

Ms. Warner said this is the other problem. How is a meeting set up? Does the chair have to make sure all seven people can attend in order to get a quorum of four?

<u>President Conway</u> said a quorum is needed when there is a vote. There is no vote at committee meetings.

Ms. Cahill said what necessitated this change? Was something broken? The prior set-up was working well with three people.

President Conway said communication was broken. There's been meeting that the rest of Council knew nothing about.

Ms. Cahill said then that should have been mentioned at time not now. We don't need this change because of one issue.

President Conway said what would you all like to see?

Ms. Cahill said leave the committees the way they were previously.

Mayor Martin said in order to have a meeting, there has to be a quorum. If you these changes are made, then the quorum requirement is more burdensome.

<u>Jimmy John Hall</u> suggested that there needs to be more conversations with each other to seek a peaceful

Motion to Table Resolution 22-016 moved by Mr. Patterson and seconded by Ms. Hall.

VOTE YEA: Ms. Cahill, Mr. Conway, Ms. Hall, Mr. King, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Wade, and Ms. Warner.

VOTE NAY: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7-0.

Additional Business: None.

Pay the Bills:

Motion to Pay the Bills moved by Mr. Wade and seconded by Mr. Patterson.

VOICED VOTE AFFRIMED

Motion Carries 7-0.

Motion to Approve "Then and Now" Certificates over \$3,000.00: None.

Adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn at 7:57 P.M. moved by Mr. Patterson and seconded by Ms. Hall until 7:00 P.M. February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of Council.

VOICED VOTE AFFRIMED

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