

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Council

Meeting

GRAPHIC VILLAGE - CINCINNATI, OH

Form 6101

Held

17 April 2023

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

17 APRIL 2023

Called to Order:

President Linda Hall called the Village of West Jefferson Council Meeting to Order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

Council Members: Sam Cahill, Mike Conway, Linda Hall, Richard King, Jeff Patterson, Howard Wade, and Jennifer Warner.

Quorum Declare: 7 present, 0 absent.

Also attending were: Director of Finance, Becky Arnott-Shiple; Assistant Law Director, Josh Beasley; Director of Information Technology, Mark Crosten; Acting Chief of Police, Brandon Smith; Clerk of Council, Jimmy John Hall; Recreation and Special Events Manager, Shelton Stanley; and Mayor, Ray Martin.

Prayer: Mayor Ray Martin.

Our Most Gracious Eternal Father, we are so thankful for all your blessings. We pray that you would help us to count those blessings and acknowledge your hand in all things. We ask your blessing upon this wonderful Village. We ask that you would help us to be able to help the Village with our business tonight. In Jesus Christ name we pray. Amen.

Pledge: Mr. Wade

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.

Oath of Office: Mayor Martin performed the Oath of Office for Brandon Smith, Detective / Lieutenant, and Josh Jacob, Lieutenant.

Agenda:

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

VOTE YEA: Cahill, Conway, L. Hall, King, Patterson, Wade, and Warner.
VOTE NAY: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7/0/0

Minutes:

Motion to Approve the Minutes (with the corrections) of the 3 April 2023 Regular Meeting of Council moved by Ms. Warner and seconded by Ms. Cahill.

VOTE YEA: Cahill, Conway, L. Hall, King, Patterson, Wade, and Warner.
VOTE NAY: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7/0/0

Recognition of Guests:

Old Business:

A. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 23-026, PURSUANT TO CODIFIED ORDINANCES CHAPTER 1117.01, COUNCIL SHALL SET THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION AT THE TIME OF ANNEXATION OF PARCEL # 08-00344.000 TO PLANNED COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (PCD).

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 23-026, moved by Ms. Warner and seconded by Mr. Wade.

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Deliberations: President L. Hall opened Council deliberations.

Mr. Nathan Painter, representing CP West Jefferson LLC, made sure Council understood the change in the height of the signage from 100 feet to 125 feet. This information was discussed previously and provided to Council with a modified application in the relevant section.

Ms. Warner asked about a construction date.

Mr. Brent Myers, representing CP West Jefferson LLC, responded there is not a specific time. We are still at the first steps of the process.

Deliberations: President L. Hall closed Council deliberations to vote on the main motion.

VOTE YEA: Cahill, Conway, L. Hall, King, Patterson, Wade, and Warner.
VOTE NAY: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7/0/0

New Business: (*indicates an emergency requested)

A. RESOLUTION 23-034, SETTING THE PAY RATE FOR FULL-TIME LIEUTENANT, BRANDON SMITH, AT THE FIVE-YEAR LEVEL.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 23-034, moved by Ms. Warner and seconded by Ms. Cahill.

Deliberations: President L. Hall opened Council deliberations.

Ms. Arnott-Shiplely added although Mr. Smith moved from Detective to Lieutenant, he is still the Acting Chief of Police.

Deliberations: President L. Hall closed Council deliberations to vote on the main motion.

VOTE YEA: Cahill, Conway, L. Hall, King, Patterson, Wade, and Warner.
VOTE NAY: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7/0/0

B. RESOLUTION 23-035, SETTING THE PAY RATE FOR FULL-TIME LIEUTENANT, JOSHUA JACOB, AT THE FIVE-YEAR LEVEL.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 23-035, moved by Mr. Wade and seconded by Ms. Warner.

Deliberations: President L. Hall opened Council deliberations.

Deliberations: President L. Hall closed Council deliberations to vote on the main motion.

VOTE YEA: Cahill, Conway, L. Hall, King, Patterson, Wade, and Warner.
VOTE NAY: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7/0/0

C. RESOLUTION 23-036, SETTING THE PAY RATE FOR FULL-TIME ASSISTANT WATER SUPERINTENDENT, ZACHARY D. WINDLE, TO THE THREE-YEAR LEVEL.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 23-036, moved by Ms. Warner and seconded by Mr. King.

Deliberations: President L. Hall opened Council deliberations.

Mr. Mitchel explained after searching and considering a total of six (6) people, we hired Mr. Windle. He has previous experience at another water department and has certification.

Deliberations: President L. Hall closed Council deliberations to vote on the main motion.

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

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VOTE NAY: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7/0/0

Committee Reports: None.

Department Reports:

Report for Mayor – Mayor Martin reported both US Senators and Representative Mike Carey have been informed about our situations, given all the information on the viaduct, and notified the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). The PUCO was previously not aware of these concerns. Therefore, this issue is getting more attention. Second, the Easter Egg activity was a well-attended event aside from a couple of issues. Those issues will be resolved next year. Third, construction is underway. Fourth, the old Dairy Queen is gone. Although Mr. Hale is not present tonight, we want to thank him for seeing this demolition request all the way through. Fifth, at the end of May Taylor Blair lights will be lit up. Sixth, Mr. Mitchell and the Mayor talked with AEP about street lights and replacing some of them. Lastly, Drug Take Back Day is April 22, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., at the Fire Department and there is a drop off box at the Police Department.

Mr. Conway asked the Mayor about the other two (2) viaducts.

Mayor Martin responded we are looking at the others but most of the attention is given to the one on US Route 40. The other two viaducts were mentioned in the meeting with Rep. Carey's people. Additionally, with an EMS meeting we had, it was agreed throughout the entire County that West Jefferson's viaduct situation was of the most concern. Council has access to those reports.

Report for Director of Public Service – Mr. Mitchell reported we did meet with AEP concerning replacing the street lights with LED to be more energy efficient. Second, the Westchester construction project has started and moving along well. On the north and east sides, the curb and gutters are finished. They are installing the storm sewers and laterals for homes to tie into for downspouts and sump pumps. Then they will put in the side walks and begin on phase two with the south and west side of the streets. The last item will be repaving. Second, the paving program for Smith, Grant, and Lincoln Streets is going well. They are replacing water valves, catch basins, and north side and south side sidewalks. The final item will be the paving. Third, by the end of May we expect the mast pools for the Taylor Blair project. Once those materials arrive, it should take two (2) or three (3) weeks to finish. Lastly, we are waiting for consistently warm weather to lay the rubber surface at Westwood Park.

President Hall asked on behalf of a constituent when will Fellows Ave. be worked on?

Mr. Mitchell responded we put in for a grant in 2024 that includes Garfield. This is a total reconstruction. But we are still working on another section's design. This is the next big project after Westchester.

Mr. Conway asked how much black top is being taken off? How much is being put back on? Why are we not putting curbs in? People have been parking on the sidewalks. Are we going to enforce not parking on the sidewalks?

Mr. Mitchell responded two (2) inches. We will enforce with the Police Department. The reason why we cannot have curbs there is it would cost another \$150,000.00 because of the engineering and reverse flow of the water in the yards. There would be a lot of drainage issues.

Report for Recreation and Special Events Manager – Mr. Stanley reported the Easter Egg Hunt was packed with attendees. One attendee showed up and there were no eggs left. We offered to pay for some from a store. Amazon donated cookies and people to help. Madeline's also made sugar cookies available at half price. Also, the pool had a concrete base poured. Lastly, check the website for upcoming events.

Report for Director of Finance – Ms. Arnott-Shiple reported, first, the 1st quarter Financial Reports are in the Council Packets. The Income Tax collections are down 1% for January, down 19% for February, up 3% for March, and down a total for 7%. Second, we processed 47 refunds for \$24,000.77. Third, there were no revenue items over \$10,000.00 but there were 203 receipts for \$603,098.94 and Open Road Renewables LLC donated \$9,000.00 for Friday Night Uptown. Fourth, there were payment items over \$10,000.00; Battelle's 1st half TIF distribution for \$213,854.02, Ag-Pro Ohio for \$11,282.71, Bob's Flatwork for \$45,100.00, Dell Computers for \$48,886.08, and 226 payments for a total of \$574,446.22.

Report for Chief of Police – Acting Chief Smith reported the Police Department followed up on a previous concern brought to our attention in the last council meeting in the residential area of Fellows

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Avenue. Resident had arrived to council expressing concerns with speeding violations, wrong way violation, along with parking violations. The Police Department was requested to do something about it, as the problem has been ongoing for the past year. The Police Department began directed patrols in this area for the following two-week period. Logged activity shows 16 different contacts in that area, and 1,000 logged minutes of directed patrol. The total number of traffic stops that Officers conducted overall were 180, 65 shown on Main Street, and 51 resulted in citations. Our newest Officer has just completed his FTO training and is now fielding calls of service on assigned shift. We have three (3) employees currently on leave, two are Police Officers and the other is the Chief of Police. Considering the shift restraints, the department is doing very well.

Mr. Wade asked if there are police patrols happening?

Acting Chief Smith responded there are police patrols, they are being logged and tracked, and they are going well.

Mr. King asked how many tickets were given on Kirkwood and Fellows?

Acting Chief Smith responded in the past week there were three (3) stops and deferred to Lieutenant Jacob.

Lieutenant Jacob added two (2) vehicles were stopped and educated about the traffic laws. The Department is running two (2) officers on 2nd shift to address these issues and we are putting more resources into this complaint. As a result, we do have a great presence at the school and are even looking into a crossing guard.

Mr. King added recently he observed the situation at the public school crosswalk and intersection. The situation is dangerous for the children in this way, namely, teachers having to dart into the crosswalk to prevent a vehicle from striking a child, people are not stopping at the traffic signs – the stop signs – and while the police are present safety improves but without the police presence safety declines. This is a dangerous crosswalk and intersection. When are the police present? Is it every other day, every day, or something else? Can we share the cost of an FBI check for crossing guards? We need to bring attention to this.

Mayor Martin added there has been discussion with the Director of Public Service to consider whether the intersection can be made into a three way stop and what resources the public school might be able to add to the resources the Village is already providing. We all agree this is a very serious and important situation.

Ms. Warner added about two years ago there was a meeting with the school. They investigated getting a patrol but no volunteers came forward. The question was raised, specifically, which would you rather have an officer at the school or corner? The corner was preferred. But there are officers at the school, none at the corner. Is it possible to get a lit crosswalk? Also, people have said they prefer to roll through the stop sign.

Mr. Mitchell responded we can look at a lit-up crosswalk and other alternatives. The stop sign requires the driver to stop behind the sign. We need to explore acquiring a crossing guard.

Report for Director of Development – Mayor Martin read a brief report.

Report for Director of Information Technology – nothing to report.

Recognition of Clerk and Council:

Mr. J. Hall added the library director would like to give a five (5) minute presentation at the next Regular Meeting of Council and at the next meeting there are four (4) Public Hearings with corresponding legislation.

Mr. Conway responded thank you for addressing the issues at the crosswalk. We want to thank the Acting Chief of Police for taking on this issue.

Additional Business:

Pay the Bills:

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

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

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VOTE NAY: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7/0/0

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

Executive Session: to consider confidential business information of an applicant for economic development assistance related to the existing TIF (*The Ohio Open Meeting Act, Chapter Nine, Topic Eight*).

Motion to Enter into Executive Session to consider confidential business information of an applicant for economic development assistance related to the existing TIF moved by Ms. Warner and seconded by Ms. Cahill at 7:56 P.M.

VOTE YEA: Cahill, Conway, L. Hall, King, Patterson, Wade, and Warner.
VOTE NAY: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7/0/0

Motion to Come out of Executive Session moved by Mr. Patterson and seconded by Mr. King at 9:10 P.M.

VOTE YEA: Cahill, Conway, L. Hall, King, Patterson, Wade, and Warner.
VOTE NAY: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7/0/0

Adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn at 9:11 P.M. moved by Mr. Patterson and seconded by Ms. Cahill.

VOTE YEA: Cahill, Conway, L. Hall, King, Patterson, Wade, and Warner.
VOTE NAY: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Carries 7/0/0


Jimmy John Hall
Clerk of Council


Linda Hall
President of Council

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