

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL OF WAITE HILL, OHIO

February 8, 2021

Pursuant to notice given, the Council of the Village of Waite Hill, Ohio, met via Zoom at 8:19 a.m. on Monday, February 8, 2021, with Mayor Robert A. Ranallo presiding. The following members of Council were present via Zoom:

Ryan Cox  
Sam Knezevic  
Abby Hiltzley  
Marcia Merritt

Karl Scheucher  
Richard Steudel  
Courtenay Taplin

Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Robbi Laps, Law Director Stephen L. Byron, Chief of Police Keith DeWitt, Police Lieutenant Carl Dondorfer, and Bob Haynik, Service Director.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held January 11, 2021, were previously distributed to Council. Mr. Knezevic moved to approve the minutes as presented, which motion was seconded by Mr. Steudel.

Roll Call: Yeas: Cox, Hiltzley, Knezevic, Merritt, Scheucher, Steudel, Taplin  
Nays: None

Motion carried  
Minutes approved

**Resolution No. 2021-2** - "A Resolution authorizing and directing the payment of certain sums" was read. After discussion, Mr. Scheucher moved that said Resolution be adopted as read, which motion was seconded by Ms. Merritt.

Roll Call: Yeas: Cox, Hiltzley, Knezevic, Merritt, Scheucher, Steudel, Taplin  
Nays: None

Motion carried  
Resolution No. 2021-2 adopted

**Resolution No. 2021-3** - "A Resolution commending Robert I. Gale, III, for his many years of service on the Village Council" was read. After discussion, Mr. Cox moved that said Resolution be adopted as read, which motion was seconded by Mr. Knezevic.

Roll Call: Yeas: Cox, Hiltzley, Knezevic, Merritt, Scheucher, Steudel, Taplin  
Nays: None

Motion carried  
Resolution No. 2021-3 adopted

**Resolution No. 2021-4** - “A Resolution requesting the County Auditor to advance taxes in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and Declaring an Emergency.” was read. After discussion, Mr. Steudel moved that said Resolution be adopted as read, which motion was seconded by Mr. Knezevic.

Roll Call: Yeas: Cox, Hiltley, Knezevic, Merritt, Scheucher, Steudel, Taplin  
Nays: None

Motion carried  
Resolution No. 2021-4 adopted

**Ordinance No. 2021-5** – “An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into an agreement with NOPEC for a 2021 NOPEC grant and declaring an emergency” was read for the first time. Mr. Steudel moved to suspend the rule requiring that an ordinance be read on three different days, which motion was seconded by Mr. Knezevic.

Roll Call: Yeas: Cox, Hiltley, Knezevic, Merritt, Scheucher, Steudel, Taplin  
Nays: None

Motion carried  
Rule suspended

After discussion, Mr. Steudel moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-5, which motion was seconded by Mr. Taplin.

Roll Call: Yeas: Cox, Hiltley, Knezevic, Merritt, Scheucher, Steudel, Taplin  
Nays: None

Motion carried  
Ordinance No. 2021-5 adopted

On behalf of the Communications and Community Outreach Committee Ms. Merritt indicated that the newsletter is completed and ready for review, then distribution. It was agreed that the community shredding date has now been set as July 17 at the Village Hall. This may be added to the newsletter and may appear in the next newsletter before the shredding date occurs. The cost of the shredding is \$375 which the Village will pay. Mr. Scheucher indicated that the website domain has been renewed and he and the Chief had updated and debugged the Village’s website. The Village’s data and network have been updated and the phone lines are in the process of being updated. The new additions to the Village’s team, Ms. Hiltley, Lt. Dondorfer and Patrol Officer Beckwith will be formally introduced to the Village in a future edition of the newsletter.

Mr. Scheucher reported on the Finance Committee meeting, which had been held earlier in the morning. The Committee had approved the Clerk-Treasurer’s report and discussed the fire/EMS service contract negotiations. The Committee had also ratified investments made by the Village. There was a discussion regarding the Local Government Fund and the Local Government Revenue Assistance Fund. Mr. Cox reported that the Waite Hill Foundation had given \$32,000 to the Village in 2020 and after a good year of donations and performance the Foundation now has assets of more

than \$900,000. Mayor Ranallo again thanked the members of the Foundation for their service in support of the Village via the Foundation.

Ms. Hiltzley informed Council of the actions of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Architectural Board of Review, which had met in January. Mr. Brian Doty joined the Commission and Board as a new member. A generator will be installed adjacent to a home on Hobart Road which will not be visible from any neighbor's residence. A barn on Metcalf Road was approved for demolition. The homeowner would like to construct a new barn in the same location later this year, so the site will not need to be returned to nature. There was a brief discussion regarding the proposed residence on Metcalf Road for which a variance is being sought. No objection has been received from the neighboring property owners. There was also a brief discussion regarding a new residence that may soon be constructed on Reserve Drive. The remaining two vacant lots may be combined into a single lot. No request to consolidate the lots has been filed with the Village yet.

On behalf of the Safety Committee Mr. Knezevic reported that he had met with the Chief and Lt. Dondorfer. Traffic contacts have been down in January of 2021, largely due to COVID concerns. The police department report was discussed, and the Chief gave credit to the Village's part-time officers who stepped up and filled the hours in 2020 which were available because the force was short-handed. There was a discussion regarding response times to Reserve Drive and the confusion that was generated by the fact the Reserve is a private street and there was inconsistency as to how the properties were identified (e.g. Reserve Drive, Eagle Mills Road or Eagle Road). The Chief indicated that he was working to clear up that issue with the dispatch center and safety forces so that in the future there will be no confusion. There was a further discussion regarding identifying properties and one suggestion was to put the street address numerals on both sides of the mailboxes on through streets. This could be added to an upcoming newsletter. Chief DeWitt had circulated a list of equipment that was obsolete and no longer of any value (attached). He requested that Council declare the property to be surplus and allow him to destroy it and dispose of it. Mr. Scheucher moved to declare the property on the list that had been circulated with the January 2020 police report to be surplus property, no longer needed for Village use, and to authorize the Chief to destroy that property. Mr. Taplin seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yeas: Cox, Hiltzley, Knezevic, Merritt, Scheucher, Steudel, Taplin  
Nays: None

Motion carried  
Property declared surplus and  
destruction authorized

Ms. Merritt reported that she had met with Mr. Gale and Mr. Haynik to be brought up to speed on the Service Committee. She will be engaging in ride-alongs for both solid waste collection and snow plowing. Mr. Haynik reported that things had been fairly quiet this winter, with some snow fall. The Village now has taken delivery of half of its reserved 600 tons of salt, and it has full bins. There was damage to Smith Road for which the Village has received an insurance settlement of \$6,500. The repairs will be done in the spring. There was discussion regarding what the Service Department does when a mailbox is damaged by snow plowing activities.

The Mayor reported that he had participated in a meeting with the Clerk of the Willoughby Municipal Court, which had been somewhat contentious. Research is being done to determine the status of tax delinquencies in the Village. A Markell home, which has been subject to foreclosure, is set for sale on March 1. The Village’s 5-year temporary charter levy, which pays for police and safety services, along with service department operations, may be renewed at this November’s general election.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mr. Scheucher moved to adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. Taplin.

Roll Call: Yeas: Cox, Hiltley, Knezevic, Merritt, Scheucher, Steudel, Taplin  
Nays: None

Motion carried  
Meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

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Robert A. Ranallo, Mayor

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robbi Laps, Clerk-Treasurer