

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

May 11, 2020

Pursuant to notice given, the Council of the Village of Waite Hill, Ohio, met via Zoom at 8:08 a.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020, with Mayor Robert A. Ranallo presiding. The following members of Council were present via Zoom:

Ryan Cox  
Robert Gale  
Sam Knezevic

Karl Scheucher  
Courtenay Taplin

Ms. Merritt attended via telephone.

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

The minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held April 13, 2020, had previously been distributed to Council. Mr. Gale moved to approve the minutes as presented, which motion was seconded by Mr. Taplin.

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

Motion carried  
Minutes approved

**Resolution No. 2020-6** - "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 Mr. Cox.

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

Motion carried  
Resolution No. 2020-6 adopted

CT's billing practices were discussed at this time.

After discussion, Mr. Scheucher made a motion to set a Zoom public hearing for the 2021 tax budget for 8:00 a.m. on June 8, 2020, and to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to post notice of the public hearing on the Village's website not later than May 31, 2020. Mr. Knezevic seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried  
Tax Budget public hearing authorized

Ms. Merritt reported on behalf of the Communication and Community Outreach Committee. The Mayor's letter will go out this month as a part of a Village Voice. Mayor indicated that he has participated in numerous communications with the various elected officials in the county and they are handling the issues raised by the pandemic very well. Mr. Scheucher indicated that visitors to the Village's website have increased significantly as people are looking for COVID information.

Mr. Scheucher reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. The Committee adopted last month's minutes and reviewed Treasurer's Report. The Village continues on its pace of spending about \$300k more per year than it receives in revenues. The Committee approved purchase and sale of investment vehicles and the Village will be getting update from Jim Raimondo regarding the implementation of the Village's investment strategy. The Village will also be getting an update for OPWC funding for Village's road projects.

Mr. Knezevic, reporting on behalf of the Planning and Zoning Committee, stated that P&Z met on April 27. A Gardenside residence had built new fire pit structure, which was noticed by the Village. The property owners came in and got approval retroactively. There was no gas line running to the fireplace. Also, a Markell Road resident wanted a new generator – Board asked that it be placed behind the garage, if feasible. If not, the generator will be screened from Markell Road by landscaping. A tree on South Lane is hanging over the road. The Western Reserve Land Conservancy will deal with issue as the tree is on its property. Further, two new accessory structures were installed on a South Lane property – one is a kids' tree house and the other is 12'x16' shed. The property owner did not realize there needed to be a permit from the Village as neither structure required footers. The owners were contacted by the Village and the Village agreed to allow the structures. The accessory structures are not visible from South Lane and the homeowners will add screening from other views. While there is work being done on an Eagle Road residence, it is only interior work and did not require the approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission or the Architectural Board of Review. A new Mountainview Drive project requires a variance for side yard setback. The Board of Zoning Appeals meeting is set for next Tuesday. There is no update on property at Markell and Waite Hill Road.

Mr. Taplin, on behalf of the Safety Committee, noted an event that involved the police departments of many communities, including Waite Hill. Shots were reported to be fired at an Airbnb in Willoughby Hills. Multiple individuals were arrested and charged, but fortunately no one injured. Chief DeWitt reported that multiple first responders have been tested for COVID-19 in Lake County and there have been no positive results. Residents in Waite Hill have been exceptional in cooperation with Village. The police department is initiating traffic stops. All Lake County first responders have access to COVID-19 testing, which is expedited. The most recent results came back in 10 hours.

Mr. Haynik, on behalf of the Service Department reported that they are starting to do outside work, as weather cooperates. Waite Hill Road bridge, that goes into Willoughby near Daniels Park, is closing for repairs. The drainage issue on northwest side of Waite Hill Road is being monitored. Cemetery driveway stone was installed last week. The detour plan for Waite Hill Road bridge closure will be the same as last time and is satisfactory. The State of Ohio does not want to put signage on Rte. 306 regarding Markell Road Bridge as it may cause confusion. The bid for the new

truck is not yet completed because of the pandemic.

The Mayor asked Robbi to determine when to open Village Hall to public. We will continue to meet like this for the foreseeable future. Mayors and elected officials in Lake County continue to meet by WebX to discuss challenges faced by local governments, particularly those challenges that come with reopening. Local government fund will be used to distributed federal funds to local governments, but the precise formula is not yet known. It is also uncertain how OPWC funds will be distributed. The state is making a priority of adequate funding for local health departments. Retail businesses will be opening May 12. The Village is weathering the pandemic very well; we are not facing same issues as other municipalities in area. There is significant uncertainty regarding legal risks/insurance issues. Likely to be legislative and court battles fought regarding liability issues.

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

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

Motion carried  
Meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

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Robert A. Ranallo, Mayor

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

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