

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

December 21, 2020

Loudonville Village Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, December 21, 2020 at 6 p.m. in the Loudonville Theatre. Mayor Stricklen called the meeting to order. Answering roll call were councilmembers Mr. Tom Young, Mr. Jason Van Sickle, Mr. Tom Gallagher, Mrs. Cathy Lance, and Mr. Matt Young. Councilman Bill Welsh was absent from the meeting. Also in attendance at the meeting were Fiscal Officer Elaine Van Horn and Village Solicitor Thom Gilman. Also attending were Fire Chief Carey and Brandon Biddinger, Lara Kiefer, Dr. Marlene Carson and several other unidentified guests.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Council Minutes – December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting: Councilman Gallagher moved the minutes be approved as presented. Second by Councilwoman Lance. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Tom Gallagher, yes; Cathy Lance, yes; Tom Young, yes; Jason Van Sickle, yes; Matt Young, yes.
Motion carried.

Motion to Approve Obligations through Year-End: In accordance with Section 232.13 (a)(4) of the Rules of Council, Councilman Van Sickle moved to approve the payment of obligations through year-end. Second by Councilman Matt Young. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Jason Van Sickle, yes; Matt Young, yes; Tom Young, yes; Tom Gallagher, yes; Cathy Lance, yes.
Motion carried.

GUESTS: Mayor Stricklen introduced Dr. Marlene Carson, a member of the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. Dr. Carson explained that her work includes traveling the world educating others on human trafficking, describing her own personal experience of exploitation at the age of 15. Dr. Carson announced that her organization would begin assisting victims of human sex trafficking in January at the former Jac-Lin Manor facility on South Mt. Vernon Avenue. She noted that the purchase of the facility is nearly completed, and would begin serving a group of about 10 victims on a residential basis, with additional assistance to be given to victims from the Amish community on an outpatient basis. She stated that the housing facility, named Rehab's Hope of Ohio, has a vision to provide safe housing, educational programs, individualized therapy, as well as peer mentoring. She stressed her desire to educate the community on human sex trafficking. She also noted that one wing of the facility may be leased to Homeland Security on an as-needed basis for short-term respite care. She noted that women who will be housed in Loudonville will have been in the program and clean for two years, noting this facility is not for victims who have just been removed from crisis. She explained that there is a gap for victims who may need to learn a skill or trade in order to successfully move on toward a new life outside of trafficking.

Dr. Carson announced that The Switch Anti-Trafficking Network is spearheading a project called The Green Light Project, in conjunction with National Anti-Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11. She explained the focus of the project is to bring education and awareness of domestic sex trafficking while raising funds for victim services. She noted that green light bulbs will be sold at Coppertop Gallery in Loudonville and encouraged residents to put the green bulb in an outside light fixture on January 11, in contrast to "the exploitation that happens in red light districts." Mayor Stricklen expressed his support of the program and avowed to encourage his neighborhood to burn green bulbs on January 11.

Lara Kiefer, Executive Director of the Wayne County Children's Advocacy Center, which serves children in Wayne, Holmes and Ashland Counties who are victims of sexual abuse, expressed her support of Dr. Carson and the work she has done with human sex trafficking. Ms. Kiefer further stated that in Ashland County, there have been eleven victims of human sex trafficking and noted that the State of Ohio ranks 4th highest in the nation in human sex trafficking cases. Mayor Stricklen thanked Dr. Carson and again encouraged residents to support The Green Light Project.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Federal Health & Human Services Provider Relief Fund: Fiscal Officer Van Horn and Fire Chief Carey reported that the Loudonville Village EMS had received an additional \$13,638 in grant dollars. Fiscal Officer Van Horn noted that while the first round grant of \$7,111 was based on a percentage of 2019 Medicare runs, the additional grant dollars were awarded based on revenue loss due to Covid.

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LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE 51-2020

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND ORDINARY EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF LOUDONVILLE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

VOTE TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Councilman Gallagher moved to suspend the rules of the law, which require an ordinance to be read on three different days, for Ordinance 51-2020. Councilman Matt Young seconded the motion. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Tom Gallagher, yes; Matt Young, yes; Tom Young, yes; Jason Van Sickle, yes; Cathy Lance, yes.
Motion carried.

ADOPTION VOTE

Councilman Gallagher moved that Ordinance 51-2020 be passed as read. Second by Councilman Matt Young. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Tom Gallagher, yes; Matt Young, yes; Jason Van Sickle, yes; Tom Young, yes; Cathy Lance, yes.
Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 52-2020

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

VOTE TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Councilman Van Sickle moved to suspend the rules of the law, which require an ordinance to be read on three different days, for Ordinance 52-2020. Councilwoman Lance seconded the motion. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Jason Van Sickle, yes; Cathy Lance, yes; Tom Young, yes; Tom Gallagher, yes; Matt Young, yes.
Motion carried.

ADOPTION VOTE

Councilman Van Sickle moved that Ordinance 52-2020 be passed as read. Second by Councilwoman Lance. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Jason Van Sickle, yes; Cathy Lance, yes; Tom Young, yes; Tom Gallagher, yes; Matt Young, yes.
Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Electric Aggregation: Council reviewed the Community Electric Aggregation Notification letter that will be mailed to residents and small businesses within the next day or two by Energy Harbor. There were no objections voiced.

Cares Act Funds: Council reviewed and approved without dissent several proposed purchases from the Cares Act funds including: 1) Video equipment for the Ohio Theatre for the Arts Alive Performing Arts Education Program. Councilwoman Lance noted that the Theatre Director asked to revise her written request from \$8,000 to \$10,000 for additional equipment to improve the livestream capabilities necessary to continue to navigate the requirements during the pandemic while continuing to provide educational programs for the community in the theatre (\$10,000). 2) Disinfection and cleaning of carpets in the public areas in the theatre, Police Station, building lobby, Village Office, and Administrator's Office by American Carpet Cleaning (\$830). 3) Push/pull hardware for the theatre bathroom doors (\$200). 4) Touchless toilets and faucets for the restrooms at the pool, Riverside concession stand restrooms, Brentwood restrooms. The quotes for the restrooms will have a final review by the Village Administrator and the Maintenance Superintendent to determine exactly what is needed for the restrooms when Administrator Young returns to work.

2021 Salary Ordinance: Council Finance Chair Lance reported that the Committee met a second time to review the proposed increases, which will be presented to Council for consideration at the January 4, 2021 Council meeting.

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Ashland County Community Foundation Grant: Councilman Matt Young reported that the balance remaining from the ACCF \$25,000 Silver Anniversary Grant Award was \$3,950, to be used toward the purchase of trash receptacles for Central Park and downtown in accordance with the Grant requirements. He noted that he spoke with the Fiscal Officer regarding unspent funds appropriated for the Riverside Park roof project, and asked Council to consider using a portion of those funds toward the new trash receptacles. Councilwoman Lance moved to authorize the purchase of new trash receptacles at a total cost not to exceed \$6,892. Second by Councilman Gallagher. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Cathy Lance, yes; Tom Gallagher, yes; Tom Young, yes; Jason Van Sickle, yes; Matt Young, yes.
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Theatre Livestream Christmas Program: Mayor Stricklen congratulated Theatre Director Hollenbach on the successful *Music and Laughter Christmas Extravaganza* program, which was livestreamed the prior weekend. Theatre Director Hollenbach noted that the ticketed event was livestreamed on three occasions over the weekend, with each show slightly different and further shared that viewers joined from as far as Washington and Indiana.

Councilman Welsh Resignation: Mayor Stricklen reported that Councilman Bill Welsh had reluctantly announced his retirement from Village Council effective December 31, 2020. Mayor Stricklen shared that Councilman Welsh has served the community for 35 years, starting as a Police Dispatcher before becoming a Police Officer for many years. The Mayor thanked Councilman Welsh for serving on Council for ten years after his retirement from the Police Department.

Council Vacancy: Solicitor Gilman explained that Council has thirty days to fill the vacancy. Upon question by Councilman Gallagher, Solicitor Gilman noted that there are no specific requirements as to the process for Council to fill the seat. Councilman Van Sickle noted that when his seat was vacant, Council asked interested persons to submit a letter of interest. Mayor Stricklen reminded Council that in the last election, three candidates ran for two seats and further noted that the individual that was not elected in the close race has since attended every Council meeting. Council agreed to further discuss potential candidates at the first meeting in 2021 on January 4.

Donor Recognition: Mayor Stricklen read a Certificate of Appreciation to be presented to the Fraternal Order of Eagles 2275 and the Ladies Auxiliary in recognition of their donation of \$3,000 to the Theatre.

CLAIMS ORDINANCE 2020-24:

Claims Ordinance 2020-24 was presented for approval. Councilman Matt Young moved to approve Claims Ordinance 2020-24. Second by Councilwoman Lance. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Matt Young, yes; Cathy Lance, yes; Tom Young, yes; Jason Van Sickle, yes; Tom Gallagher, yes.
Motion carried.

ADJOURN: With no further business to be brought before Council, Councilman Tom Young moved the meeting be adjourned at 6:49 PM. Second by Councilman Matt Young. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Tom Young, yes; Matt Young, yes; Jason Van Sickle, yes; Tom Gallagher, yes; Cathy Lance, yes.
Motion carried.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor