

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

December 7, 2020

Loudonville Village Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, December 7, 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.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Council Minutes – November 16, 2020 Regular Meeting: Councilman Matt Young moved the minutes be approved as presented. Second by Councilman Gallagher. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

Monthly Financial Report – November 2020: Councilwoman Lance moved to approve the November monthly financial report. Second by Councilman Matt Young. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

Monthly Mayor’s Court Report – November 2020: Councilman Tom Young moved to accept the November Mayor’s Court Report. Second by Councilman Gallagher. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

Councilman Welsh Excused Absence: Mayor Stricklen asked Council to consider a written request from Councilman Welsh to be excused from the December Council meetings due to his recent circumstances involving damage to his home and vehicle. Councilman Van Sickle moved to approve the request. Second by Councilman Gallagher. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

GUESTS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Fire Department: Chief Carey reported that he had received all the equipment purchased with the Cares Act Funds, and noted that the disinfecting unit was used in the Village Office. He invited councilmembers to stop by the Fire Department if they were interested in seeing the unit. He also noted that the two hands-free Lucas devices had arrived, noting they were in the process of installing them in the Police Department and Theatre and would be scheduling training.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION 49-2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ENERGY HARBOR LLC FOR THE PROVISION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE FOR ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION.

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 Resolution 49-2020. Councilman Van Sickle seconded the motion. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

ADOPTION VOTE

Councilman Gallagher moved that Resolution 49-2020 be passed as read. Second by Councilman Van Sickle. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

December 7, 2020

**ORDINANCE 50-2020
AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

VOTE TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Councilwoman Lance moved to suspend the rules of the law, which require an ordinance to be read on three different days, for Ordinance 50-2020. Councilman Matt Young seconded the motion. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

ADOPTION VOTE

Councilwoman Lance moved that Ordinance 50-2020 be passed as read. Second by Councilman Matt Young. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

4th Friday Event – Chamber of Commerce: Councilman Matt Young asked Council if anyone had any ideas that he could share with the Chamber at their next meeting regarding his proposed 4th Friday event. He reported that he had received several good ideas from downtown business owners, including; closing either Main Street downtown or a side street for the event; provide live music; have food trucks. He also noted he spoke with the owner of the Bistro, noting he was not opposed to the 4th Friday event, as long as food trucks were not parked in front of his restaurant. Other ideas discussed were a German-themed night with kielbasa and beer, a rib and cook-off. Councilman Tom Young suggested contacting the campgrounds for ideas. Councilman Matt Young stated that he felt the campground owners generally want to keep their patrons at the campgrounds, but that he plans to meet with the campground owners to discuss the possibility of a collaboration. Mayor Stricklen noted he had spoken with someone who was considering operating a shuttle service between the campgrounds and the Village on a scheduled basis in the summer, noting an event such as this every Friday would be a good opportunity for a shuttle service. Councilman Matt Young noted he would keep Council informed of the progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ice Rink: Councilman Van Sickle noted that he was approached by a resident who asked if Council was considering having an ice rink in Central Park again. Mayor Stricklen noted that the Village no longer owns the old skating rink as it had deteriorated beyond repair. He noted that the basketball court at the pool was constructed to double as an ice rink in the winter and noted that perhaps Council could consider flooding that. Councilman Van Sickle also noted that he was happy to announce that the Cleveland Browns are nine and three.

Additional Cares Act Funds: Councilwoman Lance reported that the Finance Committee met and considered a request from Theatre Director Hollenbach to purchase additional hardware and software to continue to improve the ability to function remotely and continue the livestreaming for Village Council meetings and events at the Ohio Theatre. She noted that the Director has been using some of her own personal computer, software and hardware for the livestreaming. Councilwoman Lance also noted that she was requesting to purchase stanchions and crowd control ropes. Councilman Van Sickle moved to approve the purchase of the equipment required to continue livestreaming and the crowd control ropes and stanchions at a cost not to exceed \$8,500. Second by Councilman Tom Young. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

The Council also discussed other possible uses with the remaining \$34,263 of Cares Act funds. Councilwoman Lance noted that the Department Heads had not submitted any additional items for purchase other than possibly replacing the toilet and sink in the Police Department with hands-free fixtures. Councilman Tom Young asked if the schools needed any items, with Councilman Matt Young responding that the schools had also received Cares Act funds in several rounds. Councilman Van Sickle asked whether assistance could be given to water customers. Solicitor Gilman noted that the deadline to return the funds to the State of Ohio is December 30, commenting that the short window makes it difficult to establish a grant program. He further stated that some municipalities have subdivided office space.

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

December 7, 2020

Councilman Gallagher discussed several options from the original list of considerations. Solicitor Gilman noted that several suggested projects do not fit the standards that the federal government has in place. He cautioned that, as the Council considers items or projects for purchase with the funds, there is a possibility that the funds may have to be returned when the expenditures are audited by the State in 2022, in the event any expenditures are deemed to be in non-compliance with the federal government regulations. Councilman Gallagher suggested replacing the toilets and faucets in the downtown restrooms with hands-free fixtures. Mayor Stricklen expressed hesitation that new fixtures may attract vandalism. Theatre Director Hollenbach suggested new crash-bar doors for the theatre side entrances. Councilman Matt Young asked if Cares Act funds are allocated to the wages of substantially dedicated personnel, could the previously appropriated funds be used toward other purchases in other funds. Fiscal Officer Van Horn explained that the funds appropriated to the EMS Fund must remain in the EMS Fund. Solicitor Gilman noted that the regulations for the Cares Act funds include that the services or goods must be received before December 30, with Mayor Stricklen and Councilman Matt Young disagreeing. Councilman Matt Young noted that he had received information from the Ohio Township Association that as long as the funds were encumbered by December 30, the goods do not have to be received if there is a supply chain interruption. He further noted he had a copy of an email from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management stating the same. Solicitor Gilman stated he would research the current regulations, noting there have been revisions but he was not aware of the change.

Abandoned/vacant properties: Council addressed a question asked by an unknown individual who had submitted the question via the livestream app, asking if there was any update on abandoned or vacant properties in the Village. Mayor Stricklen stated that the Village is aware of two properties that the Ashland County Land Bank had looked at but were not able to obtain. Solicitor Gilman noted that there are several properties in the process of being sold; noting that in one case the owner passed away and the State of Ohio is involved, as there is a lien on the property. Solicitor Gilman also reported that there was another property where Ashland County took ownership. He noted the process can be slow as there are auctions that are required, and noted in these cases the property did not sell at the two auctions.

Appreciation: Solicitor Gilman expressed appreciation to the Police Department and the theatre staff for the way they handled a challenge on Sunday where the municipal building had to be evacuated, included guests at the theatre. Mayor Stricklen also thanked Theatre Director Hollenbach for her expertise in providing the livestreaming of Council meetings during the pandemic.

CLAIMS ORDINANCE 2020-23:

Claims Ordinance 2020-23 was presented for approval. Councilman Matt Young moved to approve Claims Ordinance 2020-23. 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 6:42 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