

**July 11, 2023**

**5:31pm**

**Attendance:** Teri Brenkus Mayor Josh Epperson Council President  
Larry Weirich Administrator Jason Guilliams Council (Absent)  
Amanda Perry Fiscal Officer Ian Ball Council  
Sarah Exten Solicitor Justin Enix Council  
JJ Burkhart Council  
Debra Carver Council

Visitor(s): Tony Vero and Lt. Jon Fletcher

Motion to excuse Guilliams made by Epperson, second by Burkhart. Approved: 5 ayes

Motion to approve June 20, 2023 minutes made by Enix, second by Epperson. Approved: 5 ayes.

Motion to adjourn at 7:00pm made by Epperson, second by Ball. Approved: 5 ayes.

#### **Visitor(s)**

**Vero:** Richland County Commissioner is here to check in and is open to any questions anyone may have of him. Discussed the difficulty with police retention, surrounding areas being short staffed, higher pay increases over recent years and the "me too" clause in some agreements. He discussed the wage scales that he brought to the County in 2019 and how they've had to move them last year and will this year too, to include an additional 4-5% to remain competitive with the smaller labor pool.

**Fletcher:** Incoming Police Chief came to discuss some potential staffing changes for the department, including some wage adjustments. At this time, he wouldn't fill the Lieutenant position, rather a Sargent position and look to fill the full-time vacancies.

#### **Mayor**

**Brenkus:** The Mayor reported that she attended the Mayor's Conference, where she learned ODOT is still providing maintenance in most districts, so she's going to keep reaching out about why our district removed that responsibility from our agreement.

Despite the rain, they're hearing positive feedback about the Light Up the Valley and looking forward to next year's event. She reported that the American Legion will be holding their Party in the Park July 29, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., where they'll conduct their Flag retirement ceremony.

She also reported that she proclaimed June 30, 2023 as Sherri Brokaw day in the Village, as she retired after serving our Community for 30 years and dedicating 36 ½ years total to the United States Postal Service.

We'll also recognize the retirement, after 38 years of service, of Chief Ron Willey here next Council meeting, July 25, 2023, and she'll swear in our new Chief, Lt. Jon Fletcher, on July 28, 2023 at the Bandstand at 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming events include:

Cemetery Walk is September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00-1:00

Family Field Day, at Palm Park with ODNR, is October 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00, with October 22<sup>nd</sup> rain date.

#### **Administrator**

**Weirich:** In addition to the Administrator's report was further discussion about the qualifications and work experience Gage Wolfgang will bring with him to fill the Cemetery/Utility Laborer position.

He reported that our generators were serviced today and a battery replaced on one. The smoke test was being conducted today as well and believes it has gone fairly well, with the exception of three calls to the Fire Department. They completed Ogle to Fitting with small corrections for a few homeowners known at this point. Palm Park will be closed Monday, July 17, 2023, as the new restrooms are installed.

#### **Fiscal Officer**

**Perry:** A motion to approve Voucher 11-2023 was made by Epperson, second by Burkhart. Approved: 5 ayes.

A motion to approve submission of 2024 Tax Budget was made by Epperson, second by Burkhart. Approved: 5 ayes.

She explained the items adjusted for in the 4<sup>th</sup> Amended Certificate and Amended Wage Ordinance for 2023, including the payroll adjustment needed for the requested changes to the Cemetery and Utility departments; the payout for the Chief's retirement and Richland County Foundation Grant from the Gorman Fund for the Flag Memorial at the Police department; and the ODNR grant for the Bandstand repairs.

#### Solicitor

**Exten:** Read the following:

1. A Resolution to Adopt the Fourth Amendment to the Village Certificate of Estimated Revenues and Appropriations for 2023 and Declaring an Emergency

A motion to approve made by Epperson, second by Burkhart. Approved: 5 ayes.

2. An Amended Ordinance Establishing Maximum Employee Wages, Repealing Ordinances in Conflict

A motion to approve made by Epperson, second by Carver. Approved: 5 ayes.

3. An Ordinance to Amend Certain Subsections of Section 31.05 of the Village of Bellville Municipal Code of Ordinances.  
First Reading.

4. An Ordinance Approving the Vacation of and Alley within the Village Limits for Good Cause and Finding that the Vacation will not be Detrimental to the General Interest.  
Second Reading.

#### Committee Reports

**Enix:** (Planning Commission) Reported that three variances were approved at their last meeting. The Mayor questioned what the Village's position would be on the interest of Bellville being the potential location of a medical marijuana dispensary, an inquiry she received from Barrett Thomas. Discussion over the differences between this and Hursh, as well as zoning and taxing, which Sarah will look into.

**Carver:** (Public Utilities) Reported that Mr. Black requested force account with breakout of information, information that we don't have, in addition to an extension for payment, but was told that payment is due 8/7/2023. Council stated a late fee, in accordance with the Utility services rates, should be added after that and potentially a lien.

**Guilliams:** (Finance & HR) Nothing to report, absent.

**Enix:** (Parks) Reported out on the meeting held prior to Council, where there was discussion over a Pump Track but they're not sure there's a location at this point – still more for him to research. Also, Palm Park will be closed Monday, for the installation of the new restrooms. Terra Valley provided an estimate for dredging of pond and for overflow that was approximately \$120,000 which Larry suggested doing in sections, perhaps starting with the overflow that will aid in minimizing flooding, and would run \$35,000-\$40,000 that we'd potentially be able to use ODNR funds for.

**Burkhart:** (Safety) Discussion over setting a meeting to discuss retention package for Police department in 2024 prior to budgeting.

**Ball:** (Community Development) Reported that he pulled his petition for another term on Council.

**Epperson:** (Streets) Reported that our 2023 Paving Contract is complete and there are no updates on Shrock since last meeting.

**Carver:** (Cemetery) Yesterday's meeting was cancelled, so no report of that, but Larry getting quote for Chapel roof.

**Burkhart:** (Shade Tree) Requested for meeting to discuss requests and let them know that trees need to be planted as far back as possible, Mr. Wade reports that this is 6' 6" at Urban Meadows.

Motion to adjourn at 6:47pm made by Enix, second by Epperson. Approved: 5 ayes.

Attested To

Mayor



Clerk

