

Village Board of Mt. Auburn

Regular Meeting

January 3 2023

The Village Board of Mt. Auburn met in regular session, Mayor Mike Whitehead presiding. The meeting was brought to order with a salute to the flag.

Roll Call: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-present, Rick Clayton-present, Dee Dee Carey-present, Scott Vincent-present, Don Henderson-present

Guests: Vicki Simmons, Sky Trudeau and reporter-Racheal LeBeane

Attorney Atteberry came to the meeting with information on the Christian County Zoning Office taking over our zoning board. They would handle the zoning violations and permits. They discussed the fee that would be charged but only the fee permits would be lost as Christian County would work for free. Trustee Vincent said he was concerned that when the County gets involved with anything in Mt. Auburn they never seem to follow through. He asks if it could be reversed if they were hired and Attorney Atteberry told the board that it took a vote to hire them and a vote to fire them, no contract at all. At the present time Sky Trudeau is the zoning officer and the Christian County Zoning can't look into anything without Christian County being named as the Zoning Officer. Attorney Atteberry told the board that he could talk to some of the towns who have hired them and see how it is working out.

A motion was made by Trustees: Rick Clayton and seconded by Don Henderson to table the decision on hiring the Christian County Zoning to assume zoning. Vote: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-yes, Scott Vincent-yes, and Don Henderson-yes.

Attorney Atteberry brought to the board a copy of Ordinance Amending Article IV (RE: Minimum Square Footage for Residential Structures) He told the board that he hadn't send the letter to the residence of the tiny house yet, but he will be sending one out soon. As he told the board that it was a violation because a permit was never obtained, Also the residence is under 600 sq ft., this against village ordinance and putting in the definition of a small house.

A motion was made by Trustees: Rick Clayton and seconded by Sandy Gooder to review the Tiny House Ordinance and table until next month. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-yes, Scott Vincent-yes, and Don Henderson-yes

Attorney Atteberry stated that he hadn't gotten a ordinance ready for the 4 wheelers, abandoned vehicles and off road unlicensed vehicles. He felt that most of these ordinances all state something different and state, The Police, which we no longer have and he would like to do a new ordinance pertaining all these issues into one ordinance. He told the board that he would do this pro-bono.

A motion was made by Trustees: Rick Clayton and seconded by Don Henderson to table decisions on Ordinances pertaining to Unlicensed Vehicles. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-yes, Scott Vincent-yes and Don Henderson-yes

Attorney Atteberry will keep in contact with Mayor Whitehead with any questions on the matter.

Park- Festival of Lights will be taking down the decorations in the park on Thursday and Friday this week. It was reported that some of the displays had been vandalized and some of the drop cords were stolen.

Mayor Whitehead told the board that he was thinking about renting a lift to fix the flag pole down at Park II and the camera in the park. Trustee Vincent told him that he would be in Osbernvillle at the end of February and maybe they could work something out.

Water Superintendent, Sky Trudeau told the board that he had taken the Christmas lights in town. Trustee Carey ask if just anyone could call in a street light that is out. The board told her that several people in town just call Ameren to report a street light being out.

Streets and Alley – Sky reported that the alley across from the bar had put in steel pipes at odd angles down through the alley at their lane. The board discussed that although they thought it was a bad idea, they didn't really want to have the property surveyed.

Water-Mayor Whitehead reported that Illiopolis and Harristown had both reported that the totals were higher than expected this month. He also reported that no meeting was held this month for the Co-op.

Mayor Whitehead told the board to look at the System Totals Report. He felt that when the raise took effect next month we may need to look at our prices again. Someone ask if we had passed the motion to let them raise their rates before the contract states. Trustee Vincent said he thought that Mayor Whitehead had been outvoted for the vote for the Co-op. The board hasn't made any decision as of yet since they are in a binding contract. Attorney Atteberry told the board that they would have to vote to let them raise the rate one time as this is a breach of contract since, as it states in the contract, it is a year before the rates can be raised, as per the contract that was signed. He told the board that he could write a letter to the Co-op that after the contract, it can only be raised once per year. The attorney told the board that they would have to send a letter to the state and audit the expenditures but with being a non-profit it would likely be bonuses that would be paid out that would be part of the expenditures. They are only able to hand out bonuses not pay. He explained that they could send a one-time waiver letter for a 1 time raise but this would amend the contract. Attorney Atteberry will look at the contract again and have more information for the board to make a clear decision. The board will decide on this next month.

Community Building-Mayor Whitehead told the board that the Community Building was rented 8 to 10 times in the month of December. Treasurer Saulsberry told the board that she and Vicki Simmons will undecorate the Community Building when they were done at the park.

A motion was made by Trustees: Sandy Gooder and seconded by Rick Clayton to accept the Treasurer's report for the month of December. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-yes, Scott Vincent-yes, and Don Henderson-yes

A motion was made by Trustees: Don Henderson and seconded by Scott Vincent to pay all bills for the month of December. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-yes, Scott Vincent-yes and Don Henderson-yes

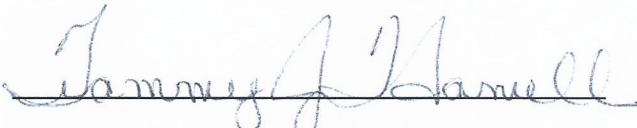
A motion was made by Trustees: Rick Clayton and seconded by Sandy Gooder to accept the minutes of the December Regular meeting. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-abstain, Dee Dee Carey-abstain, Scott Vincent-yes, and Don Henderson-yes, Mike Whitehead-yes

A motion was made by Trustees: Sandy Gooder and seconded by Don Henderson to accept the executive minutes for the month of December 2022. Vote: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-abstain, Dee Dee Carey-abstain, Scott Vincent-abstain, Don Henderson-yes and Mike Whitehead-yes

A motion was made by Trustees: Sandy Gooder and seconded by Don Henderson to accept the minutes of the November executive session minutes. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-abstain, Dee Dee Carey-abstain, Scott Vincent-yes and Don Henderson-yes

A motion was made by Trustee Sandy Gooder and seconded by Scott Vincent to adjourn.

All in favor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy J Hamell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Tammy J Hamell, Village Clerk