

Village Board of Mt. Auburn

Regular Meeting

March 7, 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-absent, Scott Vincent-absent and Don Henderson-present

Mayor Whitehead told the board that Dee Dee Carey would be resigning from the board for personal issues.

Guests: Amanda Rankins, Candace Osborne, Dixie Vincent, Vicki Simmons, Mike Kratchum, Jim Baker, Missy Osborne, Racheal Le Beane-reporter, and Sky Trudeau-village employee

Jim Baker introduced himself to the village board and told them that he was here to see how the county could help with police protection for the village since the village has no department of their own. He told the board that he became the Chief Deputy at the Sheriff's office. He explained that he took over about 1 year ago and he has been trying to visit the village's in the Christian County area to talk about how he can help and give out his phone number so that he is accessible. That number is 217-825-0091. He told the board that he would be willing to answer any questions that anyone might have. Jim explained to the board that at the present time they have 2 deputies per shift which makes it hard to patrol the whole county. As he explained, the emergency will always takes precedence. Jim told the board that he tries to help out when the villages are having events with no officers of their own. They sent 2 officers last year to the picnic. One of the board members asks if they still have the Christian County auxiliary, as he explained: They do have some officers but they are only allowed to direct traffic at this time. Jim did tell the board that they were getting a few new officers, which has been hard to fill, and they might be interested in doing some type of patrol in town for extra time. This would be an hourly wage and mileage. When ask what the officers salary was he explained that he wasn't sure but somewhere between \$22 – 30 per hour. Jim explained that this hasn't really been discussed with any officers he is just seeing if there would be an interested. The board thanked him for his time and coming to address this matter.

At this time Missy Osborne addressed the board on behave of the picnic association. They picnic is holding an Adult Prom at the old grade school. This will be an adult only prom. Beer and seltzer's will be served. They were wanting a license for this event. The dram shop has been given to the village and the insurance will be paid by the picnic association. Mike will write out the liquor license and get it to the picnic association. The board discussed the issue of Selzer's and Attorney Atteberry will ratify the ordinance for the next meeting since the ordinance now states beer and wine coolers.

The board then discussed the retaining wall that we have a grant for. At the time we have \$12,600.00 of grant money to be spent on the project. The original grant was \$25,000 with the village paying half. This expense has gone up substantially since Covid and all the rising costs. The board discussed the matter and it was decided to get new bids for the project.

A motion was made by Trustees: Rick Clayton and seconded by Sandy Gooder to table the retaining project until next month when new bids could be obtained. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-absent, Scott Vincent-absent, Don Henderson-yes, and Mike Whitehead-yes

The board then discussed the Water main replacement job Phase III. The projected cost for all three mains is \$229,794.00. Mayor Whitehead said he had talked to Pat Whalen and she suggested that the village go through the bank instead of USDA. We have \$60,000 in grant money that can be put on this project. The board was concerned about the other expenses that we had facing us in the near future. Trustee Gooder felt that we should get separate bids of these projects so that if we wanted to do them at different times we could. Trustee Clayton said he thought it might be more to have them come back several times than just coming once to do the project.

A motion was made by Trustees: Don Henderson and seconded by Sandy Gooder to get engineering bids for all three sections. Vote: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-absent, Scott Vincent-absent, Don Henderson-yes, and Mike Whitehead-yes

The board went over the Ordinance that was handed out by the attorney about the tiny house.

A motion was made by Trustees: Sandy Gooder and seconded by Don Henderson to approve Ordinance #203 Amending Article IV of the Mt. Auburn Village Zoning Code. (Also known as the tiny house ordinance) Vote: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-absent, Scott Vincent-absent, Don Henderson-yes and Mike Whitehead-yes

The board then discussed the 2023 Comprehensive Abandoned, inoperable or Unlicensed Vehicle Ordinance. It was decided that the attorney would need to amend that if the tow bill isn't paid within so many days then the village will put a lien on the vehicle.

A motion was made by Trustees: Sandy Gooder and seconded by Don Henderson to pass Ordinance #204 2023 Comprehensive Abandoned, Inoperable or Unlicensed Vehicle Ordinance with changes. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-absent, Scott Vincent-yes, Don Henderson-yes, and Mike Whitehead-yes

The board then discussed when these ordinances would start being in effect. They felt this was going to make some angry and they needed ample time to get their cars moved or licensed. It

was decided to put up signs at the Post Office, Bank and Station. They discussed whether or not a letter should be sent out to all citizens to let them know of the changes. A question was raised to the attorney regarding if this would apply to all vehicles even off road that are put on trailers and taken to the country to use. The attorney will get back with an answer to this question.

The board then discussed Ordinance Amending in the entire Chapter 2 of the Mt. Auburn village code. Trustee Clayton made several corrections to the Ordinance of spelling errors to be corrected. He explained to the board that the board had passed an ordinance allowing chickens and ducks in town. These will be excluded from Section 8 (A). Trustee Clayton told the board that he was happy with everything in the ordinance although he didn't feel that we needed to tell people how many pets they could have if there are no problems. The board discussed the matter, although they are not going door to door to count pets, they felt that if they put in a number they would have some grounds in case there was trouble. It was agreed to put in section (B) 5 dogs and 5 cats.

A motion was made by Trustee Sandy Gooder and seconded by Don Henderson to pass Ordinance #205 An Ordinance Amending in Total the Entire Chapter 2 of the Mt. Auburn Village Code. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-absent, Scott Vincent-absent, Don Henderson-yes and Mike Whitehead-yes

Finance- The board was given a list of accounts and balances. Treasurer Saulsberry told the board that these were the balances without this month's bills being paid. Treasurer Saulsberry also reminded the board that a payment of \$10,505.00 was due May 1st for the outstanding loan.

Street and Alley-Treasurer told the board that the MFT was approved for this year. When ask how much the village would receive in funds, she told them that information hasn't come in yet.

The board was handed reports from URWC pertaining to profits and loss. Treasurer Saulsberry ask Attorney Atteberry if a letter had been sent to URWC stating that they were in breach of contract with us. Attorney Atteberry said he would do that this month.

The board went over the System Totals Report for this month. The water loss was at 1.17% which is the lowest so far.

Mayor Whitehead told the board that the Community Building had been rented at least 8 times in the last few months. Treasurer Saulsberry reminded the board that the total of the funds for the community building wasn't exactly correct since \$500.00 was transferred when we took over and she needs to pay back the general fund for this amount but doesn't want to pay a fee for having less than \$500.00 in the account.

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

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

A motion was made by Trustees Don Henderson and seconded by Rick Clayton to accept the minutes of the regular meeting for February 7, 2023. Vote: Trustees: Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-absent, Scott Vincent-absent, Don Henderson-yes and Mike Whitehead-yes

A motion was made by Trustees Sandy Gooder and seconded by Rick Clayton to accept the minutes from the executive meeting of January 3, 2023. Vote: Trustees Brenda Patton-absent, Sandy Gooder-yes, Rick Clayton-yes, Dee Dee Carey-absent, Scott Vincent-absent, Don Henderson-yes and Mike Whitehead-yes

Reporter Racheal LeBeane told the board that the election this year has been very hard to cover. She told the board that most of the towns have none for the Election of Ballot. Clerk Hamell told Racheal that she was called a few days before it was due and this was the only way that it could be done since there was no time for the petitions or anything else to be done so everyone that is running had to run as a write in candidate. Racheal ask all who are running to write a letter paragraph as to why they want to run and a picture for the paper so that everyone knows who to vote for.

A motion was made by Don Henderson and seconded by Rick Clayton to adjourn. All in Favor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy J. Hamell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Tammy J. Hamell, Village Clerk