

**VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting –October 21, 2019**

Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

Present—Mayor Rick Walls, Council members: Joe Bailey, Eric West, Dorance Thompson, Frank Oen, Rick Allen and Stacey Cook. Also present: Solicitor Angela Elliot, Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrrieser, and Fire Chief Rick Miller. Financial Officer Susan Bassitt was absent.

It was moved by Cook, seconded by Thompson to accept the minutes of the September 09, 2019 regular Council meeting as written with one exception on page two, second paragraph. Change the word “claims” to “said” in the sentence beginning “Frank Oen claims”. Motion passed 6-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Committee of the Whole: No Report

**Utilities & Surface Water:** Joe Bailey reported that Village crews repaired a water leak at 4 Amy Ave., they also dug and replaced a water shut off at 503 E. High St., and finally dug and repaired a water leak located on S. Carlisle St.

**Planning:** Rick Allen reported that all temporary pools have been taken down, with the exception of one, for the season. The Administrator is trying to get in touch with that homeowner to get it down so it complies with the zoning code.

**Finance:** Eric West said the Finance Committee met September 24<sup>th</sup> to review the 2019 Pay Ordinance for any changes as the 2020 Pay Ordinance. He said on page 3, the last paragraph relating to shift differential is being removed as the previous Police Chief discontinued it last year. And on page 3, the next to last paragraph states part time police officers shall not be scheduled for more than 32 hours. That should be changed to 25 hours due to the fact that anyone working more than that must be offered insurance benefits the same as full time employees per the Ohio Revised Code. On Pg 5 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>th</sup><sup>d</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> paragraphs will be removed because there is no longer an assistant clerk, and should one be hired in the future it will be covered under the clerical clerks section. On page 6, the next to last paragraph concerning comp time, stating “full time” will be changed to “salaried” employees as the committee felt only salaried employees should have the option of using it. And instead of being used within thirty days, it will need to be used in the same calendar year as it was earned. Resident Bob White asked for copies of the pay package so he can see what the raises would be. The Mayor responded that it hasn’t been passed yet and it will be posted when it is passed after three readings. Eric also stated that the committee discussed putting all the full time police officers on salary. They decided it would not be feasible considering the already low wages. He said cutting any possibility of overtime would most likely result in those officers seeking employment elsewhere. Financial conditions of the general fund were discussed. Without additional revenue cuts will need to be looked at. The police department is the biggest expense out of the general fund. This is not a new issue, everyone is aware of the problem. He said the new Police Chief is doing a great job on spending, the committee will watch conditions through the first quarter of next year and see how it goes. A possible levy for the Police Department was discussed. But it would need to be at least 10 ml. and the voters would most likely not pass it.

**Park:** Stacey Cook reported the committee met on September 30<sup>th</sup>, she apologized for not having any minutes prepared for that meeting. They are having a problem getting a brick mason to complete the Legacy Park Archway as designed. There seems to be a problem with the use of the limestone. The permit has expired so they may be able to redesign the pattern. She is working with Miami County on that. The committee is discussing a sign for DeLong- Pioneer Park. Stacey said the circus that is planning on returning next year and would like to hold a fund raiser at Legacy Park in May. A motion was made by Bailey, seconded by Thompson permitting the use of Legacy Park for the fund raiser. Motion passed 6-0.

**Streets:** Dorance Thompson said the Street Committee met September 30<sup>th</sup>. He said the committee met to discuss parallel parking on Water St. from E. Main to E. High St. along the basketball court. He asked for a motion to allow the parallel parking and making it effective as soon as possible. He apologized for not having prepared any minutes from that meeting. Motion to permit the parallel parking on Water St. was made by Bailey and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 6-0. The Village Administrator will try to get the markings in next week and will order any signs that are necessary. Dorance also reported that Buehler Asphalt was in and patched two spots, one behind the Library and the other at 4 Amy Ave. The Village did receive a complaint relating to some of the newer trees on Main St. having bagworms on them. Speiles Nursery was called and instructed our crews on how to handle them and that process was completed.

**Properties:** Frank Oen said the committee met September 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Police Chief driving a village vehicle home. He said the committee agreed that he could take the car home providing it has a decal on it and that he have no passengers except for official business. Chief Robbins said they were also to decide who was going to pay for the fuel. The Mayor and Frank said the Village will be paying. Chief Robbins stated he drops his son off at Cridersville Elementary School every day on his way to work. He said if that is a problem he will leave the car here. Several council members said they had no problem with him dropping off his son. Eric West stated the motion is to permit Police Chief Robbins to drive the Crown Vic from the office to home with a magnetic decal on it which he will remove when he gets home, and that he will not have any passengers other than for official business with the exception of his son whom he may drop at school every day. A motion to accept was made by Allen and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

#### **Safety:**

Chief Rick Miller gave the Fire Department's report to council. He said there were 74 runs in August, 65 EMS calls and 9 Fire calls. Total calls for the year are 567. They are preparing for their Helping Hands at Christmas program. They are accepting monetary donations as well as canned goods, and he has applied for a grant from Walmart. They helped over thirty families last year.

Chief Miller added on personal note from himself and his wife that he knows people are quick to run to the Mayor with complaints about the Police Department but he has a different story. His Grandson is autistic and needed blood work done at the lab on Reichelderfer Rd. which can prove to be very difficult for him to understand. Chief Robbins along with Mr. Wolke from the school gave the child a top secret mission of being Sergeant Shadley for the day. After the procedure he was given a police vest, hat and a badge. Then Chief Robbins gave him a ride to school in his police car. Chief Miller thanked Chief Robbins from the bottom of his heart, it made his Grandson's day and he presented Chief Robbins with a donut. Chief Robbins said that this was not his first interaction with the boy. The boy loves police cars and wants to be a policeman. Mayor Walls stated the Police and Fire Departments do a lot more than is expected for the community and it is greatly appreciated.

Police Chief Robbins reported there were 148 calls for service in September for a total of 1397 for the year. There was \$2,005.00 collected into Mayor's Court. The Police Department assisted by the Fire Department provided assistance with traffic control for President Trump's motorcade during his visit to Pratt in Wapakoneta on September 22, 2019.

Chief Robbins and Sgt. Brushaber attended a Train Rail Car training on September 28<sup>th</sup>, it was provided by the University of Findlay. Chief Robbins thanked Chief Miller for the invitation. Robbins also said the elementary school has a system in place that would isolate the building from hazardous fumes in the event of a train derailment.

Chief Robbins stated that one of the defendants arrested in the July 1<sup>st</sup> round of indictments was sentenced to 7 years in prison for several charges including drug trafficking.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Mayor brought up the parking issue on Gay St. for the salon and thrift shop. Dorance Thompson said nothing has been decided yet. A Street Committee meeting was scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. to discuss the issue further.

Bob White asked again about the Pay Ordinance and why as a tax payer he can't see it. The Mayor said he could go to the clerk's office and look at it.



## NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Walls introduced RESOLUTION #1693, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN RATES OF PAY, HEALTH AND HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE, SICK LEAVE, PAID HOLIDAYS AND VACATION FOR ALL NON-ELECTED Village Employees for the year 2020. A motion to read by title only for its first of three readings was made West, seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 4-0 with Oen and Allen voting no. Rick Allen said he has some questions that were not answered at the Finance meeting about the ordinance. He said we all know about the financial shape the town is in and this ordinance gives 1 1/4 sick days per month, 5 personal days and 11 holidays totaling 31 days, plus vacation time averaging 20 days, that totals 51 days off a year we are giving our employees. He said at an average of \$20.00 per hour that comes out to over \$8000.00 a year not including insurance benefits and we are talking about going to Village residents and asking for more money? He said there is no way he will ever vote for this. He added we are a small town with no industry and the buck has to stop somewhere. The Mayor said it's the same as it has been for the last ten years. Eric said council did reduce holidays and vacation several years ago. Frank Oen asked if the pay ordinance has been the same for ten years then why did the police chief start out at \$58,500 when it says \$45,000.00. Eric responded the pay ordinance has been around for much longer than ten years and it shows the base starting rates only. The Police Chief was paid more because of his experience. Eric also pointed out that council approved that wage. Eric said at the Finance meeting, there was opportunity to discuss everything but Rick said he was told at that meeting that he needed to remember we are not in a union. Resident Tony Zuppardo, stated he fought for four years to change it but it fell on deaf ears. He said if council decides to go for a tax increase he will personally invest in signs and knock on doors to stop it. Lengthy conversation continued among council members, Tony Zuppardo and resident Steve Burtchin about the levies and the income tax and past practices. Angela Elliott stated this is only the first reading of the ordinance, it must be read three times and it can be amended at anytime. Eric made for a motion to accept Resolution #1693 for its first reading only. Motion passed 6-0. Eric West requested a finance meeting to discuss the ordinance, meeting was set for November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m.

Resident Bob White brought up the new \$40,000.00 gas tax the Village should be receiving. Stacey said they started collecting it in July but doesn't know when the first payment gets here. He asked why we couldn't take \$40,000.00 from the general fund to help get utilities across I-75 then pay it back by with the gas tax. The Mayor explained the Village doesn't have the money to do that. The gas tax can only be used for street expenses.

Resident Jim Lucas said he retired from Ford and never got 51 days off a year. Eric West stated there seems to be some confusion on sick time. Eric said public servants don't get FMLA so the Ohio Revised Code mandates paid sick time. Village employees don't usually use all 15 days sick time every year.

Stacey said the Fall Festival is the October 28<sup>th</sup> with the parade beginning at 5:30. Trick or treat is the 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-7:30. The Historical Society has a quarter auction scheduled for Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Doors open at 6:00p.m. and the auction starts at 7:00p.m. On November 8<sup>th</sup> the Historical Society is having a program on how quilts were used in the Underground Railroad at 7:00p.m. at Otterbein.

Jarid Kohrieser stated leaf pick up will begin November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 29<sup>th</sup>, residents need to bag the leaves and put them by the street. He also said his recent hire, Hunter Breitigam quit September 19<sup>th</sup> so he is down a guy. Stacey asked why and Jarid replied he left for more money.

Frank Oen asked where he could dispose of tree branches. Jarid said they could be taken to the City Farm in Wapak. Stacey said there is a fee.

Chief Robbins said he has been approached by people asking about the Mayoral debate. Stacey Cook said it has been cancelled because one of the candidates decided not to do it. The Lions Club decided a one sided debate wouldn't make sense and there wasn't enough information to give out to make it worthwhile.

Mayor Walls said he received a thank-you card from the Thompson family for flowers sent to Dorance Thompspon's mother's funeral. Dorance thanked council and the community for their support. Chief Robbins said he received a card as well.

Steve Burtchin said he was under the impression the Village had equipment to clean the mud out of the storm drain lines, and asked if the lines servicing Onalee could be cleaned out. Jarid told him that was done earlier this summer when he came to council about it.

A motion to adjourn was made by West and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 6-0.

  
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Susan Bassitt, Village Fiscal Officer

  
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Rick Walls, Mayor