

**VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – November 18, 2024**  
**7:30 p.m.**

Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

Mayor Rick Walls called the regular meeting to order and lead with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Rick Walls, Council Members: Dorance Thompson, Steve Numbers, Stacey Cook, Joe Bailey, Eric West, and Dylan Lauck were present. Also present: Fiscal Officer Taylor West, Fire Chief Rick Miller, Police Lieutenant Miles Truex, Village Administrator Jarid Kohlriseser and Solicitor James Hearn.

It was moved by Thompson and seconded by Cook to accept the minutes of October 14, 2024, Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

It was moved by Thompson and seconded by Cook to accept the minutes from October 31, 2024, Emergency Council Meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Committee of the Whole:**

**Utilities & Surface Water:** Bailey stated Toms Construction is nearing completion of the sanitary sewer replacement project on N. Waverly Street. Buehler Asphalt was in to repave N. Waverly St. and minor punch list items is left to complete the project. Village crews repaired a 15” storm tile on E. Sugar Street as well as installed new storm tiles on E. Sugar St. and along an alley off E. Main Street. EJ Prescott installed a new water meter and valves for the village that services the Rosewood East mobile home park. Our EPA inspector conducted their routine plant inspection and did not find any significant issues but provided us with some recommendations that we need to address which we are working with them to complete those recommendations. Lastly, village crews replaced a broken drain valve inside one of our sludge holding tanks as well as completed a fall fire hydrant flushing program. Village Administrator Kohlriseser states he is working to get water meters in all village facilities to keep better track of water so we can reduce our water loss number for the EPA.

**Planning:** Lauck stated Our village administrator had meetings with Jones & Henry Engineering as well as with a state representative for grant funding at the county commissioner’s office. The meeting was to discuss why we were not awarded grant funding for our new proposed water well project. Planning and further work for a new application for that project for next year’s round of funding will be submitted when the next funding cycle opens. Council member Lauck asked Administrator Kohlriseser how much the grant was for and what the problem was for not receiving it. Administrator Kohlriseser stated the grant was for around \$650,000 and the reasoning behind not being awarded the grant was because they would like the site for the well to be shovel ready and the village to have more of a need for the grant. Additionally, Mayor Walls added Josh Bloomfield stated that Crossroads has gotten the funding for the urology center so they are hopeful the project will begin to move forward with the building breaking ground after the first of the year. Lastly, there were a total of 11 zoning violations for the month. All but one has been addressed and being taken care of. The outstanding violation will hopefully be taken care of shortly.

**Finance:** West stated the Village income tax is up roughly 5% YTD compared to where it stood last year. Additionally, it was time for the village to renew employee health insurance. Originally the village was given a quote that would

increase premiums by 12.2% on average, however the village was able to find another health insurance option that was only a 8% average increase to the village and a higher deductible cost to the employees as well.

**Park:** Cook stated the manufacturer of the shelter house was in and looked at the couple issues we were having with the building. The electrical issue now seems to be fixed and still waiting on the possible fix for the plumbing issue we are having. The facility has been winterized for the winter. Cook hopes to have a grand opening in the late spring for the new shelter house at Legacy Park.

**Streets:** Thompson stated Buehler Asphalt patched and paved half a dozen smaller areas around the village. Those areas were either broken up or needed repaired before they got worse due to the winter plowing season.

**Properties:** Numbers stated we took our 2007 Ford F450 dump truck to Miller Auto for service and it since has been repaired and back in service. Also, our skid steer unit had to be towed up to Murphy Tractor for service as it locked up and wouldn't move as village crews were trying to sweep streets. The skid steer unit has since been repaired and back in service.

#### **Safety:**

##### **Fire:**

Chief Miller reported that there were 71 EMS calls and 8 Fire calls for a total of 79 calls for service for the month of October for a total of 797 calls for the year 2024. Chief Miller stated last year the department responded to 840 calls, therefore, he expects the 2024 run total to surpass the 2023-year total.

The fire department has applied for the AFG Grant which would allow the department to replace roughly 90 sections of hose, which is over 50% of hose that the department has in stock. The AFG grant would be worth \$72,500 dollars as the grant would pay for all hose over 15 years old to be replaced. Council member Thompson asked if since the hose is outdated, can it be donated out of the country. Chief Miller said he does not believe that the hose can stay in the states. The Fire department has the Christmas Helping Hands cans out around at local businesses which will allow the department to purchase food, toys, and clothes for those in need within the community and school district. The items will be passed out to those in need the week before Christmas. The Fire Department will also be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast starting at 8 a.m. at the fire station on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Police:**

Lieutenant Truex reported there were a total of 15 tickets issues for the month and 141 calls for service. He also stated that most of the tickets were due to speed, however, the department has seen an increase of stop sign violations as well. Shop With A Cop will take place on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The police department will split up that way officers are in town for Christmas on Main but also can take part in Shop With A Cop.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Walls introduced Ordinance 1712, 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 2025. The second of three readings.** Motion to pass the third reading was made by Numbers and seconded by West. Motion passed 6-0 for the third and final reading. Village council made note to go back and revisit the pay package to add language at a later date regarding lateral transfers.

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2498, a resolution to amend Resolution #2471, # 2476, #2484, & #2489, #2491, #2493, #2498 Making permanent appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Cridersville, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.** Mayor Walls read resolution 2498. Fiscal Officer West explained the reason for amending appropriations of current expenditures is due to an error that was found by the village regarding water, sewer, and storm sewer assessments that were mislabeled by the Auglaize County Auditor's Office on property tax settlement forms from the years 2018 to 2022.

Therefore, a transfer needed to be made to move the assessments to the respectable funds. Motion to pass resolution 2498 was made by Lauck and seconded by West. Motion passed 6-0.

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2499, a resolution to approve the necessary transfer of funds for the Village of Cridersville and declaring an emergency for the year 2024.** Fiscal Officer West explained the transfer of funds would be to allow the second half loan payments to be made. Motion to pass resolution 2499 was made by Cook and seconded by West. Motion passed 6-0.

**Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2500, a resolution authorizing the transfer of funds and declaring an emergency.** Fiscal Officer West explained this would allow the funds from the county assessment error in the property taxes for water, sewer, and storm sewer to be transferred to the right funds. Motion to pass resolution 2500 was made by West and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 6-0.

#### **Other:**

**Village resident, Beverly Woods of 100 W Sugar Street** expressed her concerns that residents are seeing shifts are not being covered by the police department at times. She stated residents have had issues with the county covering the weekends and she is concerned with the .5% income tax increase that was put on to support the police department budget. She is concerned as a resident due to wanting police coverage and making our village attractive for officers to come to. Village council member West stated that the police department when comparing to other local agencies is one of the higher paying departments around the problem is there is a lack of police officers. Council members West, Cook, and Lauck all explained that the levy was put on to help relieve stress from the general fund to allow the police department to continue to operate. West and Lauck added that the .5% levy increase generates roughly \$200,000 and the police budget this year is roughly \$620,000, therefore, without the levy increase to 1.5% in prior years the village would not be able to support a police department. The problem revolves around the higher cost in benefits and paying full-time officers as part-time officers is not able to be found. Woods also asked about looking into recording council meetings and putting them online live so residents could see what is going on. Council member Numbers stated that he is not in favor of recording council meetings at this time and if residents have concerns, they should attend council meetings that way a conversation can take place. Council member Lauck explained that currently the village council does not have enough information, research, or protocols in place currently regarding video recorded council meetings. Mayor Walls assured Woods that the council meeting minutes are posted on the Village of Cridersville website for residents to be able to read, and meetings are posted on Facebook, the village hall sign, on the village website and special meetings that are not regular council meetings are posted in the Wapakoneta Daily News.

**Village resident, Angela Knotts of 313 W Main Street** expressed her concerns with the Crossroads project when Josh Bloomfield gave a speech at Otterbein, he stated that funding had been secured and the project would be starting in the following month, but council was just told again the same information. Village council assured Knotts that the village does not have control over the time frame that Crossroads moves along with the project, nor is village partners in the Crossroads project. Council member West explained that Crossroads has allowed the village to annex land into the village and expand village utilities at the cost of Crossroads. Knotts also asked if the police department could do a recruitment video to try and get officers to join the village police department. Council member Lauck explained council does not control how the Police Chief recruits officers and always encourages the Chief to try and get officers. Mayor Walls added the police department is fully staffed with full-time officers but is struggling to find individuals who are willing to work part-time.

**Council member Cook** stated the village busy time of the year is approaching as there are many events that will be happening around town. Upcoming events are listed below:

**November 30<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. (or out of food) – Free Lions Club drive thru breakfast with Santa @ Cridersville Methodist Church. All members of a family will be able to receive breakfast due to the generosity of Cridersville Health Care Center for providing the meals.**

**December 2nd – Christmas Tree Lighting at the Log Cabin 6 p.m. There will be cookies, hot chocolate, Christmas caroling and fellowship.**

**December 14<sup>th</sup> – Christmas on Main Street starting at 9 a.m. There will be 12 passport stops this year for Christmas on Main Street. Santa will make a stop at the fire station around 11 a.m. on a fire truck again this year! Thanks to all the local business donations, there will be toys at the fire station as prizes for completing the passports. The annual cookie walk at the Cridersville Methodist Church will also take place from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Village Administrator Kohlrieser** stated the Auglaize County Library would like to install an awning over their nightly drop box located on the back of the village hall. He stated the library board has already approved the library to spend \$1,600 on the awning, however, Kohlrieser stated he wanted to get council approval first. Kohlrieser stated the library has had many books ruined due to getting wet from rain entering the drop box. Village council unanimously approved the awning to be placed over the library drop box.

Village Administrator Kohlrieser also stated he had six ideas to propose to council for the usage of his ARPA funds. Those ideas included: redoing the Legacy Park Parking lot, redoing the tennis courts, upgrades to the indoor Tower Park shelter house, upgrades to council chambers, adding a fence to Tower Park that would run along the back of Sprucewood Apartments, and removing trees around Legacy Park. Village council stated they would like to see the ARPA funds be spent towards redoing the Legacy Park parking lot as Administrator Kohlrieser said this would be the most expensive project on the list and would be the hardest to receive grant dollars for. Council member Lauck added that the village has taken Legacy Park to be our main park in town, therefore, with hopeful projects to come the parking lot will be needed.

Mayor Walls stated that there will be a special council meeting scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Walls also stated that the residents of Otterbein would like to have a council meeting out at Otterbein, therefore, he would like council to check their schedules to see if the February meeting could possibly be taken on the road.

Motion to adjourn was made by West and seconded by Numbers. Motion passed 6-0.

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Taylor West, Village Fiscal Officer

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Rick Walls, Mayor