

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – September 9, 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, Joe Bailey, Steve Numbers, Stacey Cook, and Dylan Lauck were present. Also present: Fiscal Officer Taylor West, Police Chief Nathan Fried, Fire Chief Rick Miller, Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser and Solicitor James Hearn.

It was moved by Numbers and seconded by Thompson to excuse council member Eric West from the meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

It was moved by Thompson and seconded by Bailey to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2024, Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole:

Utilities & Surface Water: Bailey stated Toms Construction has started our phase 2 sanitary sewer replacement project and is currently being delayed due to CSX railroad rescheduling our project to go under the railroad track. Even so, crews should commence work shortly and start working in the N. Waverly area while we wait on CSX schedule. Village crews dug and repaired a water leak located at 306 W. Sugar St.

Planning: Lauck stated the future planning of our new water well site is still ongoing with our village administrator working with individuals to help secure the area needed for such site. Administrator Kohlrieser hopes to have the site secured by the end of 2024 so further planning can continue for the well project.

Finance: No Report

Park: Cook stated as many have seen, our Legacy Park Shelter House has been delivered and installed. Concrete work around the shelter house has also been completed. Village crews will be installing the front shelter piece of the project within the next week to complete the project. Global Electric should be in as well within a week or so to run the electrical to the building. This project again was funded by the State’s Capital Improvement Program which is administered through ODNR. The grant which the village received was for \$300,000 for the project and the village will have roughly \$12,000 into the project as well.

Streets: Thompson stated he would like to remind all residents with election season around the corner to make sure they keep political signs out of road right-of-way. Bailey also mentioned that the sidewalk on Reichelderfer that ends up in the Cridersville Elementary School does not have a handicap ramp on the end of it. Solicitor Hearn stated that because it is on school property there is nothing from a village standpoint that could be done, other than informing the school district about the concerns.

Properties: Numbers stated two cameras have been installed on our water plant in Tower Park by PC Implements. Our village administrator is overall pleased with the picture clarity and playback functions of the system. Cameras were installed at a cost of \$1,500. More cameras may be purchased in the future to cover more areas within the park as well. Mayor Walls asked if there was anyone who wanted to see the cameras, leading council to take a 10-minute break to view the cameras at 8:47 p.m. Council came back to session at 8:57 p.m.

Angela Knotts, resident of 313 West Main Street expressed her concerns that by not having a 360-degree camera there would need to be multiple cameras installed in the Bayliff & Son Funeral Home parking lot causing there to have to be more power to be paid. Knotts stated that the funeral home is looking to add cameras to their property but allow the police department to have access to those cameras as needed.

Lauck asked if the cameras can pick up license plates on cars with the cameras that are installed at the park, which Chief Fried stated with the camera quality he does not feel he would be able to pick up license plates.

Mayor Walls stated this is why the cameras were installed at the park as a test run before, we went ahead and purchased them for the entire village. Lauck stated it is important to make sure that we get quality over quantity.

Mayor Walls asked Chief Fried if the first camera company would be willing to negotiate the price of the cameras. Chief Fried stated that the first camera company is not willing to come down in cost. Mayor Walls asked if he was able to test out the first cameras yet, but Chief Fried stated the first cameras have not been tested yet.

Mayor Walls has asked Chief Fried to reach out to the first camera company to get a camera to test before any decisions are made on purchasing cameras going forward.

Safety:

Fire:

Chief Miller reported that there were 61 EMS calls and 9 Fire calls for a total of 70 calls for service for the month of August for a total of 648 calls for the year of 2024 through September 1st.

Chief Miller stated the new ambulance that we got from Texas has been put into service and has a couple minor repairs that are getting taken care of currently. The new load and cot system has been installed thanks to the BWC Grant that the Fire Department received. The \$40,000.00 grant has been reimbursed back into the Fire and EMS fund within the village.

Chief Miller added that the fire department was awarded \$1,200.00 from the Ohio Priority 1 Grant, however, they had the department down as a non-transport EMS service so they are waiting to see if more money can be collected still. With the funds that have been received from the Ohio Priority 1 Grant the department will look to purchase another AED.

Lastly, Chief Miller stated the new truck is in South Dakota and will be undergoing final inspection this week before it heads back to Ohio. There will be grab handles that will need to be installed still on the truck. Chief Miller stated he has given all the financial paperwork over to Fiscal Officer Taylor West to start the financial payment process on the vehicle.

Police:

Chief Fried reported there a total of 14 tickets and 20 warnings issued for the month with 108 calls for service. Chief Fried stated most of the tickets that were written ended up going to Municipal Court in Wapak.

Chief Fried stated that he is looking to hire someone for the Sergeant position who has 29 years of experience working in Allen County. Chief Fried has hopes to add this individual to the department to allow for more coverage in the village. Chief Fried mentioned that he would still like to work with Solicitor Hearn on increasing the citation fees for the Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2494, a Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor and declaring an emergency. Mayor Walls read resolution 2494. Motion to pass the resolution was made by Lauck and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2495, a Resolution a resolution of the 2025 alternate plan of distribution of Local Government funds for Auglaize County, Ohio as proposed by the Auglaize County Budget Commission, and attached hereto, be and is hereby accepted, declaring an emergency. Mayor Walls read resolution 2495. Motion to pass the resolution was made by Thompson and seconded by Cook. Motion passed 5-0.

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 first of three readings. Mayor Walls read ordinance 1712. Motion to pass the first of three readings was made by Numbers and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0.

Lauck asked council if they would be open to looking at changing the base rate from a flat amount to a range to allow our pay package to show that the base rate is based on experience and other credentials, and someone being hired is not just going to come in and make what the minimum amount the pay package states. Mayor Walls asked Fiscal Officer West to investigate the ranges of pay that other communities start with and bring it back to the next council meeting. An additional discussion was had about making changes for the Police Chief and four full-time officers to be cut down to the Police Chief and three full-time officers to be brought to the October Council Meeting.

Discussion on what council would like to do moving forward with marijuana dispensaries.

Mayor Walls asked council how they felt about not allowing marijuana dispensaries to be allowed to come into the Village of Cridersville and if that was something council would like to ban.

Numbers stated that the dispensary business brings in a lot of revenue to towns they are in due to the taxes that are placed on the sales of items, and he is unsure if that is something the village should really turn away. Lauck stated that dispensaries are a very split thing and wants to make sure we have actual data on the topic before we rush to either allow or block them from coming into town. Lauck stated that Verilife in Wapak when it went from just medical sales to medical and recreational sales increased the revenue for the City of Wapakoneta by \$300,000.00. Lauck also stated from a village end it would be a good business to bring into town as it is a very expensive business to start up and the regulations that the state put in place are outrageous. He added that currently there are 47 towns that have completely banned or put a temporary ban on dispensaries until they are able to understand what the state will be doing moving forward with marijuana. Solicitor Hearn added that residents can grow up to 6 plants at their residence now within the state of Ohio and he stated New Bremen has put a temporary ban on allowing marijuana dispensaries until they are able to gain data on the topic from the state.

Collectively after discussion, council asked Solicitor Hearn to create an ordinance that would ban marijuana dispensaries from being allowed to be established in village limits until there is more information from the State of Ohio.

Other:

Mayor Walls stated that the village received a letter from Jerry Johnson regarding Officer Gaines doing a great job during a traffic stop with him. Mayor Walls asked Chief Fried to give a tip of the hat to Officer Mike Gaines on a job well done.

Council Member Stacey Cook states the Cridersville Historical Society will be hosting an event regarding Cridersville and how it has grown over the years at Otterbein on September 24th starting at 7 p.m.

Additionally, St. Mathews Church is having a "Car Cruisin'" from 3-5p.m. on October 28th and they are encouraging cars that participate in the cruisin' to join in the Cridersville Halloween Parade afterwards.

The annual Quarter Auction will be held on November 9- 2024, at the Fire Department.

The Lions Club annual blood draw will take place on Saturday September 14th from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Cridersville Elementary School. You must complete a 12 hour fast before having blood drawn.

Thursday September 12th the Historical Society will be holding their annual Ham & Bean Supper at the Cridersville Methodist Church.

Council Member Joe Bailey asked council to sell as many Back-the-Blue tickets as they can as Back-the-Blue does a lot for our local police department. Tickets are \$50.00 and will be sold throughout town. Bailey also asked Fiscal Officer West to see if there are any OML municipal trainings held after the election.

Council Member Steve Numbers stated that traffic on Main Street needs to be slowed down as he notices people are not going through town at 25 mph and it has also been brought to his attention by other residents. Chief Fried asked if there was a certain time of day that traffic is going faster down Main Street. Numbers stated it is taking place at all hours of the day.

Mayor Walls suggested that we add stickers to the back of the cruisers that way people who are driving down Main Street realize the cruiser is a cop car and not just a normal explorer as the new cruisers light bars are built into the car more.

Council Member Lauck gave a friendly reminder that the State of Ohio Fraud training needs to be completed and turned back in to the Fiscal Officer before September 28th. Lauck also asked if the Wi-Fi issue in the police cruisers has been resolved yet. Chief Fried stated they are waiting to switch from Verizon to FirstNet until after the cancellation fees from Verizon fall off in October. Lauck asked if the cruisers are being able to be used as a “rolling office”. Chief Fried stated the cruisers are being used as much as they can be for office work as of now.

Joe Bailey made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters at 8:40 p.m. with no action to be taken. Motion was seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 5-0.

At 8:54 p.m. Thompson made a motion to adjourn from executive session, which was seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 5-0.

Council member Joe Bailey made a motion to allow the Police Chief to hire a Sergeant with a starting wage of \$25.00. Motion was seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by Cook and seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 5-0.

Taylor West, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor