

VILLAGE OF CASTALIA

MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2023

The Council of the Village of Castalia met in Regular Session on September 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall at 126 Main Street, Castalia, Ohio. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Johnson followed by Roll Call with the following in attendance: Mayor Jim Johnson, President Pro Tem Barb Weyer, Jake Smith, Georgia Artrip, Legal Counsel Randy Strickler, and Fiscal Officer Kathy Niehm. Cindy Crawford and Si Nicholson were absent.

Mrs. Artrip made a motion to excuse Mrs. Crawford and Mr. Nicholson. Mrs. Weyer seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, unanimous.

Mrs. Artrip made a motion to Approve the Minutes from the 7/25/2023 and 8/1/2023 Meetings. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Mrs. Artrip made a motion to Approve the Finance Report, dated 9/10/2023. Mrs. Weyer seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Mr. Smith made a motion to Approve the Pay Warrants, dated 8/31/2023 to 9/10/2023. Mrs. Artrip seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Mrs. Weyer made a motion to Accept the Receipts dated 8/23/2023 to 9/10/2023. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Mrs. Artrip made a motion to Approve Resolution #2023-12, 2024 Budget-Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the Erie County Auditor. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Artrip, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Weyer, yes. Motion Carried. Fiscal Officer Kathy Niehm stated she will email the official document to the Erie County Auditor's Office.

There was a discussion on weight limits on roads in the Village of Castalia. Legal Counsel Randy Strickler stated he would need to know what the weight limit will be. Council stated 13 tons should be the weight limit. Mr. Strickler stated Council will also need to consult with the Erie County Engineer's office as to the weight limit. All of Council agreed the Village needs to protect the edge of the roads. Mr. Strickler stated he will write an ordinance and get back to Council.

There was a discussion on the Agreement with the Margaretta Township for services related to the maintenance of streets, roads, alleys, snow removal, road maintenance, Village property maintenance, storm damage, road signs, and other property owned by the Village of Castalia. Mr. Strickler stated the wording of "And Declaring An Emergency" needs to be removed. As 2 readings of the ordinance are required. **Mrs. Weyer made a motion to remove the wording in the ordinance with Margaretta Township, "And Declaring An Emergency". Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Weyer, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Artrip, yes. Motion Carried.**

Mrs. Weyer made a motion to bring the amended ordinance of The Village of Castalia, Ohio Authorizing And Directing the Mayor And Fiscal Officer To Execute An Agreement For Shared Services With The Board Of Trustees Of Margaretta Township Pursuant To *OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 9.482*. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Weyer, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Artrip, yes. Motion Carried. The second reading will take place at the September 26, 2023 meeting.

Zoning Inspector Tom Johnson stated he has contacted the Court regarding 711 Main Street. The Court will send Mr. Johnson forms and Mr. Johnson will ask Mr. Strickler to complete the forms. Mr. Johnson stated the grass has been cut at the old AT&T building. Mr. Johnson stated the corporate office of AT&T will not cut the grass. Mr. Johnson stated Mr. Gysan mowed the grass. Mr. Johnson stated he will provide documentation to Ms. Niehm so that next year she can submit to Erie County to be placed on the owner's real estate taxes. Mr. Johnson stated he also spoke with Mr. McDougall at 408 N. Washington Street as the back yard needs care. Mr. Johnson stated his department received a fire complaint at 402 N. Washington street.

There was a discussion on parking on Bardwell street during school related activities and Mr. Tom Johnson stated there have been vehicles parked right by his department's fuel pumps. Mr. Jim Johnson stated to table the Village Right of Way parking discussion to the next meeting.

There was a discussion on the Margaretta Schools building permit that has expired with the Village. Mayor Johnson stated he would like the school representative to come to the Village as the lines of communication need to be open between the school system and the Village.

Fiscal Officer Kathy Niehm stated Council will need to hold a second Records Commission meeting before the end of the year. Mr. Strickler stated it could be right before a Council meeting at 6:45 PM, at the first meeting in October. Ms. Niehm also stated she will catch up on the Council meeting minutes as she does not like to be behind.

Mayor Johnson stated the OPWC application had been turned in for Lucas and Bardwell Streets and he has not received communication back yet. Mayor Johnson stated the money for the sale of the Lowell street property has been received.

Mayor Johnson stated the Columbia gas Company stated the uneven sidewalk in front of Kevin Nemitz property was not their error. Mayor Johnson stated he was contacted by Bruce Baker who lives on S. Washington Street North of the Old Citgo station. He asked about the Village hauling dirt in to fill the large rut in his yard near the curb from trucks turning off SR 101 onto S. Washington Street. Mr. Tom Johnson stated the rut was caused by a combine and not from trucks. Mr. Smith stated ODOT will be paving the street in 2024. Mayor Johnson stated Oglesby has been contacted to do street painting and Mr. Johnson will advise Council on when it will take place. Mayor Johnson stated Bruce Neil will remove a tree on S. Washington Street.

Round Table


Mrs. Artrip advised she spoke with the County today as sewage came up on her property. Mayor Johnson stated the tail race has been sprayed again and they do not think it needs raked. Mrs. Weyer stated the top step by the Village Hall door needs painted as an elderly woman fell recently. Mr. Tom Johnson stated he will paint the yellow stripe. Mrs. Weyer stated she added Mrs. Crawford to the Village website. Mrs. Weyer further stated the fall newsletter will be ready and residents will be asked if they want a copy sent to their email or through the mail. Mrs. Weyer suggested Council may want to look into replacing and updating Village road signage as some may no longer meet ODOT requirements. Mrs. Weyer stated Council needs to be cautious on the cost of all the various road projects in the works for this year and next year. Ms. Niehm stated it is making her nervous as if there is not enough money it will be on her back. Mr. Smith stated he did not have anything for the round table discussion. Mrs. Artrip stated drivers cannot see the speed limit sign when turning from N. Washington Street onto Depot Street due to a low hanging tree limb. Mr. Strickler stated the tree can be trimmed. Mrs. Artrip also stated the gutters need to be cleared on the Village building as there are weeds growing in them.


Public Participation

Shannon Wilson stated the Cold Creek Festival went great for the 3-day event. She heard lots of good reviews from the businesses as well as residents. The committee would like to have a 3-day event again next year and asked Council if they could approve it by October so they can start planning and advertising the dates. Cheryl Parker stated the Cold Creek Festival is not like the festivals in previous years. It is now more kid and family friendly. She heard many good reviews of this year's festival and she would also like to see the festival be 3 days next year. Zoning Inspector Tom Johnson agreed the event should be 3 days next year. Mr. Denny Loroff stated the classic car show at the festival was well attended. Joe Greer also stated the festival should be 3 days.

Mr. Tom Johnson mentioned there will be an issue with parking for the November election since there will be two precincts at the Margareta Township Hall which is a few hundred feet from the Village Hall precinct. There is very limited parking for that many people voting in a general election. Council will contact the Board of Elections and see if a precinct can be moved elsewhere.

With no further business to come before Council, Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Artrip seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


James Johnson, Mayor


Kathy Niehm, Fiscal Officer