

Council Minutes
July 25, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm followed by the pledge.

Attendance: Denny Dorsten, Jackie and Bill Cox, Jan Grieshop, Veryl and Marilyn Sheets, Marge Trisel, Lisa and Matt Dorsten, Karen Sue Murphy, Niel Loll, Rick Emans, Cody Coffman, Kyle Gray, Lanny Hammitt, Jim Godwin, Rudy McMichael, Leslie Gartrell

Bruce Rickard, Terry Seibert, Seth Seibert, Lucas Crouch, Claude Coffman, Brian Webb, Bryan Selhorst, Kristina Boroff

Mayor: Terry spoke about the disorganization of the past meetings. He will address guests one at a time. He met with Pete Van Arsdel and he will continue to serve as our village solicitor. Terry addressed the projects that council has been in charge of and have completed in this village. Water towers, water lines, parks, streets, etc.

Guests:

Kyle Gray is the Union and Jefferson Township Zoning Inspector. Kyle is willing to \$23.50 per hour plus mileage to track complaints and talk to citizens about their complaints and violations. Kyle files the violation with the court and then the county takes them to court. He doesn't take them to court. Terry what is the average cost to pay Kyle for following through with a violation. He stated that less than five hours are involved with each violation. Kyle talks to a citizen, he is very cordial and asks how he can help them with the violation. Kyle also stated that expectations need to be realistic about what is normal on a property. There are things that you aren't in control of. Kyle is in favor of being kind and helpful.

Marge asked if there was a time limit on the cleanup of the property? No, the friendly letter does not have a time limit. Lisa D asked about the process of rectifying a situation. Kyle said that he starts with 10-90 days and then follows up. It has to be a group effort. The process takes a while. Kyle has had to send people to court and it was successful. Bill Cox stated that he is going to get the ball rolling. Kyle would pick a couple of the easy fixes and start with them to get the ball rolling. This will help other people buy into the cleanup. Kyle would want full commitment from the board.

Denny spoke about the CHIP program with Community Development that offers help with home upgrades to some extent.

Terry stated that he talked to Access Engineering and the Health Department. He has copies of the health department and community development programs and what they can help with.

Lisa Dorsten stated that the things they are looking to clean up are junk, junk vehicles, and living in campers. Kyle has not read through our entire zoning code yet.

The curb in front of the funeral home needs repair. Council will see what the village is able to do with this curb. There was a discussion about the number of cars that are allowed to be parked on a property. Kyle stated that cars on a property are on a case by case basis. There could be several reasons that a vehicle is sitting on a property.

Terry did not go around and check on each complaint letter. These friendly letters were sent out on behalf of concerned citizens by village council. Niel Loll explained what a right of way is used for, for future use or town access.

Niel asked why council would send out letters to properties that they didn't check on. Terry said that they were just friendly letters to help get the town cleaned up. Niel stated that maybe we should send out letters to people thanking them for cleaning up their properties. Terry said that maybe we should

look into that. Several councilmen stated that they believe the village looks better than it did ten years ago. Claude stated that he received a complaint from a citizen about the vague nature of the violation. Terry and the Solicitor discussed that a letter will not be sent unless there is a violation written in black and white. Claude questioned what council can do with these ordinances, do we enforce them?

Jackie Cox stated that most of the complaints are campers, vehicles, junk, and wild animals. She wants someone to enforce these ordinances in the village.

Jim Godwin stated that he has been in town since 1961 and the town had very little junk. He moved in and started a business. He doesn't understand why people live in town and don't take pride of ownership. He wants council to do something about it. Terry said we can send letters and ask people to fix things, but we can't change people's attitude towards their property. Terry doesn't understand why people don't help their neighbors. Niel stated that the village cannot pay him enough to go around and complain about people's properties. Cody stated that there is a lot more vandalism now than there was. Terry sees that there is room for improvement. Karen Sue Murphy asked if council is willing to consider Kyle Gray. Terry said that yes, he is interested in talking to Kyle further.

There was some discussion about dumpsters in the village. Rudy McMichael asked about how long a zoning permit is good. Zoning permit is good for one year. Construction must be started and completed within one year. Jackie Cox asked if people are made aware of the time limit on zoning permits? Niel said that yes, he explains the time frame to people.

The village puts letters on door's if the grass is past a certain height. If it is not mowed in a timely fashion, the village mows it and accesses it to their property taxes.

Marge Trisel asked about neighbors not disposing of dog excrement. Council gave her a health department packet. Niel stated that if council wants to go over his job responsibilities and expand on it more. Pete will be the person that can help Niel with what is his responsibilities. Bill Cox would like to know if council is interested in working with Kyle? Five hours is just an average, each case will not take that long. Council is interested in talking to Kyle further. Kyle stated that we need to be realistic. Claude asked about Kyle's mileage. We would need to discuss this with legal counsel. Pete will be back at the August meeting.

Jim Godwin is working on cleaning up and fixing buildings because he cares about the village. Rudy McMichael stated that patience gets stretched pretty thin after 20 years.

Matt Dorsten can we have an extra meeting a month? Terry said that we might be able to do an extra meeting. Matt also asked if a private citizen can donate money to the village to help process some of these concerns.

Karen Sue Murphy wants reassurance that council is going to do what is right for the town. Terry said that they will.

The public is invited to every meeting and council is happy to listen to them.

This council is very new and they are learning the job.

Kyle stated that he is working for everyone, not the village council. He is there to make the best for everyone.

There was a motion by Seth with a second by Claude to have council meet in regular session on Tuesday, August 15 at 6:00pm and again on Tuesday, August 29 at 6:00pm, roll call: Brian Webb- yea, Bruce Rickard – yea, Lucas Crouch – yea, Claude Coffman -yea, Seth Seibert -yea, Bryan Selhorst – yea. There was a motion by Lucas with a second by Bryan Selhorst to move all future council meetings to 6:00pm, roll call: Brian Webb- yea, Bruce Rickard – yea, Lucas Crouch – yea, Claude Coffman -yea, Seth Seibert - yea, Bryan Selhorst – yea.

Minutes:

There was a motion by Bruce Rickard with a second by Seth Seibert to waive the reading of the minutes, roll call: Brian Webb- yea, Bruce Rickard – yea, Lucas Crouch – yea, Claude Coffman -yea, Seth Seibert - yea, Bryan Selhorst – yea.

There was a motion by Bryan Selhorst with a second by Brian Webb to approve the minutes, roll call: Brian Webb- yea, Bruce Rickard – yea, Lucas Crouch – yea, Claude Coffman -yea, Seth Seibert -yea, Bryan Selhorst – yea.

Street Commissioner:

The cameras at the park were discussed. Council would like a more detailed quote with additional information.

New Business:

There was some discussion about having an event in the village with vendors and food trucks.

Old Business:

There was a motion by Bryan Selhorst with a second by Claude Coffman to continue the contract of Pete Van Arsdell as village solicitor, roll call: Brian Webb- yea, Bruce Rickard – yea, Lucas Crouch – yea, Claude Coffman -yea, Seth Seibert -yea, Bryan Selhorst – yea.

There was a motion by Lucas with a second by Seth to approve the checks and purchase orders, roll call: Brian Webb- yea, Bruce Rickard – yea, Lucas Crouch – yea, Claude Coffman -yea, Seth Seibert -yea, Bryan Selhorst – yea.

There was a motion by Seth with a second by Brian Webb to approve the financial statements, roll call: Brian Webb- yea, Bruce Rickard – yea, Lucas Crouch – yea, Claude Coffman -yea, Seth Seibert -yea, Bryan Selhorst – yea.

There was a motion by Bruce with a second by Lucas to approve the mileage, roll call: Brian Webb- yea, Bruce Rickard – yea, Lucas Crouch – yea, Claude Coffman -yea, Seth Seibert -yea, Bryan Selhorst – yea.

There was a motion by Lucas with a second by Bryan Selhorst to send Bruce Rickard as designee for Brian Webb, Seth Seibert, Lucas Crouch, Terry Seibert, Claude Coffman, Bryan Selhorst, roll call: Brian Webb- yea, Bruce Rickard – yea, Lucas Crouch – yea, Claude Coffman -yea, Seth Seibert -yea, Bryan Selhorst – yea.

There was some discussion about the cameras at the park. Council would like more information before deciding.

There was a motion by Bryan Selhorst with a second by Seth to adjourn.

Terry Seibert – Mayor

Brian Webb – President

Kristina Boroff – Fiscal Officer