**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting**

**May 17, 2021**

Mayor Shelton called the meeting to order. The May Council Meeting was held via Zoom. Those present were Sharon Lally, Don Kessel, Robert Ernst, Virginia Cammeresi, Christy Resnik and Russell Riffle.

**Reading of the Bills and Bank Reconciliation**

Mayor Shelton asked for the reading of the bills and bank reconciliation. Mr. Riffle stated that the bills had been paid and bank statement had been reconciled for the month of April 2021. Ms. Lally made a motion to approve the bills and bank reconciliation, and seconded by Ms. Cammeresi. All members present voted Aye

**Reading of the Minutes**

Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2021 Regular Council meeting. Mr. Riffle made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Resnik. All members present voted Aye. The April minutes were approved.

**Communications** – The Fairfax Police Department received complimentary letters from:

* The Mariemont School Foundation for the Departments donation in support of this year’s Mariemont FAB affair.
* The Hamilton County Communications Center for the Fairfax Police Department’s generous donation for National Public Telecommunication Week.
* Lexipol presented the Fairfax Police Department with a Gold Plaque for Excellence in Law Enforcement Policy Management.

**Committee Reports –** The Park Committee has met twice since last Council meeting and have been discussing options for the pool property. Committee members have reviewed different pieces of playground equipment and have submitted to Ms. Kaminer. She will compile all of the ideas of the Committee members so they can be presented to playground company to get a mock up of the equipment and also get an estimated cost of the equipment. The Planning Commission met to discuss the potential zoning change on the south side of Wooster Pike. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for June 15 at 6:00pm. Infrastructure meeting met with Jim McCord and discussed issues regarding residents not cutting grass. Ms. Cammeresi asked Mr. Abes about a new grass cutting ordinance for the Village of Fairfax that includes a warning then a citation. Mr. Abes will draft a new ordinance to include Council’s requests.

**Mayor’s Monthly Report**

$6,552.50 was received in Mayors Court fines, forfeitures and fees for the month of
April 2021. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the Mayor’s Monthly Report. Mr. Riffle made a motion to accept the Mayor’s Monthly Report, seconded by Ms. Lally. All present voted Aye. The monthly report has been approved.

**Administrator’s Report**

**CDBG Funding**: Ms. Cammeresi asked that Ms. Kaminer provide an update on potential funding from the Community Development Block Grant Funds through Hamilton County. The Village can apply for this funding for the 2021-2023 funding period. Ms. Cammeresi had been interested in a Home Improvement Program in the past, but the funds can be spent on a variety of things:

* Acquisition of property
* Senior Citizen Centers
* Public Utilities
* Street improvements
* Clearance and demolition
* Parks (emphasis on pairing this with NatureWorks or other similar grant for playground or other recreational equipment) NatureWorks grants are due in February of each year
* Pedestrian walkways
* ADA improvements
* Payment of non-federal share for federal grants

This is a competitive grant and all political jurisdictions in Hamilton County compete for the funds.

There is a possible alternative if a Home Improvement program is desired. The new America Recovery Act funding appears that it may have less stringent guidelines and allowing municipalities to spend on items in the community that may not be directly tied to COVID-19. Specific guidance is forthcoming from the State’s Office of Budget Management, but the federal guideless generally state that the funds can be used “to address impacted communities including assistance for residential households”. If it is determined that the Village could make use of funds to develop a Home Improvement Program, we know we are getting in a stipend of money – it is just not known how much yet.

Ms. Kaminer looked at minutes from a council meeting several years back where this kind of program was first discussed. At that time, council was hoping to take $20,000 and allow up to $2,000 for a single project. All improvements must be to the exterior of the home. Residents must own their home and had to meet the federal low-income guidelines. For 2021, that would be $19,320 for a single person and $26,130 for a 2-person household. Examples of projects that were done in Springdale for a similar program were: replace windows, garage doors, gutters, walkways/driveway; exterior paint; install fencing; replace outdoor faucets.

Ms. Kaminer will be discussing this in more detail at the next ECC meeting with some more detail on both CDBG and Cares Act funding, but wanted to share some information this evening since Ms. Cammeresi requested an update.

**Police Chief Report**

The Fairfax Police Department had an OVI task force on Red Bank Rd. in conjunction with the Ohio State Highway Patrol on Friday 5/14. They had several OVI arrests. The Department has re-started the STEP program. A representative from Watch Guard was in the office today (May 17), along with Mike Manford, to get the body cameras up and running. If all goes well, 2 cars should be up and running with body cameras by Wednesday, 5/19.

**New Business:**

**Ordinance 20-2021**

Ordinance No. 20-2021 To Provide for the Current Expenditures and Other Expenses of The Village of Fairfax, Ohio During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021 with a Transfer of Funds from General Fund, Unappropriated To General Fund, Engineering Services and Declaring An Emergency. Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to suspend the three readings. Mr. Kessel made a motion to suspend the three readings, seconded by Ms. Resnik. Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Ms. Lally made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Riffle. All present voted Aye.

**Resolution R2-2021**

Resolution R1-2021 Authorizing the Drawing of Warrants in Payment of Amounts Due Upon Contracts or Orders for Three Thousand Dollars or More Pursuant to a “Then and Now” Certificate, in Conformance with Revised Code Section 5705.41(D)(1). Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution. Ms. Lally made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Riffle. All present voted Aye.

**Old Business:** - None

**Council Discussion:** - None

**Five minutes for audience questions/comments**

None

**ADJOURN:**

Mayor Shelton requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Lally

Motion was seconded: Ms. Cammeresi

All present voted Aye.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Carson Shelton, Mayor Robert Doppes, Fiscal Officer