**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting**

**July 24, 2023**

Mayor Shelton called the meeting to order. The July Council Meeting was held in the RG Cribbet Recreation Center – Community Room. Those present were Robert Ernst, Donald Kessel, Sharon Lally Jeanne Perkins, Christine Resnik and Russell Riffle.

**Reading of the Bills and Bank Reconciliation**

Mayor Shelton asked for the reading of the bills and bank reconciliation. Ms. Lally stated that the bills had been paid and bank statement had been reconciled for the month of June 2023. Mr. Riffle made a motion to approve the bills and bank reconciliation, and seconded by Ms. Resnik. All members present voted Aye.

**Reading of the Minutes**

Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2023 Regular Council meeting. Ms. Lally made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Kessel. All members present voted Aye. The June minutes were approved.

**Communications**

Police Chief Bronson received a letter from Col. Chuck Schlie, Indian Hill Rangers, recognizing Officers Matthew Moore and Matthew Roades for their assistance in apprehending several auto theft suspects. Due to their tenacity, knowledge and professionalism the Indian Hill Rangers, along with Officers Moore and Roades, were able to arrest four suspects and take a stolen gun off the streets. Most importantly, no officers were injured during this event.

**Committee Reports**

The Planning Committee continues meeting to review and revise the current Zoning code. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 2, 2023.

**Mayor’s Monthly Report**

$7,068.00 was received in Mayors Court fines, forfeitures and fees for the month of
June 2023. Mayor Shelton 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 Mayor’s monthly report has been approved.

**Administrator’s Report**

**Municipal Parking Lot:** Paul Long with Prus Construction informed Ms. Kaminer today that they plan on milling and repaving the lot this Thursday and Friday (7/27-28).

**2023 Street Project – Elder and Hawthorne**: Dusty Miller with the R.A. Miller Construction Company sent an email this morning that his crews will be working on curb replacements this week.

**Virginia Avenue:** Bids were opened on Friday July 14, 2023. This work includes the replacement of water main for the entirety of Virginia as well as the milling and repaving of the road. GCWW will reimburse the Village for all of the water line work. The low bid was from Rack & Ballhauer in the amount of $1,210,541.00 with about $992,336 being water line work (100% reimbursement from GCWW) and $218,205 being resurfacing work.

The Village received a total of five bids and council has been provided a copy of the bid tabulations. Bids were received from Rack, Ford, Prus, Adleta and Nemann.

**Energy Aggregation**: A few years ago, Mayor Shelton and Ms. Kaminer attended a meeting regarding energy aggregation. At the time, energy prices are not what they are now and then COVID hit a short time after. Many municipalities have formed aggregation programs which allow them to “shop” for gas and electric on behalf of the community. A larger number of households usually results in better rates than an individual household could get on their own. As you may be aware, Duke’s rates have jumped significantly in June. Fairfax remains one of the only communities on the east side that has not proposed an aggregation program to their residents. To form a program, residents would have to vote for it on a ballot. There are two ordinances under New Business regarding gas and electric aggregation programs. These ordinances would need to be passed this evening in order to meet the filing deadline with the Hamilton County Board of Elections. Maria Borgerding and Dan Deters with Energy Alliances were in attendance and provided additional information about the program.

**Police Chief Report**

An OVI Checkpoint was set up in Fairfax, on Wooster. There were 7 diversions and 3 arrests. Fairfax Police also assisted with the Mariemont OVI Checkpoint. They had several pull-overs, but no arrests. The 2 remaining 2023 cruisers are currently being equipped. Cost for the equipment has risen by approximately $2,000. The used 2018 cruiser will be sold to Chicago motors for $22,000. The Department is working on rolling out the Payroll module of GBS Filebound to other departments in the Village. There was a firearm and cash stolen within the Village of Fairfax. The Department does know the suspect and is working on apprehending him.

**Fire Chief Report**

There were 29 calls for service in June for Fairfax. No significant events during the month. The Fire Department went into the neighborhood on 4th of July and interacted with the residents. Sprayed water on the kids and had a good time. Chief Siefke mentioned that the annual Chili Cookoff will be held on Saturday, October 7th.

**New Business:**

**Ordinance 12-2023**

Ordinance 12-2023 Awarding a Contract for the 2023 Virginia Avenue Street Repaving and Water Main Replacement Project in The Village of Fairfax and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to suspend the three readings. Ms. Lally made a motion to suspend the three readings, seconded by Ms. Perkins. Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Ms. Lally made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Ms. Resnik. All present voted Aye.

**Ordinance 13-2023**

Ordinance 13-2023 Authorizing the Village Administrator to Execute a Third Amendment to Loan Agreement with Little Miami Joint Fire & Rescue District and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to suspend the three readings. Ms. Lally made a motion to suspend the three readings, seconded by Ms. Resnik. Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Kessel made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Ms. Perkins. All present voted Aye.

**Ordinance 14-2023**

Ordinance 14-2023 Authorizing All Actions Necessary to Effect a Governmental Electric Aggregation Program with Opt-Out Provisions Pursuant to Section 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code, Directing the Hamilton County Board of Elections to Submit a Ballot Question to the Electors, 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. Lally. Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Kessel made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Ernst. All present voted Aye

**Ordinance 15-2023**

Ordinance 15-2023 Authorizing All Actions Necessary to Effect a Governmental Natural Gas Aggregation Program with Opt-Out Provisions Pursuant to Section 4929.26 of the Ohio Revised Code, Directing the Hamilton County Board of Elections to Submit a Ballot Question to the Electors, and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to suspend the three readings. Ms. Lally made a motion to suspend the three readings, seconded by Ms. Perkins. Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Kessel made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Ernst. All present voted Aye.

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to move into the Public Hearing. Ms. Lally made a motion to move into the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Ernst.

**Resolution R11-2023**

Resolution R11-2023 Village of Fairfax 2024 Budget. Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution. Ms. Lally made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Ernst. All present voted Aye.

Mayor Shelton asked for a motion to move out of the Public Hearing. Ms. Lally made a motion to move into the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Ernst. All present voted Aye.

**Old Business:**

**None**

**Council Discussion:**

Ms. Resnik stated she would schedule a Parks Committee meeting to determine what else can be done this year.

**Five minutes for audience questions/comments:**

Resident Kathleen Kaczynski spoke to Council regarding her concerns about the 2 new homes that have been built on either side of her home. There is run-off water coming into her yard from these new builds. 3714 Watterson was to put in new drains in back to stop the run-off. Her understanding is the occupancy permit is being held on 3710 Watterson until improvements are made. Mayor Shelton stated that he understood that these issues are in litigation and Ms. Kaczynski confirmed that she has filed a lawsuit. Based on that, Mayor Shelton stated that Council could not discuss these issues at the Council Meeting.

**ADJOURN:**

Mayor Shelton requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Lally

Motion was seconded: Ms. Resnik

All present voted Aye.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Carson Shelton, Mayor Robert Doppes, Fiscal Officer