**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting**

**December 18, 2023**

Vice Mayor Sharon Lally called the meeting to order. The December Council Meeting was held in the Fairfax Municipal Building – Council Chambers. Those present were Robert Ernst, Donald Kessel, Sharon Lally, Jeanne Perkins and Christine Resnik. Mayor Carson Shelton was absent.

**Reading of the Bills and Bank Reconciliation**

Vice Mayor Lally 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 November 2023. Mr. Kessel made a motion to approve the bills and bank reconciliation, and seconded by Mr. Ernst. All members present voted Aye.

**Reading of the Minutes**

Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2023 Regular Council meeting. Mr. Ernst made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Perkins. All members present voted Aye. The November minutes were approved.

**Communications**

Chief Bronson received a letter of appreciation from Kevin Parsons of ASP, Inc. for the support the Fairfax Police Department provided regarding ASP Training.

**Committee Reports**

The Planning Commission continues to meet with Hamilton County representatives to update the Villages zoning code. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 3.

**Mayor’s Monthly Report**

$5,195.00 was received in Mayors Court fines, forfeitures and fees for the month of
November 2023. Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to approve the Mayor’s Monthly Report. Mr. Kessel made a motion to accept the Mayor’s Monthly Report, seconded by Mr. Ernst. All present voted Aye. The Mayor’s monthly report has been approved.

**Administrator’s Report**

**Virginia Avenue**: The contractor is working on the repair of catch basins that were listed on the project. The water main is in, and the GCWW will be scheduling bacteria testing next week after Christmas. Once the bacteria and flow test are complete, the contractor will start connecting the new main to each business. This is when water outages will occur for each business as GCWW and the contractor schedule the tie-ins. This work will go until the end of January or after depending on weather.

Ordinances No. 18 and 19 under New Business are to adopt a Plan of Operations for the gas and electric aggregation program. Public hearings were held on December 15 at Noon and December 18th at 6PM for anyone interested in the Plan of Operations which are attached to the ordinances. We did not have anyone attend either public hearing, which is not unusual. Mr. Dan Deters with Energy Alliances is here to answer any questions that council may have. Ms. Kaminer provided everyone with a copy of a general summary and timeline of events that were discussed at last week’s ECC meeting. After the passage of the ordinances this evening, the Plan of Operations will be filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) for their review.

Also under New Business is Ord. 21-2023 which renews our agreement with Hamilton County’s auction website so that we can list obsolete or surplus equipment for sale on the site. The county handles taking and uploading all pics and item descriptions. If an item is sold, they receive an 8% fee from the sale. This agreement and fee structure is the same as in years past – the agreement date is extended through 2026.

Employee Appreciation Dinner: Saturday January 6, 2023 6:00 PM at the Local Post on Eastern Ave. Please look for an evite. If you don’t see it and plan to attend, please let Ms. Kaminer know.

**Police Chief Report**

The toy drive had fewer contributions this year with shortened hours due to other Holiday events. All members of Police Department completed their continuing Professional Training required by the State. Homeless encampment was removed and cleaned up by Lawyers Title. Castrucci CDJR detail continues with flexible hours. The Police Department will revisit the purchase of Flock Cameras in 2024. E-Citation is awaiting Valor Outfitters on the installment of printers in vehicles. The purchase of a vehicle in 2024 is still in question due to availability. New marijuana laws are still being discussed at the state level with no clear guidance from the Prosecutors Office.

**Fire Chief Report**

There were 31 calls for service in November for the Village of Fairfax. No significant events during the month. Chief Siefke mentioned that the Santa Pancake Breakfast was well attended and all had a good time.

**New Business:**

**Ordinance 18-2023**

Ordinance 18-2023 Adopting a Plan of Operation and Governance for Electric Governmental Aggregation, and Declaring an Emergency. Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to suspend the three readings. Mr. Ernst made a motion to suspend the three readings, seconded by Mr. Kessel. Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Ms. Resnik made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Ms. Perkins. All present voted Aye.

**Ordinance 19-2023**

Ordinance 19-2023 Adopting a Plan of Operation and Governance for Natural Gas Governmental Aggregation, and Declaring an Emergency. Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to suspend the three readings. Ms. Resnik made a motion to suspend the three readings, seconded by Mr. Ernst. Vice Mayor Lally 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 20-2023**

Ordinance 20-2023 Consenting to the Appointment of Two Members to the Board of Zoning Appeals for the Village of Fairfax, Ohio and Declaring an Emergency. Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to suspend the three readings. Mr. Kessel made a motion to suspend the three readings, seconded by Mr. Ernst. Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Ms. Perkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Kessel. All present voted Aye.

**Ordinance 21-2023**

Ordinance 21-2023 Authorizing The Village Administrator to Enter Into an Agreement with the Board of Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio for the Purpose of Selling Surplus Equipment and Other Unneeded Personal Property and Declaring an Emergency. Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to suspend the three readings. Ms. Resnik made a motion to suspend the three readings, seconded by Ms. Perkins. Vice Mayor Lally 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 22-2023**

Ordinance 22-2023 To Provide for the Current Expenditures and Other Expenses of The Village of Fairfax, Ohio During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2023 with a Transfer of Funds from General Fund, Unappropriated to General Fund, Other – Other Contractual Services {LMJFRD} and from General Fund, Unappropriated to General Fund, Streets, Highways, Sidewalks and Curbs {Virginia Ave.} and Declaring an Emergency. Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to suspend the three readings. Mr. Ernst made a motion to suspend the three readings, seconded by Mr. Kessel. Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Kessel made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Ms. Resnik. All present voted Aye

**Resolution R16-2023**

Resolution R16-2023 2024 Appropriations. Vice Mayor Lally asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Kessel made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Resnik. All present voted Aye.

**Appointment of Fire Board Trustees**

Mr. Abes stated that the current appointed Legislative representative, Mr. Carson Shelton and the current Residential representative, Mr. Joe Hudson were both resigning from their current positions. The new proposal is for Ms. Sharon Lally to be the new Legislative representative and Mr. Carson Shelton be the new residential representative, with both being effective January 1, 2024. Mr. Ernst made a motion to appoint Ms. Lally and Mr. Shelton to the respective positions on the Fire Board, seconded by Ms. Perkins. All present voted Aye.

**Appointment of JEDZ Trustees**

Council agreed to table the JEDZ appointments until January.

**Old Business:**

**None**

**Council Discussion:**

Mr. Alan Abes performed the swearing in of new Mayor Ms. Sharon Lally and new Council Member Ms. Tracy Naticchioni.

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

**None**

**ADJOURN:**

Vice Mayor Lally requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Ernst

Motion was seconded: Mr. Kessel

All present voted Aye.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Sharon Lally, Vice Mayor Robert Doppes, Fiscal Officer