**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting**

**August 19, 2024**

Mayor Sharon Lally called the meeting to order. The August Council Meeting was held in the Community Room at RG Cribbet Recreation Center. Those present were Hunter Boschert, Robert Ernst, Donald Kessel, Tracy Naticchioni, Jeanne Perkins and Christine Resnik.

**Reading of the Bills and Bank Reconciliation**

Mayor Lally asked for the reading of the bills and bank reconciliation. Mr. Kessel stated that the bills had been paid and bank statement had been reconciled for the month of July 2024. Ms. Resnik made a motion to approve the bills and bank reconciliation, and seconded by Ms. Perkins. All members present voted Aye.

**Reading of the Minutes**

Mayor Lally asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2024 Regular Council meeting. Ms. Naticchioni made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ernst. All members present voted Aye. The July minutes were approved.

Mayor Lally asked for a motion to approve minutes from the August 12, 2024 Special Council Meeting. Mr. Ernst made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Perkins. The August Special Council minutes were approved.

**Communications None**

**Committee Reports**

The Planning committee’s next meeting with Hamilton County is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4th to address code changes and corrections to the County’s proposal. Website Committee plans to meet the week of 8/19. The Parks Committee will meet next on September 3rd. The Stage, due to cost, will have to go out to bid. New bike racks are enroute. Book library will be installed at the park. New umbrellas were received but are the wrong color, so they have been sent back. Concrete work is being done. Small picnic awning is being built. Basketball courts will be upgraded and lines added. Dog stations will be installed. New drinking fountains will be installed at both buildings. Lights to be installed on west shelter. Discussing play equipment for the east side. Trees will be removed, then decisions will be made on what play equipment will be installed. Committee is planning for additional phases in 2025.

**Mayor’s Monthly Report**

$4,263.00 was received in Mayors Court fines, forfeitures and fees for the month of
July 2024. 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**

**Ordinance 11-2024** under New Business is for the **Watterson Road** repaving contract. Ms. Kaminer has provided council with a list of the bids received. The low bid was from Neyra Paving in the amount of $193,695.93. Tim King, Village Engineer reviewed all of the bids and is recommending Neyra Paving as the lowest and best bid. The next lowest bid was from John R. Jurgenson in the amount of $198,899.00. Bids 3 and 4 were from Barrett Paving ($219,495.00) and J.K. Meurer ($235,529.12).

Assuming passage of the ordinance, a pre-construction meeting will be held on Thursday, August 22nd, with the contractor to discuss the project schedule and details. Ms. Kaminer will begin working on putting together a letter that will go to all residents on Watterson informing them of the project. She will also make a post on Facebook and the website, and if the contractor does not begin until after September 1st, we will post information in the Forum as well.

**Fairfax Day** was held on Saturday August 17th in Ziegler Park. Although warm outside, the weather cooperated and we did not have any rain. For the first year in that location and a different look than the festival of the past, we had a good turnout. Ms. Kaminer heard lots of positive feedback about all of the kid’s activities and the performance from the School of Rock. If you attended and have any feedback, please let Ms. Kaminer, Ms. Naticchioni or Ms. Chandra Buswell know. We did have several business sponsors and one in particular McBride Dale Clarion provided support to cover the cost of the inflatable rentals from A-1 Amusements. We will be sending individual letters of thank to those business as well as listing them in an upcoming Fairfax Forum, but also want to mention them here:

Major Sponsor: McBride Dale Clarion

Other Sponsors: Mariemont Insurance, Mathnasium Learning Center, Everything Bagels, Newman Leather and Dean’s Cards.

We also had local businesses participating with their own booths at the event. These included Fifth Third Bank, Cincinnati Sports Club, the Public Library, American Heritage Girls, the Fairfax Police Department and kids’ games sponsored by the Fairfax Civic Association.

**Municipal Building Renovations** – work is progressing and the contractor has begun the work of cutting through the council chamber walls for the doors. So far, work is on schedule and we hope that they will be wrapping up at the end of September.

It has been determined that the **stage/multi-purpose pavilion** will need to go out to bid. There was no way of coordinating work that would have been under the $75,000 bid threshold. Ms. Kaminer asked council to make a motion to allow her to go out for bid as soon as the bid plans and specs are available. Mr. Kessel made a motion to approve Ms. Kaminer to go out for bid, seconded by Ms. Perkins. All present voted Aye.

Ms. Kaminer received notification this morning (8/19) from Christopher Jones with Ohio PACE which provide energy efficient financing to commercial entities. Some of you that have been on council for a while may remember that the Village created an **ESID or Energy Special Improvement District** back in 2019. The creation of the ESID allowed DeBra Kuempel to get a $226,000 PACE Loan for energy efficient improvement during their large interior remodeling and upgrade project. From time to time a local ESID board must meet to review established projects. Former Mayor Carson Shelton had been listed as a member of the local ESID in Hamilton County. Every community that has had a business qualify for an energy efficient loan must have a member on the local board. Since former Mayor Shelton is now gone, council must take a voice vote to re-designate the Administrator as the person to replace the Mayor’s former legislative position on the ESID board. This will provide more continuity since things can change more often with elected official positions. Ms. Kaminer did review this with Mr. Abes this morning and he indicated it is appropriate to do so. Ms. Kaminer requested council to make a motion to appoint the Administrator, Jennifer Kaminer to the local ESID committee to replace Carson Shelton. Ms. Resnik made a motion for Ms. Kaminer to replace Carson Shelton, seconded by Mr. Boschert. All present voted Aye.

Ms. Kaminer has been contacted by Jon Tieman who is interested in seeing if council would be willing to sell the properties we own along **High Street**. These properties were bid several years back but the bids received were rejected for being too low. For the new council members, we must follow a bid process in which we would advertise for five weeks and then accept sealed bids from interested parties. Ms. Kaminer will provide information on the specific parcels to council in order for them to determine if they want to sell the High Street properties. The matter can be discussed in more detail at the September ECC meeting.

Mr. Kessel asked about the sidewalks being repaired on Wooster in front of new Townhomes site. Ms. Kaminer stated that work was expected to start this Thursday, 8/22. Ground breaking on the new Townhomes is still uncertain.

 **Police Chief Report**

The Eagle bridge detail (Columbia Pkwy) is over for now. The Patrol Officer who was out due to off-duty injury is back at work doing light administrative work. The Department needs to update in-car computers, 5 in all. The new computers will include a driver’s license reader. Chief Bronson is planning on purchasing the computers in 2024. School starts Wednesday, 8/21. Chief Bronson will attend the flag raising in the morning. Chief Bronson thanked Ellen Harback for adding the Vacation Home Check Form to the Village website. We will be putting up a speed camera up at the Murray Road entry to the Cincinnati Sports Club. The Watterson speed camera results showed that approximately 5,000 cars a week travel on Watterson. Most speeds were between 21 and 25 MPH.

**Fire Chief Report**

Chief Siefke stated there were 26 in the Village of Fairfax last month. The Department will have their annual Chili Cookoff on Saturday, October 12.

**New Business:**

**Resolution R10-2024**

Resolution R10-2024 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 Lally asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Kessel made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Naticchioni. All present voted Aye.

**Ordinance 11-2024**

Ordinance No. 11-2024 Awarding a Contract for the 2024 Watterson Road Resurfacing Project in the Village of Fairfax and Declaring an Emergency. Mayor Lally asked for a motion to suspend the three readings. Mr. Kessel made a motion to suspend the three readings, seconded by Ms. Resnik. Mayor Lally asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Kessel made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Ms. Naticchioni. All present voted Aye.

**Old Business: None**

**Council Discussion:** **None**

**Five minutes for audience questions/comments: None**

**ADJOURN:**

Mayor Lally requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Kessel

Motion was seconded: Ms. Perkins

All present voted Aye.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Sharon Lally, Mayor Robert Doppes, Fiscal Officer