

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, June 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Muething called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

Richard Bardach
Peg Conway
Bill Doering
Ed Hattenbach
Thomas C. Muething
Ray Warren
Natalie Wolf

ALSO PRESENT:

Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council
Chief Rich Wallace, Police/Fire
Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Rick Kay, Treasurer

ABSENT:

Mayor Muething welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Amberley Village Council. He then led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Muething presented the minutes of the May 11, 2015 regular meeting. He noted a correction to Mrs. Nimet Jeruzalmi's comments under Citizens to Speak, which should reflect Mrs. Jeruzalmi supporting a 20-25% reduction in the storm water fee. Mayor Muething asked if there were any other additions or corrections. There being none, Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the April, 2015, Finance Report (a copy of which is attached hereto). Mr. Lahrmer reported a summary of this report and noted tax collections for the month of April totaled \$702,726. The total general fund revenue for the month of April was \$1,263,860 while expenses equaled \$380,593. At the end of April, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$3,825,971. The report was accepted as submitted.

CITIZENS TO SPEAK:

Kathie Kraemer, 7201 E. Aracoma, Topic: 75th Anniversary Parade

Ms. Kraemer announced that she has volunteered to chair the parade committee for the 75th Anniversary Celebration. She invited residents and other participants such as dance groups, marching bands, kids on decorated bikes, etc., to sign up to be in the parade. One registration has been received from the sheriff's department. While entries have been received, the committee would like more entrants as there may be a group of longest tenured residents as well. She directed veterans to get in touch with Ed Hattenbach who is forming a veterans group to walk in the parade. She encouraged more volunteers to sign up and residents to get involved.

Mayor Muething commented that there are three committees for this event:

1. Events Committee – chaired by Kathie Kraemer
2. Communications Committee – chaired by Council Member Peg Conway

3. Food/Entertainment Committee – chaired by Council Member Ray Warren

Mayor Muething stated that volunteers have signed up; however, more are encouraged to participate to help the day of the event.

RECOGNITION OF TREE CITY USA ACHIEVEMENT:

Mayor Muething invited Wendy Van Buren, Regional Urban Forester from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to the podium along with Environmental Stewardship Committee Co-Chair Merrie Stillpass to receive the Village's Tree City USA recognition awards.

Ms. Van Buren presented the Village with its 11th Tree City USA award, noting the Village has been a tree city since 2004. She stated four standards must be met: a tree ordinance must be established, a tree commission must be established, an annual budget of \$2 per capita must be operated, and an annual Arbor Day must be held along with a presentation of a tree proclamation. She stated that Ohio hosts the greatest number of tree cities in the United States.

Ms. Van Buren also presented the Village with the additional recognition of the Growth Award. It is the Village's 5th growth award, which is given to communities that go above and beyond the standard tree city criteria.

SWEARING-IN OF POLICE OFFICERS:

Chief Wallace announced two new replacement officers hired to the department, Officers Delarisco Sumler and John Burton. He stated the officers would first attend the six-week fire academy and expects both to be patrolling by fall.

Mayor Muething conducted the oath of office. Officer Sumler's wife Stacey pinned his badge to his uniform. Officer Burton's girlfriend Christina Camardo pinned his badge to his uniform. Family members present on behalf of both officers were recognized and thanked for attending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach presented and read the Village's tax budget for 2016, Resolution 2015-14, Approving Budget of Estimated Available Funds and Estimated Required Expenditures for the General and Non-General Funds for the Calendar Year 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Conway.

Mayor Muething explained that this is the first step in the budgeting process for the Village. Hamilton County requires the Village submit a budget to validate the fund disbursed to the Village from the County, however, the extensive budget work occurs in September and October.

Mayor Muething opened the public hearing for the 2016 Tax Budget at 6:55 p.m. He asked if anyone was present that would like to speak. No persons were present to speak and the public hearing was closed at 6:56 p.m.

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve Resolution 2015-14, Approving Budget of Estimated Available Funds and Estimated Required Expenditures for the General and Non-

General Funds for the Calendar Year 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE:

Mr. Doering presented and conducted the third reading of Ordinance 2015-6, Ordinance Authorizing Modification of Storm Water Rates. He stated this ordinance would reduce the storm water fee by 40% and it had been vetted through the Storm Water Utility Advisory Board and the Streets, Public Utilities and Sewers Committee before coming to the Council. Mr. Warren moved to approve Ordinance 2015-6, seconded by Ms. Wolf.

Council held discussion on the level of the rate reduction. Ms. Conway brought the question of whether a reserve should exist for this fund and noted concern for going back and forth with residents on the rate levels. Mr. Doering expressed that council can reverse this action at a later date should it become necessary. Mr. Warren commented that the effective timing of the ordinance will allow for an additional collection to provide a type of reserve. Ms. Wolf shared concern for the rate reduction being high.

Mr. Doering explained two key components as continuing items for storm water utility fund expenses—the annual fee to the County and the catch basins/curb repairs. He commented that the Village no longer has major projects on the list and the 40% reduction will leave an appropriate funding level for base fees and maintenance projects.

Mayor Muething commented that the Village has an understanding of the annual costs for this fund, excluding any major projects. He stated that it has to be recognized that the fee reduction is based on a view of regular ongoing items and if extraordinary costs emerge council will have to find a way to fund that either through the general fund or an increase in the storm water rate.

Mr. Hattenbach pointed out that the Village has just started the televising of the storm water system and it is not known what will be found in repairs. He stated that he would prefer a 30% rate reduction.

Mr. Bardach agreed that the rate reduction was excessive and does not provide a budget for failed infrastructure.

Mr. Warren stated that there is always the option to request an increase in the fees and the approach should address the needs of today.

Ms. Wolf reminded everyone that the Village's stellar credit rating is due to the Village's current financial picture.

After additional discussion, Mr. Hattenbach moved to amend the motion to change the storm water rate reduction to 30%. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Hattenbach, Muething, Wolf (5)
NAY: Doering, Warren (2)

Ms. Conway commented that she agrees that there was thought put into the proposed rate, however, does not want to be up and down with the residents. She supports the

30% as a temporary measure in the spirit of continuing to review the projects and funding. These funds are utilized for storm water repairs which benefits the residents.

Mayor Muething stated that council will commit to review the storm water funding on an annual basis should it need further amendment.

Mrs. Conway moved to approve Ordinance 2015-6 as amended from a 40% rate reduction to a 30% rate reduction. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Hattenbach, Muething, Wolf (5)
NAY: Doering, Warren (2)

POLICE/FIRE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Conway presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2015-15, Resolution Authorizing the Amberley Village Police Department to Participate in the Hamilton County Heroin Task Force. Seconded by Ms. Wolf and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Conway presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2015-16, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract to Purchase Equipment for Police Cruisers. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Conway reported that the 2015 budget included \$35,000 for the police department to purchase license plate readers. There was a possibility that the department could acquire additional used license plate readers from the City of Cincinnati. The department reported to the committee that they were able to acquire two used systems plus an additional used system from Cincinnati. Mrs. Conway commended the department for being persistent and saving the Village almost \$35,000.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Mr. Warren reported that the committee met on June 4 to discuss the proposed healthcare renewal that starts August 1. He stated he was pleased to report that there is no increase in healthcare expenses for the next policy year for the Village or the employees. He noted this as an incredible milestone. He shared that last year's adjustment was made due to incorrect plan pricing. He stated that due to prudent use of the healthcare plan by employees and the wellness program participation, the healthcare expenses this policy year will be flat. He also noted dental care expenses will be flat as well.

Mr. Warren presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2015-17, Resolution for Health and Dental Insurance Plan Renewal. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Ms. Wolf reminded residents that the Village has changed vendors for the recording of the council meetings to ESP Media. She stated the meetings are available for viewing online and she shared that access to the video links are on the Village website as well as YouTube. Flash player is required, however, there is no fee associated. The Village is not charging in any way and warned residents not to enter any credit card information while updating their computer in this regard. She instructed that Flash is available at Adobe.com.

Ms. Wolf reported that the committee and staff have been working to update the Village's presence on social media and upgrade the Village's profile. ESP Media has been contracted to develop a mobile app which will be available July 1 and free to download for Android and iPhones.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer shared a letter from a non-resident (from Pleasant Ridge) thanking the maintenance department for taking care of the roads this past winter. A plate of cookies came with the letter.

Mr. Lahrmer commented that the Bike Safety Fair was held on May 31. He complimented Officer Alt and the Police Department for putting on an excellent, well-organized event that included volunteers which meant less overtime for the Village. He noted that 70 children attended and helmets were issued in conjunction with Cincinnati Children's Hospital. He stated that he appreciated the residents coming out with their children to receive bike safety information.

Mr. Lahrmer also mentioned that the houses utilized for the bike course were borrowed from the City of Lebanon and this was another example of sharing resources among communities.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that an additional part-time dispatcher was hired—Joseph Rogan.

Mr. Lahrmer stated that the Village's street program is underway. The Village's collaboration with Silverton on the bidding of the street program was included in an article published by the Cincinnati Enquirer. The work should conclude by the end of July. Currently work is underway on Royal Oak, Laurel Oak, Fair Oaks Drive, Fair Oaks Lane, and Hudson Parkway. Curb work is also part of the program. Residents can expect a lot of road preparation work in advance of the pavement installation. Traffic will be maintained during the program.

Ms. Wolf shared that the Village Manager has begun a program called W.A.V.E. – Walking Amberley Village Endeavor. She congratulated him on this effort which will provide a pedestrian's perspective of the Village roadways. She noted her passion for pedestrian safety and thanked the manager for initiating this new program.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Muething reported that the Environmental Stewardship Committee will hold a seminar on rain barrels on June 10. The speaker will be a senior from Mt. Notre Dame who has secured a grant to provide a number of rain barrels to residents in attendance.

The next Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting will be June 15.

The next Adopt-a-Grove will be June 18. All residents are welcome to attend.

Mayor Muething reported that a letter was received from the Hamilton County Commissioners regarding the expiring contract for the Metropolitan Sewer District between the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. The renewal will occur in 2018. As a part of the process, public sessions will be held in the fall and elected officials are invited to attend and express their opinions. Updates will be shared as they are received.

Mayor Muething commented that the Village often refers to the high quality of staff at Amberley. He shared that the Clerk of Council, Nicole Browder, is celebrating her 9th year with the Village and previously spent 8 years serving administratively for law enforcement for a total of 17 years in public service. He commented that Mrs. Browder's husband, Rob Browder, was sworn in as Police Chief of Springfield Township on May 29 and this is certainly a family dedicated to public service. Chief Browder joined law enforcement in 1989 and served in virtually every assignment and unit within the department, advancing to the rank of Police Chief. Mayor Muething commended Chief Browder on 26 years of public service and congratulated him on this milestone accomplishment.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting.

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Thomas C. Muething