

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. 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:

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

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

Mr. Muething announced that the first order of business for the new council term was to select the Mayor and Vice Mayor positions. He asked for nominations for Mayor. Mrs. Conway moved to nominate Mr. Muething. Seconded by Mrs. Wolf and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Muething thanked everyone for the nomination and selection to serve another term.

Mr. Hattenbach moved to nominate Natalie Wolf as Vice Mayor. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Wolf thanked everyone and noted that it was an honor to serve alongside Mayor Muething.

Solicitor Frank conducted the swearing-in of Mayor Muething and Vice Mayor Wolf.

Mr. Doering announced his resignation from council effective December 31, 2015. He stated the reason was related to the Affordable Care Act and its impact on his healthcare plan with the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. He noted he is unable to waive his council pay to change his eligibility status to remain on council. He commented that he is very disappointed and the individual financial impact would be significant. He stated he would remain active and work with the Mayor to identify volunteer opportunities.

Mayor Muething thanked Mr. Doering for his service and invited him to the January council meeting for recognition by the council.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Mayor Muething shared a handout that listed the proposed committee members for the upcoming council term. Mayor Muething moved to approve the committee list as presented, subject to change upon Mr. Doering's replacement. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Conway moved to waive the three readings for Ordinances 2015-15, 2015-16, and 2015-17 appointing the treasurer, clerk and solicitor positions. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach with one abstention—Mr. Bardach. The roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (6)
NAY: (0)

Mrs. Conway moved to approve Ordinance 2015-15, Ordinance Appointing Kevin Frank as Village Solicitor. Seconded by Ms. Wolf with one abstention—Mr. Bardach. The roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (6)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach moved to declare Ordinance 2015-15 an emergency measure for the reason of maintaining continuity of legal representation for the Village. Seconded by Mrs. Conway with one abstention—Mr. Bardach. The roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (6)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve Ordinance 2015-16, Appointing Rick Kay as Treasurer. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach moved to declare Ordinance 2015-16 an emergency measure for the reason of immediately providing for the Village the services of Treasurer. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Ms. Wolf moved to approve Ordinance 2015-17, Appointing Nicole Browder as Clerk of Council. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach moved to declare Ordinance 2015-17 an emergency measure for the reason of immediately providing for the Village services of the Clerk. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

MINUTES

Mayor Muething presented the minutes of the November 9, 2015 regular meeting and the November 24, 2015 special council meeting. Mayor Muething asked if there were any other additions or corrections to the minutes as distributed. There being none, he stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer presented the October, 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 October totaled \$247,770. The total general fund revenue for the month of October was \$316,737 while expenses equaled \$301,600. At the end of October, the unencumbered General Fund balance was \$4,522,445. The report was accepted as submitted.

Mr. Lahrmer noted that the projection is that the year-end will conclude at \$4.3 million. He stated that the budget will come in under \$200,000 and the reason for this includes having pursued grant funding, cost savings efforts, deferred costs, vacancies within the organization, and a culture to continue to review costs and contain expenses by resource management.

GUEST SPEAKER

Denise Driehaus congratulated council on their election and shared opportunities for the Village to apply for project funding from the state. She also stated she was accepting requests for capital project funding.

Ms. Driehaus noted her term will be ending and she will assist the incoming individual to provide a smooth transition. She also shared information regarding B Corporation funding which is designed to start-up for-profit businesses that also provide a benefit to the community (environment).

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Mayor Muething announced that Larry McGraw, like Mr. Doering, has also resigned due to the healthcare changes in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. Mayor Muething presented Larry McGraw with a plaque for his years of admirable service on the Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. McGraw thanked council for the recognition and honor to serve.

RE-APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION/BZA

Mayor Muething commented that Scott Wolf has served two terms on the board and has been instrumental in the re-zoning of the North Site, and has demonstrated excellent service. Mayor Muething moved to re-appoint Scott Wolf to another four-year term. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried with one abstention—Ms. Wolf.

SWEARING-IN OF POLICE-FIRE OFFICER

Chief Wallace introduced new Police-Fire Officer Nick Mercer. Officer Mercer received his bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University and was most recently employed with the Hamilton County Park District. Chief Wallace stated that it was a unanimous decision among the selection panel and members involved in the process to hire Officer Mercer. Next, Mayor Muething administered the oath of office for Officer Mercer.

RESIDENT TO SPEAK

Mr. Robert Herbert, 2480 Larkfield, commented that he was retired from the Hamilton County engineer’s office since 2012 and has raised his three daughters in the Village. He reviewed a proposal to install a disc golf course and shop (within the existing building) on the Amberley Green property. A copy of the proposal is attached hereto.

Council posed questions related to the condition of the existing building, maintenance of the grass, and whether it would be temporary or permanent. Mayor Muething briefly summarized the meeting discussions regarding the Amberley Green that have occurred with the Land Development Committee. He noted that the overall goal would be to generate revenue on the site. He stated that either the Land Development Committee or the Public Buildings and Parks Committee would follow-up on this item.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2015-18, Ordinance Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Year 2015. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Doering noted that this was a pass-through fund and was not an additional cost to the Village, but is the employee contributions to their healthcare.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2015-19, Ordinance Appropriating JEDZ Funds for the Fiscal Year 2015. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach moved to waive the three readings for Ordinance 2015-20. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2015-20, Ordinance to Amend Service Fee for Solid Waste Collection and Recycling. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach stated that this is the first increase in solid waste fees in three years. In 2013, the fee was decreased by 8% from \$13.86 to \$12.39.

Mayor Muething commented that the Village participated in a consortium to achieve a good rate and has exercised, along with the other community members, the one-year option to extend the existing contract which resulted in a minimal increase, however, is below the rate of where the contract began four years ago.

Mr. Hattenbach moved to declare Ordinance 2015-20 an emergency measure to ensure that solid waste and recycling services continue without interruption, which would otherwise affect the health and safety of Village residents, to protect property values, and to reflect the new rates to take effect January 1, 2016, under the contract with the service provider.

Seconded by Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mayor Muething shared that while the Council in some instances does pass legislation as an emergency measure, it has limited the application of the emergency measure.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Ordinance 2015-21, Ordinance Making Appropriations for the Expenses of the Village of Amberley for the Fiscal Year 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach reviewed a summary of the revenue and expenses for the upcoming budget year. Mr. Lahrmer added that the greatest needs in the 2016 budget were capital items. He noted a balanced budget was submitted, staying within the dollars allotted by the council.

Mayor Muething commented the police-fire and maintenance items were reviewed by their corresponding committees, including the Finance Committee, and items will continue to be reviewed for the utmost cost efficiencies prior to incurring expenses.

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve Resolution 2015-26, Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Argonaut for Property and Casualty Insurance. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER'S EVALUTION

Mayor Muething reported that the Village Manager went through a self-appraisal process and council met in executive session on November 24 to discuss the review. The appraisal has been shared with the manager. Mayor Muething moved to accept the appraisal form as submitted for the period of October 2014 – September 2015. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Village applied for funding of two storm water projects totaling \$110,000 and a decision should be received some time the January-February time frame.

Mr. Lahrmer informed the council that the Village was not selected to receive the Ohio Public Works grant for the street repairs in the Farmcrest subdivision. He noted the application was strong however it was a very competitive process. The decision was appealed unsuccessfully. He stated staff would revisit the application to make it more attractive.

Mr. Lahrmer provided an update on personnel activity. He stated a maintenance worker/fire fighter and police-fire position was recently filled. Mack Ogletree from the Lockland Public Works department will start working for the Village's maintenance department on January 12. He will begin fire training in February.

Nick Mercer has been hired for the police-fire position. He was previously employed with the Hamilton County Park District, and will begin working on December 15. He is also scheduled for fire training in late February.

Long-term Detective Jeff Norton has announced his retirement effective January 8. Mr. Lahrmer stated Norton has been an incredible asset to the Village and has done an amazing job.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the agreement for the North Site has been extended through January 31, 2016, due to county-owned parcels on the site. Mr. Schuermann has informed the Village that there is not an identified prospect or tenant for the site at this time.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Wallace reported a burglary occurred in the Rollman Estates subdivision within the last month. The rear door was kicked in and the residence alarm was not activated at the time of the break-in. He reminded residents to leave lights on as well as alarms. He stated there have also been car break-ins and Deer Park police were able to catch the criminals and locate a "stash" house on Blue Ash Road. He stated that some calls

have been received reporting suspicious activity the day after it is observed. He stressed the importance of calling in immediately rather than waiting.

Mrs. Conway noted that Detective Norton's retirement was prior to the next council meeting and wondered how he would be recognized. Chief Wallace stated there would be a presentation made at the January council meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Muething stated that council will open nominations for the open seat of council by publicizing it to residents. Council has two months to make the appointment then it becomes a Mayor's appointment. He stated the first step will be to receive nominations, to include self-nominations.

Mayor Muething noted that a listing of the 2016 council meeting dates were circulated and he asked members to review it for conflicting dates which will be handled at the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Wolf recapped the Village's involvement with the WeThrive program since 2009 and reported that the Village was recognized at a recent public health event for its completion of the environmental pathway project. She also shared updates from the recent WeThrive meeting collaborative where guest speakers brought awareness to the importance of breastfeeding and solid waste disposal. She noted the networking at these events were an invaluable resource to the Village.

Mayor Muething moved to go into executive session to discuss the manager's compensation for 2016. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Doering, Hattenbach, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Council adjourned into executive session at 8:11 p.m. At 8:32 p.m. council re-opened its public session. Mayor Muething moved to have an ordinance prepared for the January council meeting to approve a 2% compensation increase for the Village Manager effective January 1, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Doering and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Thomas C. Muething