

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road, on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Not in attendance was council member Richard Bardach. Mayor Muething called the meeting order. The following roll call was taken.

PRESENT

Peg Conway
Ed Hattenbach
Elida Kamine
Thomas C. Muething
Ray Warren (via Zoom)
Natalie Wolf

ALSO PRESENT

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Chief Richard Wallace, Police/Fire
Rick Kay, Village Treasurer
Kevin McDonough, Village Solicitor
Tammy Reasoner, Clerk of Council

Mayor Muething welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Amberley Village Council. He led those in attendance through the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Muething asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 11, 2020 as distributed. There being none, he stated the minutes were approved as distributed.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer reviewed both the UAN Report and the April Finance Report, and stated earning tax collections for the month of April were approximately \$212,000, or a 77% decrease over collections from April of the previous year, due to the extended tax deadline caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. Lahrmer stated Village expenses for April totaled \$303,000. Year to date expenditures as of April 30, 2020 totaled \$1.6 million, leaving an unencumbered balance for the year at the end of April of \$4.8 million.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Muething did a brief introduction and a second reading of Property Maintenance Ordinances 2020-6, 2020-7 and 2020-8, which he said were also on the agenda for public hearing at tonight's meeting. He then opened the public hearing regarding proposed property maintenance code changes as described in Ordinances 2020-6, 2020-7 and 2020-8 at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Stephen Moses of 2191 Bluegrass Lane testified in Council Chambers regarding his support of changes that would allow furniture to be kept in the front yard if in good repair. He also expressed he felt barbed wire and razor wire fencing were not in keeping with the dignity and maturity of Amberley Village, but felt that chain link fence

should be preserved as it is consistent with the Village commitment to unobstructed vistas.

Clerk of Council Tammy Reasoner announced that guests to the meeting on Zoom had been directed via messaging to pull up the live streaming video of the meeting on the Village website. This would enable participants to hear, but she advised there would be a slight delay.

Mr. Moses shared a handout of a scenic waterfall with an overlook surrounded by chain link fence to demonstrate how the fence did not inhibit the view. He then acknowledged Amberley Village Police Officer Dane Donovan, who recently learned his two-year-old son has cancer, and asked that residents show their support during this difficult time. He thanked the council and staff for their ongoing efforts in the Village and stated he appreciated everyone's attention.

Ms. Jennifer Branch of 8455 Crestdale Circle joined the meeting via Zoom to ask if there were currently fences in the Village that would violate the new rules, and whether or not these would be grandfathered under the proposed changes to the code. Mr. Lahrmer stated current fencing, both chain link and fencing surrounding pools, would be grandfathered under the language.

Ms. Renee Lemberg of 7400 Fair Oaks spoke in person of her frustration with neighbors who continue to leave garbage cans, couches and toys in the front yard for longer than 72 hours. Mr. Lahrmer said this portion of the code was not under consideration for any changes.

Mr. Brad Lemberg of 7400 Fair Oaks, who was also physically present at the meeting, asked if the new ordinance changed how long furniture would be permitted to remain out. Mayor Muething stated furniture could stay out indefinitely if it is in good repair. Mr. Lemberg expressed concerns with the potential for discrepancy over the interpretation of "good repair."

Mr. Lahrmer stated that proposed changes were to regulate furniture in the yard, but said there would be no time limit set on furniture in good repair. Ms. Kamine added there were no changes planned for that section of the code.

Ms. Donna Scheier of 7640 Fair Oaks joined the meeting via Zoom to ask what could be done to address a neighbor's noncompliance with putting toys away within a reasonable time frame. Mr. Lahrmer suggested Ms. Scheier should file a property maintenance complaint with the Village.

Mayor Muething said the public hearing would be extended to the July Council Meeting, both because of the technical difficulties earlier in the meeting, and to give residents the maximum opportunity to provide input. Discussion was held regarding the process that led up to the property maintenance code hearing, and what the options were for proceeding. The Mayor also suggested that council members take a look at vinyl-

coated chain link fence, as he felt the look and purpose were consistent with the goals of the Village.

Ms. Wolf suggested moving the meetings back to strictly Zoom unless a resolution for the online delay can be identified.

Mayor Muething asked if there were any others who wished to speak regarding proposed changes to the property maintenance code. There being none, the public hearing was stopped at 7:24 p.m., but will be continued at the July 13 meeting of Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hattenbach introduced and read Resolution 2020-19, which outlines the Tax Budget for 2021. Mayor Muething called for the opening of a public hearing regarding Resolution 2020-19 at 7:26 p.m. There being no one who wished to speak regarding the 2021 Tax Budget, the public hearing was closed at 7:27 p.m.

Mr. Hattenbach then moved to adopt Resolution 2020-19, which would approve the proposed tax budget for 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. Conway and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Ms. Wolf stated the Public Outreach Committee had met twice during the pandemic months: once in April regarding communication of the property maintenance changes, and most recently on June 5 to discuss a communication strategy with residents regarding the upcoming public hearings about zoning text for Amberley Green. She said the first public hearing regarding Amberley Green zoning text changes would be held on July 8 at the regular meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals at 7 p.m. She invited all residents to participate.

Ms. Wolf said there would be additional hearings which were not yet finalized, but would be announced through official channels as outlined above. Ms. Wolf encouraged residents to talk to their neighbors to encourage involvement in the process.

Ms. Conway added that Village staff was working on a series of videos for inclusion in the newsletter, website and social media channels to encourage participation.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Ms. Kamine reported the committee had received a more detailed summary of the health care renewal process from the Center for Local Government Benefits Pool (CLGBP) than in years past, and CLGBP had approved a 9.9% increase in medical insurance after Horan was able to reduce what had originally been an even greater increase. She said the increase was not due to coronavirus, but instead due to large claims under the stop loss reimbursement threshold.

Ms. Kamine moved for the passage of Resolution 2020-20, which would approve the adoption of the Village medical insurance renewal, including dental insurance. Seconded by Ms. Conway, the motion passed unanimously.

POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE

Ms. Conway talked about a recent letter that was sent by Chief Wallace in response to the death of Minneapolis resident George Floyd while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police Department. In the letter, Chief Wallace referred to a variety of voluntary trainings done by the Amberley Village Police Department. Ms. Conway said these trainings would be the subject of further discussion at the next Police and Fire Committee meeting, and encouraged residents to attend.

VILLAGE MANAGER’S REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer stated that an addendum to the purchase contract by Lewis Animal Hospital for property located at the North Site would be needed to account for bad soils on the Village-offered land for development. He said adjustments to the original agreement were necessary to secure the sale, as the Village represented the site as buildable. However, soil remediation will be necessary to make the property marketable, regardless of the purchaser. The recommended plan was to move forward, accepting a price reduction in the amount of \$75,957. Mr. Lahrmer called for a motion to introduce Ordinance 2020-11, which would authorize and direct the Village Manager to negotiate and execute a second contract addendum for reduction in sale price of property at the North Site and declare an emergency.

Mr. Lahrmer also said the site plan approval was scheduled for the July 8 Planning Commission meeting, and that the final due diligence period and contract compliance renders consideration of waiving the full three readings of the ordinance and enacting an emergency clause.

Ms. Conway moved to waive the three readings of Ordinance 2020-11, which was seconded by Mr. Hattenbach. The roll call showed the following vote:

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

Ms. Conway then moved to adopt Ordinance 2020-11, which was seconded by Mr. Hattenbach as well. The roll call showed the following vote:

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

Ms. Conway then moved to enact an emergency clause for Ordinance 2020-11, which was seconded by Mr. Hattenbach. The roll call showed the following vote:

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

Mr. Lahrmer reported that improvements were underway for the tennis courts and fence repairs, and the baseball fields have been regraded. The playground, however, continues to be roped off until we receive word from the state that it can be reopened.

Mr. Lahrmer stated that 2100 Section Road has been rebranded as Cincinnati Centerpoint Industrial Site by The Port, and will receive a marketing boost over the coming months.

Mr. Lahrmer said the Village had contracted electric aggregation services with Constellation, and residents need do nothing to continue in the program. He said residents would soon be receiving letters, and the Village would be distributing social media, newsletter and email posts, reminding residents their membership in the program is opt-out, and no action is necessary to continue.

Mr. Lahrmer also reported the JCC has indicated that proposed plans for Amberley Green have been placed on hold. He said conversation will continue, but planning has been halted due to the financial impact of the coronavirus.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Muething stated that the council appointments to the Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ) had expired on June 1, and proposed keeping them the same. Seconded by Ms. Wolf, the motion passed unanimously, keeping Mr. Muething, Mr. Lahrmer and Ms. Conway on the JEDZ board for another term.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Wolf extended an invitation to residents to participate in any of the Village committee meetings. She said all committee meetings are posted to the Amberley Village website, and password information for online meetings should be requested in advance of the meetings.

Ms. Wolf especially encouraged involvement in the Human Rights Commission meeting being held on June 18 at 5 p.m., where discussion regarding the death of George Floyd and race relations in the community will take place. She encouraged residents to also consider attending the WeTHRIVE! Community Work Group on June 10 at 6:30 p.m., where discussion centers around the health of the Village. She stated these meetings offered meaningful ways for residents to work to change policy.

There being no further business, Mayor Muething adjourned the meeting of Amberley Village Council at 8:01 p.m.

Tammy Reasoner, Clerk of Council

Thomas C. Muething, Mayor