

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 12, 2023

PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL 1/9/2024

The final hearing for OCRA grant submission was called to order at 6:00 PM by Michelle Carrico from SIDC. She gave a summary of the sewer improvement project, the grant process, and the costs involved in the project. The total cost will be \$2,000,010.00. The grant, if awarded, will be \$700,000, and the local match will be 1,300,010.00 with funds coming from the state revolving loan project. The hearing was opened up for comments. Kim Archer asked if we knew anything more about getting the grant. Michelle explained how important citizen input is. We have received over 30 letters of support and many have completed an online survey. The Hearing was adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Clerk Mindy Hoover called to order a hearing regarding an additional appropriation to the PS LIT account. Upon reviewing expenditures with Chief Gambill we discovered the balance of the PS LIT appropriation account at the end of last year was not included in the 2023 budget, but was actually included in the line item in Keystone.. Just to make sure everything is done properly according to the SBOA and DLGF regulations, Mindy asked for an additional appropriation for the balance of 2022 in the amount of \$28, 508.19. No comments or questions were presented and the hearing was closed at 6:14 PM

The Town Council Meeting was called to order by President Gerren Cullison at 6:15 PM. All members were in attendance. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Kim Archer offered an opening prayer.

The November meeting minutes were presented for approval. Tom Franklin made a motion to approve. Kim Archer seconded the motion. Carried 5-0.

The claims docket was presented. Barry Hoover questioned the expenditure for the secure VPN. The Clerk explained that it is necessary for the PD to send confidential electronic communications to the Prosecutor's office. Barry made a motion to approve. Kim Archer seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer's Report

In the Treasurer's report, Mindy Hoover explained the current cash balance is low, but we have not yet received the end of the year tax payments from the county. As expected since the beginning of the year, the town was underfunded and had many unexpected expenditures this year. An optimistic estimate made at the beginning of the year projected us to have an 83K ending balance as of December 31, 2023. Thankfully, due to careful spending, after receiving the last disbursements of the year, the cash balance should exceed that projection.

Mindy also explained that the MVH fund was -\$25,000 at the beginning of the year. Prior spending went unchecked in that fund. Now at the end of the year, the MVH fund will have a positive balance going forward and will allow us to move some salary and other expenditures back into MVH. The Trust Indiana investments yielded \$2952.35 cents in November 2023.

And finally, Clerk Mindy was able to report on the LED street light project completion. As promised, the rebate check for the lights was forwarded to the town from Duke Energy in the amount of \$3,960.00. The check was deposited into the general fund.

Utility Report

In the Utility report Renie Powell reminded the board that we will soon be submitting the delinquent account to TRECS for collection. She continues to call, email, and send letters to those who are 3 months or more late in their bill.

Street/Sewer Report

Superintendent Tim Edelman reported that leaf collection has ended. The new Pioneer pump has been installed and has significantly increased flow. Both Roy and Tim have taken on the task of tearing the old house down at the plant to keep those costs out of the total project cost. Mindy Hoover has volunteered to help collect and organize all the old records kept there and put them in storage until the new building is completed. Tim also reported the new Blessing Box is completed and Mindy will make signage for the box.

Police Report

Marshal Jacob Gambill reported 164 incidents and 112 traffic stops. They did a saturation patrol with 8 of our guys and Shelburn's police dog. They were able to take over one kilo of marijuana products off the streets. Officers were able to make an arrest in a string of burglaries dating back to last August. There have been 1449 incidents so far this year. All officer's participated in a less lethal bean bag rifle training last month. Chief Gambill reported he was able to secure over \$20,000 in grant funding this year to upgrade the evidence room, purchase radar speed signs, pay for a camera for the interview room, and make other technology upgrades.

Gambill took time to address a Facebook post made by a local bar employee accusing the department of "sitting" on the bar and making traffic stops. This in turn the post led to online comments threatening himself and his officers. Gambill denies this practice and explained that if people stop driving through Worthington to avoid stops for erratic driving, then he will continue to make stops and keep the streets safe from those drivers.

Old Business

President Cullison presented Ordinance 2023-11 approving the final sewer rates beginning on January 1, 2024. Tom Franklin made a motion to approve. Kim Archer seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2023-12 was presented stating that all fees and previously adopted policies will be enforced unilaterally. The Resolution is presented to be sure all employees and board members are on the same page and not tell customers anything different. Barry made a motion to approve and Kim seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2023-13 regarding an additional appropriation from PS LIT was presented. A motion to approve was made Tom Franklin and Kim Archer seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Michelle Carrico presented several documents to be signed including Resolution 2023-14 to approve submission of the grant application. A motion to approve was made by Brian Stoner and Kim Archer seconded. Approved 5-0. She also had several documents related to submittal that needed a signature by the President, Attorney and Clerk-Treasurer.

New Business

Barry Hoover and Clerk Mindy interviewed attorney Darla Brown to replace Marilyn. Both of them made a recommendation to the board to approve her as new counsel to the town. All board members agreed and her contract was signed. Marilyn Hartman will help get her on board and up to speed on the sewer project.

The 2024 holiday calendar was approved by a motion from Brian Stoner and seconded by Kim Archer. Motion carried 5-0.

The last order of business was to approve Mark Hall to the Worthington Jefferson Township Public Library Board. Brian Stoner made a motion and Kim seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Finally, Mindy Hoover expressed her gratitude for being allowed to serve the town in 2023. Tom Franklin also thanked everyone for his 8 years of service as he is retiring.

Barry Hoover made a motion to adjourn and Kim Archer seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Gerren Cullison, President

Clerk-Treasurer