

**VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES - NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

Mayor Sean Barnes called to order the Village of Alexandria Regular Council Meeting of November 7, 2024, at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Andrew Bottar-Dillen, Jeff Baer, Kelly Reed, Cari Meng, Mike Miller, Herb Lower

Village Representation: Present: Mayor Sean Barnes, Solicitor David Ball, Fiscal Officer Carol Gissinger, Police Chief Dan Bunting, Village Secretary Sarah Chambers, Zoning Inspector Jacob Brooks. The Village Administrator position is presently vacant.

Citizens Attending: Stan Robinson

Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Regular Council Meeting 10-15-2024 were read. Jeff Baer made a motion, seconded by Mike Miller, to approve the 10-15-2024 Regular Council Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously and the Chair declared the motion carried.

Minutes from Special Council Meeting 10-29-2024 were read. Jeff Baer made a motion, seconded by Mike Miller, to approve the 10-29-2024 Special Council Meeting minutes as amended to remove an extra r from the spelling of Cari Meng's name. The motion passed unanimously and the Chair declared the motion carried.

Public Hearings/Communications- None

Legislation-

1st Reading - Resolution No. (Number not assigned yet) _ New Zoning Resolution

2nd Readings:

ORDINANCE NO. _____ AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND DESIGNATING CERTAIN TIME LIMITS ON PARKING PLACES LOCATED IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT AND HANDICAPPED PARKING

ORDINANCE NO. _____ AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND DESIGNATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING TREES.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-07 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR PROTECTING THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM FROM CONTAMINATION DUE TO BACKFLOW OF CONTAMINANTS THROUGH THE WATER SERVICE CONNECTION INTO THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Andrew Bottar-Dillen made a motion, seconded by Cari Meng to suspend the readings on **ORDINANCE NO. 2024-7**. All voted in favor and the Chair declared the motion carried.

In discussion it was suggested to add the wording to the Ordinance "finding where necessitated by the EPA Water Inspector as needed for compliance" and also deleting the reference to the Village Maintenance Supervisor.

Jeff Baer made a motion, seconded by Mike Miller, to pass as amended **ORDINANCE NO. 2024-07**. All voted in favor and the Chair declared the motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. R2024-17 A RESOLUTION GIVING FINAL APPROVAL TO THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF JORDAN LEE AS A PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER FOR THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Andrew Bottar-Dillen made a motion, seconded by Jeff Baer, to suspend the readings on **RESOLUTION NO. R2024-17**. All voted in favor and the Chair declared the motion carried.

Jeff Baer made a motion, seconded by Andrew Bottar-Dillen to pass **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-17**. All voted in favor and the Chair declared the motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-19 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO HAVE THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA, OHIO, JOIN THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mike Miller made a motion, seconded by Jeff Baer to suspend the readings on **RESOLUTION NO. R2024-19**. All voted in favor and the Chair declared the motion carried.

Andrew Bottar-Dillen made a motion, seconded by Jeff Baer to pass **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-19**. All voted in favor and the Chair declared the motion carried.

Village Officer Reports

Administrator's Report – Sean Barnes

- Mayor Barnes gave the report as there is currently no Village Administrator. Lisa Homan returned to her previous job and has resigned. The position has been posted on Indeed and the Ohio Municipal website.
- The tractor is repaired and back in the Village
- Leaf Pickup is ongoing.
- Jim worked on flag maintenance and replacement, trash cans, painting the crosswalks, electric at the triangle.

Fiscal Officer's Report- Carol Gissenger

- She has been working on closing the books for the Year End.
- No preliminary appropriations for police or the museum at this time. She will send the appropriations list to the Council members as soon as it is finished.

Solicitor's Report – David Ball

- Prepared the Legislation for this meeting
- The Parking Ordinance will have amendments before the next vote.
- Worked on rules and regulations for the Service Committee.
- 14 W. Main Street – re: Martha's Bath and Body needing to be in a space prior to the Holiday season.

Mayor's Report – Sean Barnes

- Sean sent members of Council a press release for the JAG group re-branding and new name of The Municipal Utility Coalition of Licking County. The Master Plan is being engineered to develop a plan for providing water and sewer service across the townships.
- The Street Grant has been submitted fully, even though the grant writer was concerned that we did not offer any money down.
- The sidewalk grant is being submitted.
- The EPA sent a letter about water/sewer. There is a meeting with Jim and Jack to get compliant within 30 days.

Zoning Inspector Report – Jacob Brooks

Jacob gave his activity report as required in the Zoning Code.

- 118 W. Main – fence permit
- 158 Granville Steet – nothing at this time
- 27 W. Main – inspecting the Museum property is on hold until he makes contact with Martha Sturgill. It was suggested he talk to Bud Young directly to document the condition as of 2024 so that the Village has a baseline for comparison when the current lease expires.
- Jacob will be keeping a log to record changes to the system even if a permit is not required. An application has to be filled out, permits even on private property for repairs when connecting to public property, both for water and sewer. This will give the Village a good record of the history of all changes made.
- 14 W. Main Street – Jacob has not heard anything back from the owners that they have any permits saying the building can be safely occupied. The County is still working with the owners. Jacob will follow up. Per Stan Robinson, Building Code inspectors approve the work and then the Zoning inspector approves. Council does not need to be involved.

Police Department

- There was a police department presence for Beggars Night and there were no incidents.
- Qualifications are coming up.
- There are two cases for trial coming up.

Committee Reports

Prior to Committee Reports being given, there was discussion that in the future there should be written copies of the Committee Reports that could be submitted along with the minutes for submission on the website.

Finance Committee- Mike Miller

Mike gave Council copies of September and October finance reports. The only real change in accounts, other than the Main operating accounts, is a change in interest.

Questions/Discussions

Who pays for the electric bill for the decorative (street) lights? They are owned by AEP but it seems the Village pays for the electricity. Check with Jim Jasper for clarification.

Public Safety-Cari Meng

The next meeting is December 3 at 5:30 and the discussion will be about no U-Turns Village wide.

Question/Discussion

Is the Parking spot behind the Loading Zone on the side of the Post Office (in front of the apartments) included in the Parking Ordinance currently being read by Council?

This should not be a parking spot.

Service-Jeff Baer

The next meeting is December 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Backflow regulation discussions.

Planning Commission – Sean Barnes

- The Zoning Resolution has been reviewed by the Village Solicitors and submitted to Council.
- Next steps for planning are sending a survey to Village residents asking about their expectations, thoughts, and including some of the same questions as the 2006 Survey questions as they are still relevant today.

Old Business

From the October 15th meeting, the question about the lawsuit and advertising was actually a constituent question and not a scam or an issue that pertains to Council.

New Business

Discussion about options to generate more revenue after the loss of the tax levy income. The levy failed by 7 votes. Loss of the levy puts us seriously behind and the Village will not have enough money to cover all expenses, salaries, Police, maintenance, water and sewer repairs.

- New tax levy.
 - Can we put this levy on again in March? David will let us know the deadline to get the levy on the March ballot.
 - Concerns on the negative impact on older residents.
 - How to let residents know the impact of the levy failure? Water bill, add a general breakdown of expenses and reasons the Village needs the levy.
 - Can the put a higher Income Tax Levy (Income Tax be raised to 1.5% or 2%)? One % is not enough to cover upcoming costs.
 - Can a representative from RITA come to a Council Meeting to discuss all of the implications of an Income Tax increase? Carol is the only one who can talk to RITA and she will talk to them.
 - The Income Tax Levy question is tabled until we hear from RITA.
 - What budget cuts need to be put in place immediately?
 - Can water rates be raised?
- **After discussion, no vote or action was taken. Discussion will continue at the next meeting after more information is available.**
- A Council member should attend the Township meeting Nov. 12th to support the proposed 7-mil Fire Levy. Failure of the levy could lead to staff cuts, closure, and costlier reliance on West Licking services, burdening Village residents. Supporting the levy protects essential services and aligns with the Village's best interests.

Citizen Comments (3-minute time limit) – Herb Lower

Gravel on Liberty Street has been spread but we need more.

Two sign posts on College are still up.

The flower boxes and leaves need to be cleaned up. Herb is volunteering to take care of that.

Meeting Announcements

Planning Commission Meeting November 13, 2024, at 5:30pm

Safety Committee Meeting November 3, 2024, at 5:30pm.

Public Service Meeting November 14, 2024, at 5:30pm

Regular Council Meeting November 19, 2024, at 7pm.

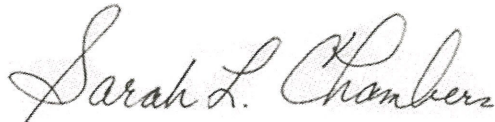
A motion was made by Andrew Bottar-Dillen to go into Executive Session (1) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code. Jeff Baer seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and one abstention by Herb Lower and the Chair declared the motion carried. Council went into Executive Session at 9:02 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 10:04 p.m.

Adjournment

Mike Miller made a motion, seconded by Andrew Bottar-Dillen to adjourn the council meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the Chair declared the motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Chambers
Village Secretary
Minutes Certified by:

11/19/2024

Date



Sean Barnes
Chairperson, Mayor

11/19/24
Date

