

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**Lithopolis Village Council Meeting Minutes**  
**July 28th, 2020**

**Council Members Present:** Belek, Brown, Daniels (Zoom), Kidwell(Zoom), Long, Tennant.

**Council Members Absent:**

**Present:** Mayor- Eric Sandine, W.J. Barton- Chief of Police (Zoom), Amanda Wolin- Village Administrator, Dustin Camden- Interim Fiscal Officer, John Browning- Village Solicitor.

**Call**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Moment of Silence**

The Meeting Minutes for July 7th were Approved

Motion to Approve Tennant

2<sup>nd</sup>- Long

6 Ayes

0 Nays

Mayor Sandine made a statement regarding the protocols for public speaking and that they would have 5 minutes. Mayor Sandine submitted a press release and letter from attorney for the record. Addressing the Auditors Report.

Council Member Amy Brown announced she is recusing herself from anything that is to deal with the Auditors Report to eliminate any potential conflict of interest as she is employed by the Attorney General's Office.

Mayor Sandine opened the floor to public comments. No public comments at this time and will move onto the Mayors Report.

**Ordinance 20-20** Ordinance Authorizing sale and purchase of Municipal property and declaring an Emergency.

The Village of Lithopolis has discovered errors in a previously recorded survey, property descriptions, and deed for certain real property owned by the Village.

This will be the site for the cell tower that will improve the cell coverage in the Village.

Motion to waive 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings

Motion- Belek

2<sup>nd</sup>- Long

6 Ayes

0 Nays

Motion to Approve Ordinance 20-20 Declaring an emergency

Motion- Long

2<sup>nd</sup>- Tennant

6 Ayes

0 Nays

Council Member Amber Daniels asked about the few people that raised their hand after public comments was closed. Mayor Sandine stated we would allow them to speak at the end.

The next 2 items have to do with the outcome of the Special Election, in case it does not pass then we would need to get this Ordinance and Resolution up to the Fairfield County Board of Elections by 4P.M. August 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Resolution 05-20** A Resolution indicating a need for increased revenue for various municipal projects.

The increase in the income tax shall be used for public safety and capital projects, specifically street construction, maintenance and repair, the general maintenance and repair of public buildings and acquisition of public parkland and the addition of a fulltime police officer.

Would go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

Motion to waive 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Readings  
Motion Tennant  
2<sup>nd</sup>- Belek  
6 Ayes  
0 Nays

Motion to Approve Ordinance 18-20 Declaring an emergency.  
Motion- Long  
2<sup>nd</sup>- Belek  
6 Ayes  
0 Nays

**Ordinance 21-20** An Ordinance adopting and authorizing an increase in the Village Income Tax Rate from 1% to 1.50%.

Motion to waive 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Readings  
Motion Long  
2<sup>nd</sup>- Tennant  
6 Ayes  
0 Nays

Motion to Approve Ordinance 21-20 Declaring an emergency.  
Motion- Belek  
2<sup>nd</sup>- Long  
6 Ayes  
0 Nays

We were anticipating starting Smart Bill in August but they have not finished Mapping our Customer Accounts to their Billing Network. We are looking at September now to start smart billing.

The potholes on South St. and by El Pedregal on Legion alley and Cherry alley were filled.

Waterline break on Elder was fixed and a valve was put in the main under pressure. and Tower transducer was replaced. Had another small longitudinal crack 19 feet from the valve that was replaced under pressure with a clamp.

Alarm system was reinstalled and Cameras/DVR are working again

Mayor Sandine asked council to review a couple sections of the employee manual. First would be holiday pay for part time employees when that holiday falls on a regular scheduled work date. Then overtime pay for part time employees they exceed 8 hours in a day for an emergency.

Mayor Sandine read a statement on behalf of Terra Wynkoop and submitted it for the record.

Diane Jewel- Asked where the cell phone tower was going in at? Mayor Sandine stated its in Lithopolis cemetery at the end of cemetery rd. She Asked how the bacteria or contaminates are being monitored with these water line breaks? Mayor Sandine stated it was repaired with a clamp under pressure so contaminates couldn't get back in. Asked about the \$150,000 dollars to replace the Elder Lane water line? Mayor Sandine stated that was just a ballpark guess to repair from 674 to South street on Elder Ln. She asked about grants we could use? Mayor Sandine stated this would consider this an emergency repair. Asked about the hardness of the water and how it damaged her dishes and asked if something could be done about this to soften the water? Mayor Sandine stated we get ground water and that is extremely hard and we soften it to 150 parts per billion and that is the

EPA's recommendation. Ms. Jewel was having some technical issues and Mayor Sandine said she could call him to go over this tomorrow.

Anthony Burbridge- Asked if Ed was still employed? Mayor Sandine said he was the Water Operator of Record. How long does the collection process take? Mr. Browning stated the collection process has to be completed within 6 years of the finding for recovery.

Lori Ryan- Asked what is the cost to build the tower the Village was responsible for? Mayor Sandine stated that there was none to build it, also the \$15,000 to take down the tower they will recouped some of that money from lease payments to us during the first year. Asked when the start date would be? No date at this time as we have to finish the Ordinances to correct the deeds but would like to complete the project this year.

John Stertz- Asked why everything is an emergency? Mayor Sandine replied an emergency allows for the ordinance to go in affect immediately and has to have specific language showing why it's an emergency. Council Member Tennant stated that if it's not an emergency it could be as long as 6 weeks before action is taken and some things cannot wait that long. Asked Mr. Browning if he was representing Mayor Sandine in this process? Mr. Browning stated he represents the Village. Mr. Stertz voiced his displeasure with the current administration. Council Member Tennant stated while the residents have every opportunity to join in on council meetings in any way they see fit, however there needs to be mutual respect, questions asked and questions answered and no berating of anyone. Mr. Stertz Asked about write up of employees? Mayor Sandine stated he wouldn't discuss personnel issues in a public forum. Mr. Stertz continued asking why Amanda was involved in all conversations? Council Member Daniels asked Amanda her Official Job Title and stated that it is her business to know what is going on in the Village. She stated that in her own research she found this dated back to 2017 and that at the time it was not criminal. Council Member Daniels addressed the letter Mr. Stertz sent to council and she stated that it was not criminal and if it was his letter would hold more merit. She then stated they have researched and it is not that they don't care but they have done their research and know what is in their power and will have the best interest of the Village, however it is not their job to determine if the Auditors report is factual or not.

Amy Provenzano- Asked if you will be able to vote at the Methodist Church for the special election? Yes, both Fairfield and Franklin county can vote there.

Resident John Stertz asked Council Member Daniels asked is Council Members should be recusing themselves from this situation if they are close with the Mayor? Mr. Browning stated that council power is to either ask himself to recoup the funds which he stated he would not do, or hire special council if they feel that is best or just turn it over to the Attorney General's Office. Council Member Long stated that Mr. Stertz was referring to him, Council Member Long stated they don't see each other outside of Village related work. Council Member Daniels stated that she only sees the Mayor for Village work and Council Meetings.

Amy Provenzano- Asked why the Village thought it was necessary to hold a special election when they could have put it on the November ballot and save the Village a considerable amount of money? The Board of Election said that it would cost \$13,000 dollars and in November would only cost a few thousand dollars, was council aware of this cost? Mayor Sandine responded that Council was aware and appropriated \$15,000 dollars for both elections and felt that having 2 opportunities to pass the Income Tax before next year was worth it. We have already received a bill from the Board of Elections for \$12,650 and the Cost of the November election will be less than \$1000 dollars. The Village will still be under what was appropriated for these elections. Mrs. Provenzano said she was told by the Board of Elections a bill couldn't be sent until after the election? Mayor Sandine stated that we have received a bill and they have to know the cost because we were required to pay 65% upfront. This .5% revenue to expense would bring in close to \$350,000 dollars a year, and if passed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August then we could start getting our bond counsel together to get these projects started right away. This

is how we have handled these type of projects in the past and this is how Village Council decided to handle it now.

**Diane Jewel-** Stated that she was at the special election training and there would be a booth set up for Franklin County. Also there will be booths for special needs and are offering curbside voting if people don't want to come inside. There will be social distancing and mask will be required. Council Member Belek asked if people would know where to vote? Council Member Long answered that a postcard was sent out to voters telling them where they are supposed to vote.

**Chief** – Nothing

**Village Administrator-** Nothing

**Fiscal Officer-** Nothing

**Jon Browning-** Stated it is his obligation to collect the overpayment from the findings, if he cannot then it is up to Council to hire special council who can or let it go to the Attorney General for collection.

**Round Robin:**

**Belek-** Nothing

**Brown-** Likes how the residents can attend via zoom, and asked if this could be continued after the pandemic is over. Is there anything in smart bill that will notify customers of Boil Advisory's? Would have to use Fairfield counties alert system.

**Daniels-** Asked about Ordinance allowing the Mayor to change the handbook was still in effect? Mayor Sandine stated that is was repealed when last manual was passed.

**Kidwell-** Nothing

**Long-** Nothing

**Tenant-** Asked about the 2 parking spaces at Columbus St. and Delaware St. that were taken away and asked if there would be 30 days before it happens? This did not require the 30 days as it was done by motion. Eldridge and Fisk building is still boarded up and is an eye sore and wanted to know if it could be un boarded? Mayor Sandine stated he has talked to the owners of the property and it is going through some business changes and will be un boarded soon.

Mayor Sandine stated having no further public business to address motion to adjourn.

Motion Long

2<sup>nd</sup> Belek

6 Ayes

0 Nays

Meeting Adjourned.