

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**Lithopolis Village Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 9, 2017 @ 7:30pm**

**Council Members Present:** Ertuncay, Daily, Lowery, Zircher, Tennant, Felbaum

**Council Members Absent:** None

**Present:** Scott Gilliland- Mayor  
Leslie DeVico- Fiscal Officer  
Ed VanVickle - Village Administrator  
Brandon Roberts- Village Administrator Trainee  
Chief Barton- Police Chief

Mayor Gilliland called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.; followed by roll call; led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and asked for a moment of silence for the US Armed Forces.

Minutes: Mayor Gilliland asked for Council to take a minute to review the minutes from 4/25/2017. Gilliland asked if there were any changes or corrections. Councilman Zircher asked for a correction to the minutes. Gilliland asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion by Tennant to approve the April 25, 2017 minutes, seconded by Ertuncay. Roll call: Ayes: Felbaum, Tennant, Zircher, Lowery, Daily, Ertuncay. Nays: None

**Public Comments:**

Bea Ann Bedford- Village resident. Works outside Lithopolis. Would like the Village to consider offering a tax credit to those residents that work outside the Village. Ms. Bedford passed out documents; Ms. Bedford spoke with R.I.T.A. and per R.I.T.A., 1/3rd of municipalities offer some sort of a tax credit. Mayor Gilliland commented that when R.I.T.A. was originally set up it was 1%; - in 2015 a .5% went on the ballot and was passed by the residents. Gilliland commented that the Village is growing and our infrastructure continues to age. The tax is an important part of the Village. Gilliland suggested the Finance Committee meet and discuss further options. Mayor Gilliland also suggested that Ms. Bedford could go and collect signatures (10% of the residents who voted) and petition this for the November ballot. Gilliland would let Ms. Bedford know of the Finance Committee meeting. Councilman Felbaum stated he would be happy to have a finance meeting; Councilman Zircher commented that he has a friend who is moving out of the Village in part due to the taxes. Mayor Gilliland suggested we weigh the property taxes here vs. Canal Winchester and or Columbus. Councilman Zircher stated there is a lot to consider.

Mary Lou Kunkler- Founder of Friends for Life Animal Haven. Ms. Kunkler has come to Council asking permission to trap, spay or neuter, and provide 1 shot to the feral cats in the Village. Ms. Kunkler commented that they have almost gotten rid of the feral cats in Canal Winchester with this program. She relies completely upon donations; Canal Winchester gives her \$3,000.00 to help defer the costs.

Ms. Kunkler is asking for support from the Village and will provide 1 trap. Councilman Felbaum asked if we could put this on the list for the finance committee meeting? Village Admin VanVickle asked if she uses local vets for the services. Kunkler stated they do use local vets along with Capital Area Humane Society.

Joe Taylor addressed Council starting with a thank you to Chief Barton and his patrol officers in helping others. Taylor asked if he would be able to take the rocking chairs that are damaged and fix and paint the chairs? Chairs were from Mr. Bigler (former council member, he took his council payment and bought the roses and chairs). Taylor commented that at the last council meeting he was asked to bring financial documents with him to this

Council meeting- Taylor presented Council with a breakdown of expenses for the Honeyfest – document passed around to council. Councilman Lowery suggested Mr. Taylor to contact Crossroads Church- they have 3 golf carts that they may be able to use for the HF. From the audience- JD Equipment can donate a couple of golf carts for use at the HF. Taylor commented the sound system will be upgraded this year. Mayor Gilliland asked what the HF brought in in income- the report provided does not show actual totals. Taylor said he wasn't sure how much money will be received this year. Councilwoman Daily commented that she reached out to local communities as to what they provide or support for events- the City of Canal Winchester gives absolutely nothing to the Rib Fest- and the Village of Carroll does not provide anything to the Old Timer's event but they do get support from the local Lions club– Councilwoman Daily asked if Taylor has contacted any organizations for their support. Taylor commented the only club in town is the Kiwanis and their money goes towards scholarships and to support the key clubs in the school district. Councilwoman Daily asked if he has reached out to the American Legion – Taylor commented that he has not reached out to the Legion. Taylor is asking for the Village to pay for the port potty's. Councilwoman Daily asked about the \$2,000.00 expense for a banquet- Taylor commented with around 100 volunteers it was around \$18.00 per person- you have to have something for the volunteers. Councilwoman Tennant stated for the record that she doesn't care how much the HF spends on banquets or anything else...I think the point is that even though the Village does not sponsor, we should support the port o john's for the HF, you have my support. Councilman Zircher asked if we could get an ordinance. Gilliland stated we only need a motion. VanVickle stated there is an ordinance that supports the HF and it's on the books; we need to either repeal the ordinance- Councilwoman Daily stated the HF is no longer a Village event. Councilman Lowery asked what sponsor means? VanVickle said the purpose of the ordinance was to extend Village liability to protect the Village during a public activity- extends our liability coverage. Councilman Felbaum suggested we get a copy of the Ordinance.

#### **New Business:**

Ord 13-17. Gilliland read the ordinance for Water Plant Operator. Councilman Felbaum asked if we had anyone lined up; Gilliland commented that John has taken his test and will know in June if he passed. Ed and I met with another candidate who was a water plant operator in Groveport, highly qualified, had a Class I license but it has expired, but should not be an issue to it reinstated. Village Administrator VanVickle stated for the record that John Abram will be seriously considered for the Water Plant Operator- whoever is the administrator at that time has the authority to hire the water operator because the water operator reports to the administrator, I wanted to clarify. Also, the ordinance should be changed to say Water Plant Operator of Record. A backup Water Plant Operator is not the Operator of Record and we need to clarify. Councilman Felbaum stated the money was looked at last year for this - Gilliland commented either one of the applicants would not take the position until June and we are not going to go over the \$36,500.00. Councilman Zircher asked if we are looking elsewhere to fill this position. VanVickle said we will be posting this on OTCO; my purpose was to pass this Ordinance so the administration and Council are playing fair. Motion by Felbaum to declare this Ordinance an emergency, seconded by Daily, Roll Call: Daily, Ertuncay, Felbaum, Lowery, Tennant, Zircher. Nays: None. Gilliland asked for a motion to pass Ordinance 13-17 as amended. Motion by Felbaum, seconded by Zircher. Roll Call: Zircher, Tennant, Lowery, Felbaum, Ertuncay, Daily. Nays: None.

Ord 14-17. Gilliland commented that Councilwoman Tennant asked for a sidewalk ordinance; this ordinance can be modified over 3 readings- this is a draft- we can edit it as we go. This is an ordinance establishing sidewalks be constructed and maintained in all residential areas in Lithopolis Ohio. Gilliland read Ordinance 14-17. Gilliland commented this is a rough draft. There are things that we need to change and we can amend this. Councilman Lowery stated the spirit of this is to put sidewalks in subdivisions that have sidewalks. Councilman Felbaum agreed with Lowery. VanVickle said the ordinance doesn't exclude alleys- we need to clarify this ordinance. Councilman Lowery asked if vacant lot owners would be grandfathered in? Gilliland stated ORC and the Ohio Basic Code defines that property owners are responsible for sidewalks. Councilman Lowery finds this to be unfair- what if a vacant lot was purchased and the owner decided not to build right a way- you're going to have heavy equipment going over these sidewalks. VanVickle stated that would-be the

case for those who have not defined where their driveway will be. Lowery stated this would be better on a per case basis. Councilman Zircher asked if there is a systematic way to get the area residents feed-back? VanVickle interjected that we have developer's agreements with Hawks Nest and Bluebird and we can't pass an ordinance stating they now have to put in sidewalks; the easy fix this is to say that the areas in the Village with curbs have to put in sidewalks.

### **Reports from Officers:**

#### **Ed VanVickle:**

The Knights of Columbus have asked to solicit in the village. This type of solicitation is standing in the middle of street- I'm not comfortable with type of solicitation. My position is this is liability to the Village, I feel this is an overall bad idea. If we allow this, we need an Ordinance and the organization must have liability insurance to release the Village from liability. Councilwoman Tennant agrees with VanVickle to ignore this type of solicitation.

VanVickle continued we have \$1M new building applications that have come in; I urge again that the best interest of the village is best served to have a planning commission. Gilliland said he had couple of volunteers and need to put together a meeting. With a planning commission, there is some give and take on the future development/developers of the Village.

The sewer flow we have not had time to align the CUSI billing software with the water plant flow and the sewer meter flow to Canal. We did manage to align for about 21 days and the numbers did line up. We did manage to tweak the CUSI billing also.

#### **Fiscal Officer:**

Devico passed out a current check register for May; commented that she will be closing out April and will have the financial reports for Council at the next meeting. Councilwoman Tennant asked about the payment to Anthem BCBS was \$1513.00 previously and our payment today is \$6238.00- is this the monthly bill? Why is there an almost \$5,000.00 uptick in Anthem BCBS? Devico commented that she presented to Council a new plan to save money- received no response from council on whether to pursue or not pursue new options for health care. Councilwoman Tennant said this equates to a \$56,000.00 uptick in insurance payments in a year. Councilwoman Tennant asked that Devico bring new viable options. Councilman Felbaum asked about the increase and if it was due to new signups? Devico confirmed the increase is due to new employee(s).

#### **Chief Barton:**

April report to Council. Next week is National Police Week. Officer Kocher will be attending the ceremony on his own time and expense.

#### **Mayor:**

Nothing.

#### **Council Round Robin:**

**Zircher-** David and I met with Ed and Brandon today about the planning of the parks and discuss a park sub committee. I would like to request a parks committee to see if there are residents interested to be on this sub committee. Gilliland said he would put it in the newsletter; we could put it on FB also. VanVickle suggested that a personal invitation go out to Arnold- the village has this 93 acre park because Arnold generously donated to the Village.

Zircher continued- what can we do to help support local businesses? When the Memorial Day and the Honeyfest come up- are there other things the village can do to bring events to the downtown area to draw more people to the Village? Brainstorming- can we partner with someone to do a 5K? Comment from Eric Sandine

that we have done a 5K- and it did not work. Farmers market even though it may be hard to compete with Canal. We need to help to sustain our businesses and are we doing everything we can to help those businesses? Councilwoman Daily said part of the reason for the turnover is the rents are high. Gilliland said that residents can't safely come to town – there is no access to the downtown area- kids would love to get some ice cream at Das Kaffee Haus- we need to make our areas more residential friendly- bicycle paths/walking paths. Comment from audience- what about council meeting at one of the businesses once a month to promote downtown inviting the public in? The coffee shop has said they never see anyone from council come in. Councilwoman Tennant stated she is at the coffee house at least once a day if not twice a day.

Councilwoman Daily commented that they did a survey at one of shops and most people who completed the survey came from outside the village. We also did a welcome wagon at one time- including coupons to shop the businesses. I would like to see a community liaison to work with the businesses and council. Comment from audience- can the village take eminent domain on Smith Road to the downtown area? Gilliland said that's probably not possible- VanVickle said there is long term plan from the village office up to the Wagnalls library. Realistically that won't happen for 5 to 10 years. Councilman Zircher thinks a liaison is good idea – asked Daily what suggestions she has for this. Councilwoman Daily said someone who has open communication with the businesses and can express the interest and share with Council. VanVickle commented this person needs to understand that they do not speak on behalf of the village.

**Lowery-** nothing

**Felbaum-** nothing

**Ertuncay-** nothing

**Daily-** nothing

**Tennant-** nothing

There being no further public business a motion to adjourn by Tennant, seconded by Ertuncay.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

**Meeting adjourned @ 8:58 p.m.**



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**Grant Felbaum**  
**President**



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**Leslie K. DeVico**  
**Clerk, Village of Lithopolis**