

MINUTES
MAGNOLIA VILLAGE COUNCIL
JANUARY 17, 2024 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The Regular Meeting of Magnolia Village Council was called to order at the Village Hall on January 17, 2024 at 7:10 p.m. by Mayor Travis Boyd. Council members present were Grant Downes, Kurt Stanley, Jim Miller, Scott Noble and Eric White. Also present were Anthony Watkins, Jennifer Hager, Chief Hager, Cpt. Chad Schlimm, Jay Herstine, and Penny Rainsberger. Eric White made the motion to excuse Claudia Rogers and Kurt Stanley seconded. All Ayes. Attorney L'Hommedieu did the swearing in for Mayor Boyd, Councilman/President Pro Tempore Grant Downes and Councilman Scott Noble for their terms ending 12-31-2028.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS: With a possibly measurable snow forecast, Mr. Jay Herstine asked if the Street Dept. could plow the alley by the Lutheran Church parking lot and the Cemetery. Anthony said that he will make sure he does.

MINUTES: Grant Downes made a motion to accept the Dec 20, 2023 minutes as presented which was seconded by Eric White. All Ayes.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORTS: Eric White made a motion to accept the Fiscal Officer's report as presented, which was seconded by Scott Noble. All Ayes.

ACTION ON BILLS: Grant Downes made a motion to pay the bills as presented, which was seconded by Kurt Stanley. All Ayes.

VILLAGE WORK REPORT: Anthony Watkins reported that he has done some snow plowing and road salting. He has also patched some potholes and cleaned up the discarded Christmas tree pile. The Village truck is in good shape and has a load of salt ready to go. Anthony asked how long the snowflake lights are to stay lit and it was decided to be until the end of Feb.

ADDITIONS TO BUSINESS: n/a

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The topic of the Water Dept processing their own bills and accounts was raised. Per Mayor Boyd and Jay Herstine that idea is currently in a holding pattern as there would be many other changes that would need to be made. They will watch to see if the idea needs revisited at a later time.

NEW BUSINESS: Atty. Kevin L'Hommedieu mentioned the salary amount the Solicitor position is receiving. Since he has been representing the Village since 2006, he mentioned that there may be a possibility of his retirement in a few years. This would require the Village to recruit a suitable replacement. His current reimbursement is much, much lower than other solicitors in his position. Atty. L'Hommedieu is fine with his current salary but knows that it would be extremely hard to find a replacement at the current rate. [Ord 2024-01} Jim Miller made a motion to raise the salary by \$1,500.00 each year for the next 4 years with Kurt Stanley seconding. All Ayes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS: Eric White states that due to the season, nothing is currently happening in the Parks. Eric mentioned the advertisement signs at the ballfields should be taken down due to the weather. Eric will talk with the ad owners to see if they will take them down every fall so they don't get damaged.

SAFETY: Grant Downes advised everyone that the monthly and yearly safety report from the Police Dept. is attached.

Grant Downes has been asked by a resident regarding access to the Council minutes. Starting next month, once the minutes have been approved, Penny Rainsberger will send those to him to post online.

Chief Hager reported that the work Cpt. Schlimm did for the body camera grant has been approved for \$2,000.00. Chief Hager stated junk cars in the Village have been identified. Current license plates are not enough and suggests the wording on the junk vehicle ordinance be reviewed for clarity. Chief Hager also reported that the side room has been cleaned out, except of old uniforms. Chief reported the battery pack for the Patrol Office has been replaced. Chief also stated he is unaware of any calls being unanswered with the Stark County Sherriff Dept. during the last month. Chief also thanked everyone for everything as this will be his last Council meeting due to his upcoming retirement. Mayor Boyd and Council again thanked the Chief for his many years of service.

Captain Schlimm stated that he registered today for the required New Chief Training Class to be held March 11-15 in Columbus, OH. The State of Ohio requires this training of all new Chiefs within 6 months of assuming that position. Cpt. Schlimm spoke with homeowners on Main St. to remove a refrigerator that is sitting in their driveway as it is a hazard. The homeowners have also been spoken to regarding trash behind the home. Mayor Boyd will try reaching out to the Health Dept. regarding this issue but they were unhelpful previously. Cpt. Schlimm also stated that there were a couple of possible candidates for a Patrolman position but neither of them were acceptable.

Fire Chief Eric White reports the department has been relatively quiet, only 2 calls in a month. Eric also states they are continuing to wait to hear from FEMA regarding approval for an equipment grant. Chief White also said they will have the year end report available in Feb.

CEMETERY REPORT: Claudia Rogers reported income of \$20.00 for the month of December 2023.

UTILITIES: Kurt Stanley states one street light near High St. and Weiss Court has been reported out. Kurt stated that he drove around early this morning and there were 8 street lights out but they are on this evening. He feels they may have been out this morning due to the cold and he will be watching these. Kurt also reported that the LED lights will be installed as old ones are replaced as AEP will not be doing entire municipality change overs. Just a note is that the new lights will not have covers like the current ones and the brightness will not be adjustable. Kurt spoke with ATT regarding their internet offer and has requested more info. They apparently will be bringing fiberoptic service into the area. They are offering a government plan which may be more affordable. Kurt also pointed out that the Historical Marker by the Lutheran Church is in need of repair. The base is broken as it has gotten damaged when weed trimming. One idea to protect it may be to circle stones around it. Anthony will check this.

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FINANCE: Jim Miller reported that we have been contacted by Charles E. Harris & Assoc. to start the State of Ohio Audit process. Penny Rainsberger has received a multiple page request to start the audit. The next big item to be handled will be the 2024 appropriations. Jim asked that Mayor Boyd and Kurt Stanley join in the process. Grant Downes will also join. Jay Herstine mentioned that we should reach out to Lorrie Clevenger when we do the Water Dept. section, like we did last year. Scott Noble asked about possible finances for paving. Jim states we do have some available in the street fund.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: Scott Noble has spoken with Joe Little regarding catch basins and culvert replacement. Mr. Little's proposal for 3 catch basins on S. Main and Plain Streets was \$7,825.00. Mr. Little states he would be able to do 4 others at \$750.00 apiece. The catch basins needing replacement are 2 on Harrison, 2 on Levy Circle and 1 on Almasy. Scott Noble recommends the Levy Circle basins should wait until repaving has been completed, in case there is a change in height. Mr. Little recommends waiting to do the 2 basins on Harrison St. until hot mix patching is available but he currently has time to work on the others. Kurt Stanley made a motion to approve the catch basin and culvert repairs up to \$11,000.00 with Scott Noble seconding. All Ayes. Grant Downes noted there are a couple of alleys, such as behind N. Main St, that should be looked at in the spring regarding washing out. Kurt Stanley also noted that he will be meeting with Mike at Smith's Nursery regarding the continuing issue of water lying on Morges. Scott Noble also asked if the Village has any type of agreements regarding oil and gas lease rights regarding the land owned by the Village. Oil and Gas companies are starting to look into local areas and so we should know what we have on file. Penny Rainsberger will look to see if anything can be found.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: n/a

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Boyd reported that due to Attorney L'Hommedieu's suggestions, some changes/removals regarding penalty language have been made to the Quicksall Engineers agreement. This agreement would start the process for the sidewalk project with surveying, paperwork, sidewalks, catch basins, etc.... The schedule for contractor bids will be by the end of 2024 with construction starting in 2025.

Jim Miller states the Mr. Kevin Greer at the Bank of Magnolia is agreeable with a loan for the project.

A motion was made by Grant Downes to suspend the meeting at 8:27 p.m. for an Executive Session for the purpose of personnel matters. This was seconded by Eric White. All Ayes.

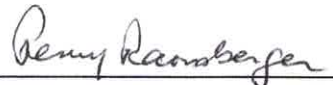
Jim Miller made the motion to return to Regular session with Eric White seconding. All Ayes. No action taken as a result of the executive session.

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn the Regular meeting at 8:53 p.m. was made by Jim Miller with Scott Noble seconding. All Ayes

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Travis Boyd, Mayor



Penny Rainsberger, Fiscal Officer