**The Byesville Village Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 5:30 pm, at Village Hall.**

**Those in attendance included Mayor Jackson, Village Administrator Brennan Dudley, Fiscal Officer Angela Gombeda, and Village Solicitor William Ferguson.**

**Mayor Jackson led The Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Mr. Dudley offered a prayer.**

**Roll Call: p. – Valentine, p. – Sullivan, a. – Haren, p. – Port, p. – Warner, p. – Dawson**

***Guest:*** ---

***Clerk’s Business:***

Minutes*:* Councilman Haren made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Warner to approve the minutes from the 11/30/2022 meeting.

Yea (6) Valentine, Sullivan, Haren, Port, Warner, Dawson

***Administrator:*** Presented by Brennan Dudley

**Water Operations**

**Routine Maintenance and Operation:** Clean and maintain sediment basins, maintain chemical levels, ensure proper backwash and operation of pressure filters and UF units. We have been working through several maintenance issues.

**LSL Mapping & Inventory:** We are being required by the EPA to perform mapping and inventory of lead services lines. As I mentioned in my last report, we received a grant from the OEPA to conduct the project. We will also be working with an outside contractor that specializes in this process. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.

**Muni-Link:** Just a reminder that we will be transitioning to a new billing software with a “go live” date of December 21. Water/Sewer customers will be receiving a letter in the mail informing them of the change.

**Distribution:** Disconnects/reconnects, OUPS tickets. Service calls as needed. Leaks on Glass and Pioneer St.

**Wastewater Operations**

**Routine Maintenance and Operation:** Pressing as scheduled, routine, and preventative maintenance as scheduled.

**Marietta Rd Sewer Extension:** Submitted GOA application.

**Street**

**Routine Maintenance and Operation:** Clean catch basins and culverts, repair leak holes, sweep streets, assist distribution crew as needed.

**S 6th Street:** Village personnel cleaned up some trash/rubbish that had been dumped at the end of S 6th St.

**Misc. Work:** Maintain streets, repair, clean, maintain equipment and facilities, clean, jet, and repair culverts and catch basins as needed.

**General Administration**

**Routine Administrative Functions:** Oversee operations at the Street, WTP and WWTP departments, review and sign PO’s and invoices, H.R. functions, payroll preparation, work cooperatively with the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, Income Tax, Utilities Clerk, Park Liaison, Village Council, Police and Fire to ensure the day-to-day operation of the Village.

**Zoning:** 0- Building Permits / 4 – ROW Permit

**Opportunity Appalachia:** Spent a day with the planner secured through the OA grant. The planner is assessing options and opportunities for the Byesville Elementary school. He was extremely encouraged by the work that Byesville had already completed in the downtown and condition of the building itself. His work will also include architectural renderings and possibilities. The architectural work will be funded through a grant from RISE Ohio.

**Union Negotiations:** The Mayor and I has our first meeting with representatives from the local AFSCME team. We will continue those negotiations on December 19.

**Columbia Gas:** I had a meeting to discuss upcoming projects throughout the Village. Over the next couple of years, CG will be replacing all the low-pressure lines with medium pressure lines to further accommodate current and future demand.

**County Steering Committee:** The County has formed a steering committee to help assess and organize projects for the Appalachian Community Grant (ACG). I have been asked to serve on the committee and chair the “Workforce” subcommittee.

**County Landbank:** The asbestos assessments have been completed and bidding has commenced on demolition of the designated houses. Bids will be due the first week of January. The properties included in this round of grants in Byesville are 250 S 2nd and 122 N 9th. I would expect both properties to be completed by end of March.

**DOJ/ADA:** We received a letter from the DOJ stating the file on the Byesville ADA settlement has been “closed”. We will still be required to comply with ADA regulations however no further oversight or enforcement will take place from the DOJ concerning the original complaint as filed in 2011. The Village made significant efforts to mitigate the 147 compliance items originally identified by the DOJ. Roughly 121 items of the original 147 items were mitigated or addressed.

**Misc.:**

* Plans for Byesville Elementary
* Ohio Builds projects including Byesville Elementary STEM hub and Byesville Scenic Rail

Mr. Dudley requested an Executive Session for possible litigation

***Mayor:*** Presented by Mayor Jackson

Mayor Jackson reported that there was a great turn out for the parade and thanked Councilman Port for all of his help. Mayor Jackson also showed his appreciation to the volunteers and employees that helped with all of the Christmas decorations.

***Park:*** Councilman Port reported that the gates are now shut and the flags are down.

***Fire/EMS:*** Chief Haren reported that it has been busy for Fire/EMS. Breakfast with Santa will be held on December 17th. Two people have taken the test and passed, two will be testing soon. He reminded council that he would like to discuss building renovations and the possible purchase of an ambulance when the time comes to work on the budget.

***Police:*** Chief Dolan stated that the Fire/EMS and the police department participated in the toy drive. He stated the parade went smoothly and he was glad to get through the last parade of the year with no issues. Chief Dolan finished up a felony jury trial with a guilty verdict rendered.He will provide a year end report at the next meeting or the first meeting of the new year.

***Solicitor:*** No Report

***Village Services:*** Mr. Sullivan reminded council that it is coming up on the timeframe of the “tiny homes” ordinance and he wanted to be sure that council was on top of it before the time lapsed. Mr. Dudley stated that the zoning board needed to firm up their opinion on the matter and present it to council.

***Finance:*** No Report

***Legislative***: Mrs. Warner presented the following legislation:

2022-16 A Resolution Amending Permanent Appropriations

2022-17 A Resolution Transferring Funds (Sewer)

2022-18 A Resolution Amending Permanent Appropriations (Sewer)

2022-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Transferring of Funds

2022-20 A Resolution Amending Permanent Appropriations

All Resolutions voted on at one time – per Mayor Jackson

Motion to Approve: Haren 2nd: Port

Yea (6) Valentine, Sullivan, Haren, Port, Warner, Dawson

***Additional Business:***

**Dawson: ---**

**Haren: ---**

**Port: Mr. Port stated that there has been more interest from people wanting to volunteer at the museum and it will hopefully be open additional days in the future. There have also been some college students with West Liberty University that will be doing some community hours.**

**Sullivan: ---**

**Valentine: Rotary will be holding their basket giveaway. We would love to have volunteers to help. 8am on Friday and 7am on Saturday.**

**Warner: ---**

**Media: ---**

***Executive Meeting for Possible Litigation:***

Motion: Haren 2nd: Warner

Yea (6) Valentine, Sullivan, Haren, Port, Warner, Dawson

6:03pm

Re-Enter Regular Session: 6:10pm

Mrs. Warner stated that she has been researching code enforcement in other entities. She felt that the violations were basically the same, but the common denominator is that these other entities have a designated code enforcement officer. Mayor Jackson and Mr. Dudley stated that it would have to be a discussion when looking at the budget going forward and deciding if the money is available and/or where it would come from. Then the discussions of requirements, etc could take place. Mr. Ferguson stated that he felt the village needs a code enforcement officer. He stated that the police department does not have the extra manpower to have someone dedicate their time to it between inspections, paperwork, and court, etc. They need to be left to do “police work” and the code enforcement or building inspector position can go beyond what they are trained to do.

Mrs. Warner also discussed that there needs to be a look at the budget to help increase the coverage with the police department. Mayor Jackson said that the difference to bring on another full-time officer is about $80,000.00. Mrs. Warner didn’t feel it necessarily needed to be a full-time person. Mayor Jackson and Chief Dolan stated that it is very hard to fill the coverage gap with part-time officers because they all work other jobs, mostly a full-time one that they aren’t going to give up. Chief Dolan noted that it is hard to find officers in general at this time, let alone for a part-time position. Mrs. Warner asked about the possibility of finding retired officers that would like to come back to work part-time. Chief Dolan stated that was a very unlikely scenario.

Mrs. Warner asked Mr. Dudley and Mayor Jackson asked if there has ever been a negotiating committee with one or two council members sitting in on negotiations for the Union contract. Mr. Dudley stated that there has not been, to his knowledge and that any council person that would set in on negotiations would no longer be able to vote on the contract. Mr. Sullivan asked when the contract would be voted on. Mr. Dudley stated that once the majority of the negotiations were complete. Mr. Dudley also stated that with the size of our Village, we are not required to honor a contract with the Union and there have been informal discussion in the past of not continuing the contract. Mr. Dudley stressed his frustrations with the Union and how it can cost the taxpayers money and while going through arbitration, making it more difficult for the employees due to not being able to hire a replacement until it is completed. Mr. Ferguson reiterated that municipalities of this size does not have to recognize the Union. Mr. Sullivan asked if the contract has always been year to year. Mr. Dudley said that it is the wage reopener that is year to year, not the contract, but that has also not always been the case. He’s sees the benefit in having the wage reopener every year because if there are mandatory wage increases, but the revenue is not increasing, that becomes a problem. Mr. Haren asked what the current Union dues were, to which Mrs. Gombeda replied that they are $50.15 per month and increasing to $52.95 at the beginning of the year. Mr. Dawson asked for a list of all employees and hourly rate or salary and notated who is in the Union.

***Meeting Adjourned***:

Motion to Adjourn: Dawson 2nd: Valentine

Yea (6) Valentine, Sullivan, Haren, Port, Warner, Dawson

Meeting Adjourned: 6:34pm

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**Mayor Jay Jackson**

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**Minutes prepared by Village Fiscal Officer, Angela Gombeda**