

Village of Harveysburg

Village Council

January 08, 2024 – 7:00 PM

Present:

- Mayor Jonathan Funk
- Jim Nelson
- Pat Bennett
- Dick Verga
- Randy Carruthers
- Kim Herberth

Absent:

- Charles Juniel

Village Staff Present:

- Chase Kirby – Village Solicitor
- Heather Matuszak – Clerk of Council

Visitors / Guests:

- Sahir Rama – Harveysburg Resident

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*This is a summary of the meeting of the Harveysburg Village Council held January 08, 2024, at 7:00 PM.
Upon request, a recording of the meeting is available for review.*
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Before proceedings begin, Village Solicitor Chase Kirby swears in Jonathan Funk as Mayor, Dick Verga as Councilmember, and Pat Bennett as Councilmember.

Mayor Funk calls the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. He leads the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

Roll Call: Nelson, Bennett, Verga, Carruthers, Herberth

Motion made by Mr. Carruthers to excuse Charles Juniel. Second by Mr. Nelson. Vote – Nelson, Bennett, Verga, Carruthers, Herberth – Aye / Nay – None. Motion passed.

Disposition of Previous Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Bennett to approve the December 11th minutes as written. Second by Mr. Nelson. Vote – Nelson, Bennett, Verga, Carruthers, Herberth – Aye / Nay – None. Motion passed.

Motion made by Mr. Bennett to approve the December 18th emergency minutes as written. Second by Mr. Nelson. Vote – Nelson, Bennett, Verga, Carruthers, Herberth – Aye / Nay – None. Motion passed.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Funk begins by thanking all who had the confidence in him to serve the Village well. He hopes to make all the residents proud and states it is an honor to serve as the Mayor of Harveysburg. He gives thanks to the council members for their thankless job and working to improve the Village. He also thanks the residents who have taken the time to attend meetings and read the minutes so they can be informed about what is happening.

Mayor Funk states knowledge is power. He says we did not get our operating levy onto the spring ballot due to errors in the document and not enough time to correct it. He intends to go over the budget line by line to assess the finances and he will pass this information to the public. He states we passed our audit with flying colors, so he is confident there are not any worries about reckless spending. He is aware the residents want to see continued improvements throughout the Village, and this will take money. The Village has cut its budget as much as possible. We received a \$302k grant for the recent storm sewer/road project. Another grant has been applied for in the amount of \$200k+ for the improvement of South/Frost/Grant streets and the Village will only need to pay about 10-20% out of pocket.

Mayor Funk states his vision for the future of Harveysburg include:

Short term goals

- Bring in more revenue.
- Review and continue to improve on our policies (police, zoning or planning)
- Uphold the law and be consistent with all.
- Attempt to inform the public of village affairs.

Long term goals

- Improve roads, police, and city buildings (can only be done with added revenue)
- Bring the community together. We want to be strong and proud. We all need to stand together as one (as a village).
- Set up a college grant program.

Mayor Funk ends by stating everything he does, or the council moves on, is in the best interest of this village. We are on your team. He will be available at meetings and by email. Don't hesitate to email him. If you hear something that doesn't sound right, or you don't know the details call him first. If someone is passing around a petition, then ask him what is going on. He will explain so you can make an educated/informative decision before signing. We need everyone's voice with concerns and comments.

President of Council Report:

Mayor Funk states that we need to appoint a President of Council for the period of one year.

Motion made by Mr. Bennett to nominate Dick Verga as president of council. No second. Motion rescinded.

Motion made by Mrs. Herberth to nominate Jim Nelson as President of Council for the period of one year. Second by Mr. Carruthers. Vote – Nelson, Verga, Carruthers, Herberth – Aye / Nay – Bennett. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer:

In Mrs. Wilkie's absence, Ms. Herberth states that Mrs. Wilkie needs the Council to approve the 8 paid holidays for 2024. Bill and Joe are fine with the same holidays that were approved for 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Carruthers to approve 8 paid holidays for Bill and Joe in 2024. Second by Mr. Bennett. Vote – Nelson, Bennett, Verga, Carruthers, Herberth – Aye / Nay – None. Motion passed.

Motion made by Mr. Nelson to pay bills. Second by Mr. Bennett. Vote – Nelson, Bennett, Verga, Carruthers, Herberth – Aye / Nay – None. Motion passed.

Village Attorney Report:

Mr. Kirby congratulates Mayor Funk, Pat Bennett, and Dick Verga. He agrees with Mayor Funk's opening speech. He states we have a lot of work ahead of us and he will need the help of the Council as we go.

Mr. Kirby states he is working with Mr. Rivera on how we proceed with the old school building. They are discussing whether they obtain a search warrant to gain access for an inspection, cite them into mayor's court for prosecution, or file a lawsuit against them. This will be one of the first things they tackle this year.

Mr. Kirby states he has spoken with Mayor Funk, and they plan to get a police policy and procedure manual put together.

Guests:

Sahir Rama asks who owns the old school building. Mr. Kirby responds that Jenkins Development owns the building.

Old Business:

Mr. Verga states we still have a leak in the gym roof. He has contacted someone who is supposed to come out in the next two weeks to look at it and provide an estimate.

Mr. Kirby states that the operating levy will not be on the spring ballot due to errors on the document. The plan is to get the operating levy and likely the police levy onto the fall ballot.

Mrs. Matuszak asks Mark Tipton if the light installation at North/Lorraine was completed. Mr. Tipton states they ran power to it, but they did not install the light.

New Business:

Mayor Funk states we need to adopt the Ohio Basic Code for 2024. Mr. Kirby will look into purchasing the books and prepare an ordinance.

Mrs. Matuszak states that we need to consider adopting Rules of Procedure for the Council. She will have copies to pass out at the next meeting and will email the document as well. This will need to be adopted as an ordinance and then accepted as a resolution by the council each year.

Motion made by Mr. Nelson to table the discussion of the rules of procedure. Second by Mr. Carruthers. Vote – Nelson, Bennett, Verga, Carruthers, Herberth – Aye / Nay – None. Motion passed.

Mayor Funk states there is an open seat on the BZA now that he is mayor. He has spoken with Tim Herberth who has agreed to help temporarily. Our alternate member, Charles Camp, will fill the open seat until another member is appointed. He also states he will speak with Tim Hill to set up dates and times for a couple of variances that have been applied for.

Mayor Funk would like to discuss keeping or dissolving committees not required by law. Mr. Nelson wants to keep the Finance Committee. Mr. Verga would like to keep the committees for the sake of citizen participation and outside perspective. Mr. Verga also believes the Grant Committee should be added back. Mr. Bennett states the Finance and Streets & Buildings Committees are essential. Ms. Herberth states we could try incorporating them for a while and it might inform people since more people show up to the council meeting than committee meetings. Mr. Carruthers believes the tree board should be dissolved because we are no longer part of Tree City USA.

Police:

Chief Pottenger absent and there is no report.

Planning Commission:

Mark Tipton states the Dollar General applied for a variance.

Mayor Funk asks everyone in attendance who is in favor of having a Dollar General in the Village to get a general feel. Mr. Verga states many people don't like them, but Dollar General tends to change hands or bring other stores to the area.

Committees:

- Community Relations – None
- Finance - 1/22 at 6:30pm
- Grants - None
- Planning and Zoning – 1/23 at 6:30pm
- Records - None
- Trees - None

Motion made by Mr. Carruthers to adjourn at 7:39pm. Second by Mr. Nelson. Passed unanimously.

Attest:

Mayor Jonathan Funk

Jim Nelson, President of Council

Pat Bennett

Dick Verga

Randy Carruthers

Kim Herberth

Charles Juniel

Heather Matuszak, Clerk of Council