

Village of Harveysburg

Village Council

October 12, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Present:

Dick Verga – Mayor
Pat Bennett – Councilman
Randy Carruthers – Councilman
Charles Juniel – Councilman
Jim Nelson – Councilman
Mark Tipton – Councilman / President of Council

Absent: None

Village Staff Present:

Richard Pottenger – Police Chief
Mary Wilkie – Fiscal Officer

Visitors / Guests: None

This is a summary of the meeting of the Harveysburg Village Council held Tuesday October 12, 2021, at 7:00 PM. Upon request, a recording of the meeting is available for review.

Mayor Verga called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Disposition of Previous Minutes: Motion made by Mr. Bennett to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2021, Council meeting. Second by Mr. Juniel. Motion passed by voice vote – 6 yea / 0 nay.

Mayors Report: Mr. Verga

Mayor Verga reports that he spoke to representatives from ODOT and Warren County regarding the installation of guard rails at the perimeter of the property that he refers to as the “Front Door”. Mr Verga states that he has gotten ODOT to agree to put up a barrier and the project is now in their system.

Mayor Verga again reports that the Harveysburg Historical Society is waiting on a property survey prior to deciding to go forward with their Parking Lot appeal to the BZA. No time estimate was provided regarding initiation of said survey. Mr. Cochran asked the Mayor as to the purpose of the survey and why has the Historical Society not been summoned into Mayors court for their existing violations? Mayor Verga notes that BZA President Tim Herberth is aware of the issue with the parking lot and states that the Historical Society feels that there is doubt regarding the property lines for the Black School and the right of way for North Street.

Mr. Cochran presented the question to our solicitor: What is a reasonable amount of time to give an organization to respond to a notice of violations before summoning them into Mayors court? Mr. Webb stated that in his other jurisdictions that the time given to remedy zoning violations is 60 days. Mr.

Webb's letter to the Historical Society was submitted August 20'th. Discussion within Council results in the decision to provide the Historical Society until October 25'th to respond to Mr. Webb's letter.

Mr. Carruthers reiterated to Council important facts in that the Historical Society did not provide to the Planning Commission an approved plan for a parking lot, nor did they obtain a building permit for said parking lot and the contractor who blacktopped the parking lot violated a posted stop work order.

Mr. Verga spoke to ODNR representative Wendy Van Buren regarding completion of the pruning of trees lining the streets of Harveysburg. No firm date was provided by Ms. Van Buren regarding the completion of tree pruning.

President of Council Report: Mr. Tipton

Mr. Tipton reports that Renaissance Festival (RenFest) operations are continuing to cause disruptions in traffic, cell phone service and internet service for the residents of Harveysburg. Campers are again showing up on properties near Renaissance Festival.

Mr. Tipton reports that the owners of the old High School have made sufficient repairs on the exterior of the building that the condemnation order by the Warren County Health Department was rescinded.

Fiscal Officer: Ms. Wilkie

Ms. Wilkie requests that Council take a tour of the kitchen and stage areas of the gymnasium to review items to be discarded or to be put up for sale on GovDeals. In addition, the refrigerator and freezer are empty and running – do they need to be turned off? The Mayor said both are Mr. Hatfields and he needs to be contacted to defrost the freezer. Mr. Carruthers suggested filling them with empty boxes to improve efficiency. There was also discussion regarding getting a large emergency generator for the Village government building.

Village Attorney Report: Mr. Mark Webb

Mr. Webb reports that Mayors Court is operating extremely well, and Ashely continues to do an excellent job as Clerk of Court.

Mr. Webb reported that he had performed some cursory background research on the KAS cable company and notes that KAS is an active corporation located in Fairborn Ohio. Mr. Webb notes that case law exists wherein a company can be held responsible for the removal of retired equipment, and he requested of the Village any information possible concerning the contract(s) with KAS cable.

Guests:

None.

Old Business:

Sound suppression panels for the Council room have been installed and Council members confirm that there is a noticeable reduction in noise level.

Mr. Carruthers notes that there are continuing issues with the stumps and he himself contacted Jim Burnett regarding additional cleanup / removal efforts on the stumps from the trees removed earlier in

the summer. Mr. Burnett said that will be coming back to Harveysburg to survey the situation and will then provide his response to Mr. Carruthers.

New Business:

Mr. Nelson notes that at assorted locations in the Village, low hanging branches and overgrown shrubs are partially blocking sidewalks and requests that Village employee's trim greenery in these offending areas.

Mary Wilkie has arranged for judges for the Halloween decorating contest for homes in the Village. Cash prizes to be awarded will be as follows: First place - \$150, Second place \$75 and third place \$50.

Ms. Wilkie brought to Council's attention the issue of high grass and weeds at assorted properties and would like to see enforcement via our noxious weed and grass ordinance.

Police: Chief Pottenger

Vehicles are running good but still must get the Fords into dealer for recall notices. Planning for and working with the Friendship Baptist Church and the Sure Foundation Church for the Saturday October 30'th Halloween party for kids in the gymnasium. This party will run from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM.

Daily coverage of 6 to 8 hours on most days.

Mr. Tipton put together a mid-year review of the hours worked, and citations issued by the Harveysburg Police Department. For the six-month period of January through June (Q1/Q2), Harveysburg Police patrol officers worked 503 hours and issued 78 citations.

Mr. Tipton noted that the Village continues to incur significant unreimbursed expenses with our officers handling traffic control for the RenFest event. We have two cars dedicated for 8 to 10 hours a day for 19 days a year where these cars are constantly idling and burning fuel. Officers are paid \$15/hr. by RenFest to direct traffic, but the Village is not reimbursed for any vehicle expenses. This needs to be a topic of discussion for 2022.

See attached notes.

Committees:

- Community Relations
- Finance
- Grants
- Planning and Zoning
- Records
- Trees

Motion to pay bills and to accept the bank reconciliation was entered by Mr. Nelson. Seconded by Mr. Juniel. Roll Call vote – Bennett, Cochran, Carruthers, Juniel, Nelson, Tipton – Aye, Nay – none. Motion passed.

Mr. Carruthers made the motion to adjourn at 7:54 PM. Second by Mr. Nelson. Motion passed by voice vote.

Attest:

Mark Tipton, President of Council, Clerk of Council.

Mayor Richard Verga

Mark Tipton, President of Council

Steve Cochran

Randy Carruthers

Pat Bennett

Charles Juniel

Jim Nelson