

VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR

COUNCIL MEETING

March 1, 2021

The Bolivar Village Council met in regular session at the Bolivar Fire Department on **Monday, March 1, 2021**. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Lloyd opened the meeting with a prayer. Bellinger, Lang, Lloyd, Oberlin, and Vincent all answered to roll call. Lawver was absent.

Lang moved, seconded by Lloyd, to accept the previous meeting minutes. In a roll call vote: all members present voted yes.

The Fiscal Officer read the bills for the month of **February 2021 which totaled \$74,260.62**. Lloyd moved, seconded by Lang, to approve the bills. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

There were no corrections and/or additions to the agenda.

PUBLIC SPEAKS – The Mayor announced Mr. Franks has requested a public hearing on a matter and that is scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Until that time, the Solicitor and I are not at liberty to discuss the issue with anyone, including Council. You are welcome to speak to anything you wish but we will not have any comments on the matter at this time. The Mayor also advised that per the policy and procedures manual all persons wishing to speak will need to sign in providing their name and address and will have a three-minute time limit when speaking. This policy will be strictly enforced.

John Fritz stated the same situation happened ten years ago and Mr. Franks does a good job. Mr. Fritz asks council to make a good decision in this matter.

Chris Berens stated she is concerned about what is going on in the Village and feels the communication lines need to be open and the chain of command is broken. Ms. Berens asks council to keep an open mind and do their job.

Amber Zwick stated she has questions on the procedures and will follow up with questions later in the meeting.

Annette Woods was in attendance to support Mr. Franks and feels he does a good job. Ms. Woods asked what did he do that was so terrible that he could lose his job?

Doris Newsome was in attendance to support Mr. Franks and feels he does a wonderful job. Ms. Newsome feels that the police department, fire department and the street department personnel all do a great job for the Village.

Dante Mariani supports Mr. Franks and feels the street department is the only department that is doing a good job.

Dwayne Flickinger read a letter from one employee about another employee and feels this letter is postposterous. Mr. Flickinger stated Mr. Franks does a good job. Mr. Flickinger asked if

employee evaluations or reviews are being done and requests peer reviews within the department to get a resolution to this matter. Lloyd advised the policy and procedures have been improved over time and are faced with many liabilities today compared to twenty years ago. Council must follow the established policies and procedures. Lloyd also stated the Mr. Frank's and his family are well liked residents and Council is not "picking" on Mr. Franks.

Michela Huth advised she received a copy of the employee complaint via a public records request, and there are statements by the employee that were redacted. Ms. Huth stated in this complaint the employee advised he had been harassed for years and she does not believe that statement. Ms. Huth will show this complaint to anyone who would like to view it. Ms. Huth stated she hopes the Village will do their due process in this matter.

Roy Newsome Jr. stated he lives on the end of an alley and is the only one that uses the alley, and this winter Mr. Franks has had his alley plowed before other streets have been done. Mr. Franks must have been up all night working to get the roads cleared to make them safe and he also does a great job cleaning up the leaves in the fall. Mr. Newsome cited a situation when he had low water pressure and he called Mr. Franks and he was at his residences right away, diagnosed the problem and had it repaired within two days. Mr. Newsome feels that Mr. Franks has the knowledge and is skilled with the inter-workings and infrastructure. Mr. Newsome asked for a show of hands of those who felt Mr. Franks should retain his job and there was a unanimous show of hands from the residence in attendance who felt Mr. Franks should retain his job.

Richard Harvey referred to Mr. Franks as "the man" of the Street Department and stated that everyone in the Village knows Mr. Franks and his family. Mr. Franks is of good character, honest and he has never heard Mr. Franks speak negatively of anyone. Mr. Harvey has never heard any negative comments from residents in the village toward Mr. Franks or his work ethic. Mr. Harvey stated Mr. Franks is upfront with his work, is a gentleman, and does not complain.

Dan Newsome was in attendance in support of Mr. Franks. Mr. Newsome stated that Mr. Franks is always willing to lend a helping hand and if there is only one employee that has a problem with Mr. Franks then council needs to take responsibility for this problem.

Amber Zwick, Mr. Franks niece, stated that the Franks family has committed their entire livelihood to this town. Ms. Zwick does not live in the Village anymore and said she would never move back to the Village because of the leadership in this town. Mr. Franks is a loyal person, committed to this town, and loves this town. She requested Council to investigate the disgruntled employee's background and talk to former employees to get a better understanding of the issue.

Brian Pinnix, former Chief of Police for the Village, stated Mr. Franks takes care of this Village and is known for his integrity. Mr. Pinnix believes it is not fair to terminate Mr. Franks.

Susan Labish stated she has known the Franks family and does not like the "Small town" politics and feels this is a disgrace to what has been done to Gary and Brenda and now Dave. Ms. Labish wants better management in the Village and keep people that produce in the town.

Oberlin said to quit complaining and step up and come to council meetings and start helping the village. If there are open seats on council step up and fill them instead of complaining about the management of the village. Lloyd stated that most council members do not have management experience but are trying to follow the policy and procedures manual. The residents of the Village need to see this issue from the council members point of view.

OLD BUSINESS – none

MAYOR – Announced the Village has been designated as a Shade Tree Ohio for 2021

Presented council with Nathan Alexander's resignation effective immediately. Lloyd moved seconded by Lang. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lang – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE – **Lang** reported the combined interest for STAR Ohio & STAR Plus for the month of February was \$23.60 and bank interest of \$5.38.

Lang announced that March is Telecommunications Appreciation month. Chief Haugh would like to contribute \$70.00 along with other police departments in the county to purchase small gifts for the 9-1-1 dispatchers. Lang moved seconded by Vincent to contribute \$70.00 for small gifts for the 9-1-1 dispatchers for Telecommunications Appreciation month. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lang – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes.

Lang announced a special session of council was held on February 15, 2021 to discuss and advertise for the Village Administrator position due to the Maria App's resignation effective April 1, 2021. The position will be part time, 15 to 20 hours per week with starting pay between \$17 – 18/hour based on experience. A list of qualifications was approved by council and the deadline to receive applications or resumes was moved to March 15, 2021. The opening is also posted on the Village's website.

PLANNING- nothing at this time.

SAFETY – **Vincent** reported there were approximately 50 calls for February most being traffic stops and drug related reports.

The 2021 Tahoe cruiser has been ordered with an approximate time of delivery for August 2021. Lang will research grant opportunities for the funds needed for the accessories.

Announced the Chief is researching information to purchase two body cams at \$200.00 each with a monthly storage fee.

Announced the Bolivar Fire Department will hold an AED training class for all village personnel. Anyone interested in the training contact the mayor.

CHIEF- nothing at this time.

STREET & ALLEY – Lawver – nothing at this time due to his absence.

Lloyd reported the rear tires on the dump truck needs to be replaced.

Advised a catch basin at 124 S. Park Avenue needs replaced.

Announced the bobcat has been repaired and discussion on the condition of the mowers is ongoing.

Announced the transponders on the meters that have been damaged are under warranty and will be replaced.

Announced that discussion on blacktopping Sassafras Alley is continuing.

STREET SUPERINTENDENT- Franks – nothing at this time due to his absence.

SHADE TREE – Franks – nothing at this time due to his absence.

RECREATION – Lloyd – nothing at this time.

FISCAL OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR –

App reported the inside meter installation is near completion and outside restoration will begin within the week weather permitting. The remaining commercial meters are next to be installed.

LAW DIRECTOR – **Solicitor** presented the following ordinances.

THIRD READING TO AN ORDINANCE TO EDIT ARTICLE 17 “SPECIFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS”, ADD ARTICLE 22 “ETHICS POLICY”, AND ADD ARTICLE 23 “NEPOTISM” OF THE POLIIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL. Lang moved seconded by Lloyd to accept Ordinance O-02-2021 TO EDIT ARTICLE 17 “SPECIFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS”, ADD ARTICLE 22 “ETHICS POLICY”, AND ADD ARTICLE 23 “NEPOTISM” OF THE POLIIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lang – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes

The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn until the next regular council meeting on April 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bolivar Fire Department. Lang moved, seconded by Bellinger to adjourn until April 5, 2021. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Mayor Rebecca S. Hubble

ATTEST: Maria A. App, Fiscal Officer

Approved: April 5, 2021