

# VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR

## COUNCIL MEETING

April 5, 2021

The Bolivar Village Council met in regular session at the Bolivar Fire Department on **Monday, April 5, 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, Lawver, Lloyd, Oberlin, and Vincent all answered to roll call. Fiscal Officer App was absent for this meeting.

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

The Mayor read the bills for the month of **March 2021 which totaled \$55,213.71**. Lang moved, seconded by Vincent, 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 –**

Roy Newsome stated that nothing can be said that will reverse what has happened with Mr. Franks and hopes his replacement will possess the same amount of experience and knowledge that Dave Franks had. Newsome also stated the residents of the village depend on the Street, Fire, and Police departments for their safety and hopes that council's decision on the replacement will protect the residents.

John & Gerry Swigert asked if the contractors are going around and repairing the properties after the water meters have been installed. The Mayor advised that Spano Brothers are required to bring all properties back to their original condition as part of the contract with the Village.

Barb Berens voiced her concern regarding the speeding cars and the parking in the street in the neighborhood where she lives on Beucler and East Street. She is concerned that if something is not done someone is going to get hurt.

Greg Long asked if he could remove the red flags that are still in his yard for the water meter project. Ms. Hubble advised if his yard has been repaired then he could safely remove the flags. Ms. Hubble advised the village is working with the county water department to get everyone online and the goal is to get this completed soon. Mr. Long also requested assistance in doing his village taxes. Ms. Hubble advised that Ms. Lecce, Tax Administrator, does help residents with their village taxes but due to COVID-19 she works from home. Ms. Hubble will provide Ms. Lecce with Mr. Long's phone number and she can assist him from there.

### **OLD BUSINESS – none**

**MAYOR** – Advised council if someone passes away and there is no one responsible for the burial expenses the Village will be responsible. There is a fund with the State of Ohio that will cover up to \$1000.00.

Advised she spoke with Kathy Basir, a peer recovery advisor, about the alcohol/drug addiction epidemic. Ms. Basir advised the Mayor of the free service and free counseling for anyone who requests assistance.

Announced the Arbor Day Foundation has again awarded the Village with the Tree City USA designation for 2021. The Village will receive a plaque commemorating the designation.

Announced the resignation of David Franks via an email on 3/19/2021 effective April 2, 2021. Mr. Franks was paid four weeks accrued vacation and 240 hours of sick time. Lang moved, seconded by Bellinger. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lang – yes, Lawver – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – no. Motion passes. The Mayor advised if anyone has questions or concerns or would like to obtain more information regarding Mr. Frank's resignation to visit the Mayor's Office.

Barb Berens requested additional information on how Mr. Franks' accrued vacation pay was computed, Ms. Hubble advised vacation is accrued from the hire date to the next year. Ms. Berens asked how Mr. Franks could accumulate 240 hours of sick time as it seems very high. Ms. Hubble advised Mr. Franks was paid accumulated sick time per the policy and procedures manual. Berens asked if the village used a time clock and Ms. Hubble answered yes. Greg Long asked why there was no hearing for Mr. Franks. Ms. Hubble stated that since Mr. Franks tendered his resignation there was no need to hold the hearing. Solicitor Timberlake advised that with Mr. Frank's resignation no other settlement is needed.

The Mayor advised that composting would begin in May.

Ms. Hubble announced the Strawberry Festival will be held June 16 – 19, 2021. Hubble requested council approval for road closures on Canal, Water, and Cherry Streets during these days and road closures on Cherry and Water Street on July 24, 2021 for the car show. Lloyd moved, seconded by Vincent. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lawver – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes.

Lang read a letter of resignation from Mayor Becky Hubble:

“Residents of the Village of Bolivar and the Bolivar Village Council, it is with a heavy heart, that I tender my resignation as Mayor effective immediately. For the past eleven years I have been honored to serve my community as Mayor of the Village of Bolivar and watch as our village has grown and prospered. As I begin this new chapter in my life, please know that Bolivar will always hold a special place in my heart. Who knew that a southern girl from Virginia would make this her home and love this Mid-west area so much? Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. With Deepest Respect, Rebecca Hubble.”

Lang stated the Mayor has led this Village through the Towpath Trail, the downtown revitalization project, the water meter project and has done an excellent job. Lloyd thanked Ms. Hubble for an excellent job as Mayor and appreciates everything she has done and supports her vision. Barb Berens, Bolivar Resident, stated she appreciates her availability and is sorry to see her resign now during Village discord. Lang moved, seconded by Bellinger, In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lawver – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes.

Solicitor Timberlake stated per Ohio law the President of Council will hold the Office of Mayor until the next election, thus Tim Lang will fill the vacancy of Mayor. Solicitor Timberlake performed the Oath of Office to Lang whose term will be until December 31, 2023. Mayor Lang officially took over as Mayor for the rest of the meeting.

Lang asked for nominations for President of Council, Bellinger nominated Robert Lloyd, seconded by Lawver. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lawver – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes.

Lang announced that letters of interest for the open council seat vacated by Lang will be accepted until close of business on April 16, 2021. Interviews will be conducted on April 19 and 20, 2021 by Lloyd, Lang, and Lawver. The open seat will be advertised in the Times Reporter and the Bargain Hunter.

Lang appointed Vincent to chair the Finance Committee and Bellinger to chair the Safety Committee.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE** – Vincent reported the combined interest for STAR Ohio & STAR Plus for the month of March was \$24.88 and bank interest of \$5.94.

Vincent announced the grant award received by PEP that he submitted for in the amount of \$974.00 for repairs to the timing mechanisms for the school signs.

Vincent requested council approval for a quote from Wood Electric to replace the auto sensor for the streetlights for downtown and adjust the sensors that were installed incorrectly in the amount of \$1,138.74. Lloyd moved, seconded by Vincent. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lawver – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes. Ms. Hubble advised ODOT will research to see if the work will be covered under warranty.

Vincent advised the Finance Committee reviewed a quote from Spano Brothers in the amount of \$514.00 for storm drain and asphalt repairs to 248 Bolivar Street. This has been an unaddressed issue since 2020 and needs repaired. App is waiting on a quote from Bridges Excavating for the same repairs. Lloyd moved, seconded by Vincent to accept the bid from Spano Brothers in the amount of \$514.00 for storm drain and asphalt repairs to 248 Bolivar Street. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lawver – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes.

Vincent announced there were two applicants for the Village Administrator position. After discussing the position with one of the applicants, Pam Engle, retracted her application. The other applicant was Rebecca Hubble. Oberlin and Lang interviewed Ms. Hubble and felt her experience and knowledge was needed for the position. Lang asked for council approval to appoint Ms. Hubble as the new Village Administrator effective immediately. The position will be 15 to 20 hours per week with a salary of \$18.00 per hour. Lloyd moved, seconded by Vincent to suspend the rules and pass by emergency measure. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lawver – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes. Bellinger moved, seconded by Oberlin to accept Ordinance 3-2021 to appoint Rebecca Hubble as Village Administrator effective immediately. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lawver – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes.

Vincent requested council approval of **Resolution 1-2021** to update the signature card for Huntington Bank. Vincent moved, seconded by Bellinger. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lawver – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes.

Vincent advised council of an issue with a resident at 640 LaDyne who has not responded to notices from Spano Brothers and a certified letter by the Solicitor regarding the installation of the water meter. Spano Brothers advised App the installation could be installed outside the residence however it will require removing a section of their concrete drive. This would be an expense the Village should not incur simply because the resident will not comply. Solicitor Timberlake advised she did receive a call from the resident's legal counsel regarding the issue and she will contact the resident and advise council at the next meeting.

**PLANNING-** no meeting in March. Ms. Hubble advised she has fielded calls in Mr. Frank's absence and issued two building permits.

**SAFETY – Vincent** reported there were 80 calls in March and 12 calls in the first four days of April.

The police department is currently looking for part time officers; currently the department has three part time officers and no auxiliary officers.

Lang commended the Chief on his quick action to assist along with several residents on the structure fire on Park Avenue last week. Lang thanked the Chief and the residents for their quick action in helping at the scene.

**CHIEF- nothing at this time.**

**STREET & ALLEY – Lawver**

Lang advised there were three quotes for the paving for Sassafras Alley. The first was from King to Yant for \$22,180 – 29,950.00; the second was Plains to Yant which includes King to Yant for \$34,220 – 48,390.00; and the third was Pine to Yant and includes all areas in the first two quotes for \$43,670 – 63,810.00. After a brief discussion Lawver moved, seconded by Lloyd to accept the bid for Plains to Yant which includes King to Yant for \$34,220- 48,390.00. In a roll call vote: Bellinger – yes, Lawver – yes, Lloyd – yes, Oberlin – yes, Vincent – yes. Motion passes.

Lang announced criteria for the full time Street Superintendent position. Applicants must have a valid driver's license, have street and general maintenance experience, be able to lift 50 pounds, and meet minimum age requirements. The salary will be \$17.00 – 19.00 per hour plus benefits. Resumes will be taken until close of business on April 16, 2021. Resumes can be emailed to Village of Bolivar.com, deposited in the drop box in front of the Mayor's Office or mailed to the village. Interviews will be conducted on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> with Ms. Hubble, Lang, Oberlin, and Lloyd.

**STREET SUPERINTENDENT-** – nothing at this time.

**SHADE TREE** – Ms. Hubble announced the Arbor Day celebration will be held on May 27, 2021 at 10am.

**RECREATION** – Lloyd – advised he received a letter from the TV baseball and softball association requesting permission to use Waterworks field for this season. They will turn in their insurance form soon.

**FISCAL OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR** –

Fiscal Officer App was absent. Ms. Hubble reported the inside meter installation is near completion and outside restoration is still in process. The commercial meters are being installed.

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

**FIRST READING AMENDING THE LATE FEE FOR WATER AND TRASH BILLING FROM \$25 PER QUARTER TO \$8.00 PER MONTH WHEN MONTHLY BILLING STARTS**

The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn until the next regular council meeting on May 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bolivar Fire Department. Lloyd moved, seconded by Bellinger to adjourn until May 3, 2021. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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Tim Lang, Mayor

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ATTEST: Maria A. App, Fiscal Officer

**Approved:** May 3, 2021