

5:15 pm - Oath of Office for Mayor Bruce Metzger, Kathy Burrier, and Wes Hostetler.

5:30 pm – Public Hearing for retire/rehire of Ron Lambert

Nathan Kanouff spoke on behalf of the village employees in support of Ron Lambert. Brent Metzger asked Nathan Kanouff if any of the employees are licensed to carry on the duties. Kanouff noted that monthly reports are done by Lambert and that the employees are licensed to run the plants and that he and Ken Edie are both licensed to do the reports but need to go through the compliance process through the EPA. Kanouff noted that they have reached out to the EPA to begin the process. Kanouff noted that Lambert is willing to help move forward. Mayor Bruce Metzger noted that he talked to Lambert and one comment was that he wants to come back at the same rate of pay but only 30 hours a week and does not want to sign a contract for six months. Mayor Metzger noted that Lambert will need to reapply for the position and that we will be advertising for the open positions. Mayor Metzger noted that he will be getting with Lambert in the next two weeks. Wes Hostetler noted that Lambert is of value to our village and hopes that he applies for the positions. Jeff Smith spoke on behalf of Lambert and stated that he has done a tremendous job for the village and has been very instrumental in the development of the JEDD, with the water and wastewater departments, and the proposed expansion of the wastewater plant. Smith noted that Lambert is a great leader of the village staff.

The public hearing concluded at 5:38 pm.

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6:00 pm. Mayor Bruce Metzger presided over the meeting.

Members answering roll call were Kathy Burrier, Liz Dreher, Jeff Smith, Dustin Briggs, Wes Hostetler, and Martin Zehnder. Others present were Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger, Fire Chief Steve Laskey, Police Chief Dave Warrick, Police Officer Connor Bailey, Police Officer Kayla Willer, Zoning Inspector Ted Foster, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Reverend Matthew Wald, Mike Rosenberry, Patsy Schrupp, Jerry Schultz, Lewis Dreher, Randy Zehnder, Corey Foster, Brent Metzger, Chad Bonifant, Doug Dreher, Lynnea Thomas, Stacy Carmany, Chase Willis, Vince Lindsay, Andrew Harvey, Christine Raderchak, Jim & Krissie Richards, Kathleen Metzger, Luminta Bunta Antel, Sarah Keplinger, Marilyn Grace, Tab Keplinger, Heather Angel, David Dennison, Jerry & Linda Keller, Kathy Bollow, Helen Kurtz, Shelley Armstrong, Dave & Debbie Barton, Lori Rusk, Austin & Rebekah Fearn, Lindsay Bailey, William McCamant, Belinda Poland, Jessica Sundheimer, Adrienne Rinehart, Larry & Robbee Wheeler, Matt Myers, Christine Brick, Brenda Charton, Barry Biechler, Brad Fuller, John Richardson, Sky Ward, Ron Tarleton, and Michelle Huffman.

Kathy Burrier nominated Jeff Smith for president of council, Dustin Briggs, seconded the nomination. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Dreher, no; Smith, yes; Hostetler, no; Briggs, yes; Burrier, yes; Zehnder, no; Mayor Bruce Metzger, no.

Liz Dreher nominated Martin Zehnder for president of council, Wes Hostetler, seconded the nomination. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Dreher, yes; Smith, no; Hostetler, yes; Briggs, no; Burrier, no; Zehnder, yes; Mayor Bruce Metzger, yes.

A motion was made by Dustin Briggs, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2023, council meeting. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Dreher, yes; Smith, yes; Hostetler, abstain; Briggs, yes; Burrier, yes; and Zehnder, yes.

Mayor Bruce Metzger thanked everyone for voting for him, noted that we will work as a team, every council member will be a voice, and encouraged residents to voice concerns to himself and the council members. Mayor Metzger noted that we will move the village in a positive direction. Mayor Metzger set the 2024 committees and noted that guests will be allowed five minutes to speak about all their concerns and questions and then the council will take the information to discuss. Mayor Metzger noted that the village has a proposed ordinance regarding feral cats in the village and allowed the many guests to speak on the topic. Three groups spoke on behalf of trap, neutering, and releasing of the feral cats and Mayor Metzger asked them for their business information for council to review. Many residents spoke about already doing the TNR themselves on feral cats in the village. Mayor Metzger and the council thanked them for their input on the issue.

### **ORDINANCE O-26-2023**

Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger noted that he drafted the ordinance because several communities have struggled with this same problem and that ordinances have three readings so that residents can give input on the proposed documents. Seeberger suggested that the safety committee review the ordinance and if there was not a problem in the community, we would not have the proposed ordinance and asked council to move for a table of the ordinance and the mayor can determine which committee should review and discuss for a solution. A motion was made by Liz Dreher, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to table Ordinance O-26-2023. At roll call, all members voted approval to table the ordinance.

Fire Chief Steve Laskey gave the report for 2023, gave an update on response times, noted that January is the busiest month, and reported twenty-three calls in December.

Police Chief Dave Warrick gave the report for 2023 of 2,287 calls and gave an update on 714 Studio Apartments. Legal Counsel Seeberger noted that the resolution that was passed gave them to December 31, 2023, and that we may need to target to take the next step at the next council meeting.

Zoning Inspector Ted Foster reported sixty-three permits for 2023.

### **ORDINANCE O-1-2024**

Ordinance O-1-2024 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Martin Zehnder, seconded by Liz Dreher, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Martin Zehnder, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Ordinance O-1-2024, AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING SUPPLEMENT TO VILLAGE OF STRASBURG ORDINANCES, SAID SUPPLEMENT PUBLISHED BY AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING CORPORATION AND KNOWN AS THE OHIO BASIC CODE. At roll call, all members voted approval and shall take effect immediately.

### **RESOLUTION 2024-1**

Resolution 2024-1 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Wes Hostetler, seconded by Liz Dreher, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Wes Hostetler, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Resolution 2024-1, A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES, ROAD MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, TOOLS OR SUPPLIES, WHICH ARE NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, OR ARE OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH THEY WERE ACQUIRED, DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 BY INTERNET AUCTION, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE, SEC. 721.15(D). At roll call, all members voted approval and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Wes Hostetler thanked the voters and congratulated Mayor Bruce Metzger.

Marty Zehnder made a motion to allow the school to store their busses in the street garage. Dustin Briggs suggested a discussion and noted that Zehnder was on council and Hostetler was on the school board when council and mayor met with the school board and the School Superintendent and School Board vacated the bus garage. Briggs asked now what has changed 12 years later that the village needs to give the bays back to the school for the busses. Briggs noted that he will need to be convinced that the moving of the busses is not putting the village in a bad way. Briggs noted that every school in Tuscarawas County has their busses outside and only some schools have a maintenance garage to work on them. Briggs noted that this change will only cost the taxpayers money because we will eventually need land and a building for our equipment. Briggs asked how it is fair to the taxpayers of our village. Mayor Metzger noted that he met with Superintendent Lindsay and went through buildings for the village to move equipment into. Mayor Metzger noted that Lindsay has stated that he would like to see a bus garage at the school in the future but for now asked if we can make accommodations. Kathy Burrier noted that a resident that was involved in the conversations in 2012 wanted to come and speak tonight but is sick and asked if this issue could be held off until the next council meeting so that they can attend. Lindsay stated that he was not here in 2012 and was handed this issue when he came to Strasburg and that he would like to resolve this issue and move on. Briggs noted that does want ill feelings between the school and the village. Zehnder noted that he and Hostetler have talked about building a lean to on the side of the street garage for storage.

Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger put together a proposed political subdivision lease agreement with the village as the owner of the land and the building, the school board be let back in half of the building, ability to stay as long as they want or if they decide to vacate the building. Briggs noted that he would only agree if we had the option to have it back if we needed the space and not cost the taxpayers money for us to build for our equipment. Seeberger noted that he could put those revisions in if directed by the Mayor and Council. Zehnder noted that we have all kinds of room down there and we need to work with the school. Metzger noted that there is a lot of equipment that can be moved. Jeff Smith noted that there was a business agreement between the village and the school. Hostetler noted that when the transaction happened and the discussion was talked about, Schlumberger was to be an asset to the village and generate funds for a new bus garage. Chase Willis noted that the confusion is that it was not documented, and the taxpayers are the ones that are losing. Briggs noted that he agrees it is important to store equipment inside, but we are now moving our equipment into a nonheated building. Burrier suggested that all council members see the agreement before any vote is taken. Seeberger noted that he had written up an agreement and had provided it to the mayor. Seeberger noted that his job is to protect the village and wants to make sure that the ownership issue is a settled issue. Smith suggested a lease agreement that the council can review before the next council meeting.

Kevin Harvey noted that there was no mutual agreement and that the lease is still in effect and that the school's opinion is that the building is jointly owned. Seeberger noted that his legal opinion is that the building is indeed owned like the land by the village legally and that the lease recognizes that but gives the school district the use of the bays. Seeberger noted that it is a land lease and the includes costs of the maintenance of the building. Smith read a letter regarding the transaction that took place in 2012 and gave the amounts of real estate tax revenue that the school receives from Lincoln Manufacturing and Schlumberger that was to be used to build a bus garage. Hostetler seconded the motion, pursuant there is a solution agreement to the Village. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Dreher, yes; Smith, no; Hostetler, yes; Briggs, no; Burrier, no; Zehnder, yes; Mayor Metzger, yes. Seeberger will provide a copy of the agreement to the council for the next council meeting.

Marty Zehnder made a motion to increase the speed limit back to 35 mph from 9<sup>th</sup> Street SW to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SW, West Hostetler seconded the motion. Seeberger noted that he will have to do some research on this request and bring information to the next council meeting.

Brent Metzger addressed the council regarding the Corn Fest Fund ordinance that was tabled at the last council meeting. Mayor Metzger suggested providing \$ 8,000.00 from the Corn Fest Fund to the new festival committee. Burrier and Smith noted that we discussed \$ 5,000.00. Dreher suggested seeing the bills from the new festival committee before providing funds for them. Metzger reported that they have \$ 4,400 in their account right now and anticipate the need of \$ 10,000 to kick off the festival. Metzger noted that they meet this Wednesday. Mayor Metzger noted that residents like the Christmas events and are excited about a new festival. Metzger noted that with the profit of the new festival, they could pay back the funds. A motion was made by Wes Hostetler, seconded by Liz Dreher, to provide \$ 7,000 to the Strasburg Community Festival. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Mayor Metzger suggested moving meetings when there are basketball games. The council set the next council meeting for Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 7 pm. Mayor Metzger set a work session for Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 7 pm.

A motion was made by Martin Zehnder, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to adjourn at 8:31 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.

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MAYOR BRUCE METZGER

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FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY