

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in regular session at the Amberley Village Municipal Building, 7149 Ridge Road and via phone conference on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Muething called the meeting to order, and the following roll call was taken:

PRESENT

Richard Bardach
Peg Conway
Ed Hattenbach
Elida Kamine
Thomas C. Muething
Natalie Wolf
Ray Warren (via Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Chief Richard Wallace, Police/Fire
Andrew Kaake, Village Solicitor
Tammy Reasoner, Clerk of Council

Mayor Muething welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Amberley Village Council, including both in-person and phone-in participants. He led those in attendance through the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Muething asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of October 12, 2020 as distributed. There being no changes to the minutes, Mayor Muething stated the minutes were approved as distributed.

FINANCE REPORT

Village Manager Scot Lahrmer reviewed both the UAN Report and the September Finance Report, and stated earnings tax collections for the month of September totaled \$255,594 which was down 4.23% from collections for September of 2019.

Mr. Lahrmer stated Village expenses for September totaled \$567,493, with year to date expenditures as of September 31, 2020 totaling \$4,130,199, or 72% spent. This leaves an unencumbered balance for the year at the end of September of \$5,748,688.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman Bardach conducted the third reading of Ordinance 2020-16, which would add Chapter 154.84 to Title IV of the Village of Amberley Codified Ordinances regarding Amberley Green Zoning District regulations.

Mayor Muething opened the public hearing for those in Chambers and on Zoom at 6:38 p.m. There being no comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:38 p.m. and announced there would be an additional public hearing held on Monday, November 16 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom only.

The public hearing was reopened at 6:39 p.m. after an additional resident joined the Zoom meeting. The guest was invited to speak but did not respond, so the public hearing was closed again at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Bardach then conducted a second reading of Ordinance 2020-17, which would amend Village Zoning Code Section 154.14, pertaining to the allowable height of hedges.

Mayor Muething opened the public hearing at 6:41. There being no one who wished to comment, the public hearing was closed at 6:42 p.m.

Mr. Bardach moved to waive the third reading of Ordinance 2020-17, which was seconded by Mr. Hattenbach and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Hattenbach, Kamine, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

Mr. Bardach then moved to pass Ordinance 2020-17, which was seconded by Ms. Conway, and the following roll call vote was taken:

AYE: Bardach, Conway, Hattenbach, Kamine, Muething, Warren, Wolf (7)
NAY: (0)

STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE

Chairman Warren reported the committee had met to discuss the funding for road projects on North Farmcrest and a portion of Kincaid. He said the Village had contracted with CT Consultants and Thelen Associates to evaluate the streets to assist in determining needs and cost.

Mr. Warren said the Village had applied for OPWC Grants in each of the past 5 years, but has been denied each year due to the project not scoring high enough to beat out other projects for state funding. As a result, the Village Engineer met with representatives from the OPWC Evaluation Committee to better determine the best chance of receiving funding. Based on his findings, the Village Engineer has recommended the Village submit the applications for North Farmcrest Drive and a portion of Kincaid Road.

Mr. Warren then introduced and read Resolution 2020-29, which would authorize the Village Manager to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement process for North Farmcrest Drive. Seconded by Mr. Hattenbach, the resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. Warren introduced and read Resolution 2020-31, which would authorize the Village Manager to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement process for a portion of Kincaid Road. Seconded by Ms. Wolf, the resolution passed unanimously.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Chairperson Kamine reported the committee had met to discuss the employee holiday gift card program, which has been in place for many years to thank staff. She stated this year was one where employees had gone well over and above the call of duty following storms and COVID-19 challenges. She moved to extend the holiday gift card program, which would allow for \$250 gift cards to full time staff and a slightly lesser amount to part time employees. Ms. Conway seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lahrmer reported that the Ohio Supreme Court had ruled on the constitutionality of H.B. 49, which addressed state collection of Municipal Earnings Tax. Mr. Hattenbach stated Amberley Village was still responsible for enforcing collections and compliance.

Mr. Lahrmer said Amberley Village had been recognized by the Hamilton County Solid Waste District (HCSWD) in the category of 2020 Best Village Diversion Rate. He stated the HCSWD was now including numbers from leaf and brush collection in its rates, as they were diverted from the landfill. He said this helped the Village numbers significantly, and credited both residents and the Village Maintenance Department for the excellent outcome. He also said there would be no recognition ceremony this year due to the coronavirus.

Ms. Conway stated Amberley Village has always ranked high in diversion rates, to which Mayor Muething added that the addition of leaves and brush served to strengthen the numbers even further.

Mr. Lahrmer reported that Chief Wallace had officially retired effective November 6, 2020 after 32 years of professional service, 24 of which were spent in Amberley Village.

He said Chief Wallace had also been re-employed by the Village, extending his service and establishing cost-saving measures for the Village over the 4-year duration of his re-employment arrangement. He thanked Chief Wallace for his flexibility and creativity in developing the terms of his re-employment, and emphasized the victory for Amberley Village in being able to retain him in the community, particularly during this time of strained national police community relations. He outlined the strengths of the Chief in collaborating and building relationships. Mr. Lahrmer said the Village was proud to retain someone of his caliber and character, and recognized his strong leadership style.

Chief Wallace thanked Mr. Lahrmer for working outside the box on the agreement. He thanked Council for their ongoing support and kind words, and their reception to his ideas. He said while his re-employment would prevent someone else's promotion, the arrangement would allow the Village to see a cost savings.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Muething commended the Village Manager, the Finance Committee and staff for an excellent result in the recent audit.

The Mayor said a report had been distributed by the Reading Road Corridor work group, and stated there would be a future meeting of the Land Development Committee to review their findings.

Mayor Muething said council members received a self-evaluation from the Village Manager in preparation for December’s Executive Session, which would be held to conduct Mr. Lahrmer’s annual evaluation. He said the process would be the same as in years past, and the evaluation was expected to be completed in December or January.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kamine reminded residents that written communications regarding the Amberley Green Zoning Code Text were encouraged.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Tammy Reasoner, Clerk of Council

Thomas C. Muething, Mayor