VILLAGE OF COLUMBUS GROVE

January 13, 2025

The Village of Columbus Grove met in regular session on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:30 pm at Columbus Grove Council Chambers with Mayor Birnesser presiding. Council members in attendance were Aaron Siefker, Todd Wolfe and Pete Langhals, Gretchen Staley and Brian Schroeder. Also attended: Chief William Bowers and Village Administrator Jeff Vance. Skyler Mayberry was absent

Mrs. Staley made a motion to approve the minutes for 12-9-24. Mr. Siefker seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 yeas, 0 nay

Visitors: Nate Fisher, Ken Wright, and Keith Schierloh

In Mayor Birnesser state of the Village he spoke of the new playground and walking paths at the Hall Ave park, the fire station that is almost ready, followed by the City Building improvements. These were all the projects in town over this past year that have ended. Intersection SR 65 project looks wonderful as well as some homes that were refurbished in the Village. Mayor Birnesser is impressed with the job that the Village employees and Council have done.

Council had a chance to go over the Catalpa Drive agreement and agrees to move forward with dedicating it to the village.

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve the bills 12-10 to 12-31-24 and 1-1-25 to 1-13. Mr. Siefker seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 yeas, 0 nay

All end of the month/ quarter/ year were given to Council

With the help of Chief Bowers, Mrs. Kerns donated all the leftover Santa bags from Christmas in the park to Lima Memorial Hospital. She presented a letter from them, regarding their appreciation.

Chief Bowers would like to go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel.

Chief presented a golf cart he would like to purchase for the Village. This will be used for some games, and festivals here in the Village. The cost is around $13,000. The Columbus Grove Eagles has donated $5000.00 towards the purchase, and the sale of the old cruiser can cover some of the cost as well. Chief is going to ask the VFW to donate as well.

Mr. Vance met with engineers regarding the waterline project here in the Village. They are looking at scaling down the project and looking into a 0% interest loan. The project would cost about $44,000 a yr for 30 yrs from the water fund. An increase in water rates would be around $4.00 increase- debt service fee.

All the trucks have been serviced and a truck needs to be replaced as the frame is almost rusted in half. Mr. Vance would like to purchase a 2013 Truck with 70,790 miles for $13,458.00 Mr. Schroeder made such motion to purchase. Mr. Siefker seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 yeas, 0 nay

A diagram of a new electronic sign was presented to Council from the Columbus Grove Legion. Total height 11 foot. Council was ok with the sign as long as Chief Bowers checked out the dimensions of the sign and checked the sight to make sure it would not obstruct view. Mr. Schroeder made such motion. Mr. Siefker seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 yeas, 0 nay

Mr. Vance went over the Technicon quotes with Council and asked them to keep it in their thoughts for the Halker Building.

Mr. Vance requested to go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel.

Mr. Langhals asked about the fire department using our fuel tanks

Mr. Schroeder requested a Rec Board meeting for the 27th at 6:15 pm, asked Mr. Vance about the soccer fields, and the YMCA. No new updates on these. Mr. Schroeder also spoke briefly of the Ordinance violation letter. Mrs. Kerns is going to send a copy to Mrs. Staley for her to soften the letter a bit.

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Mr. Siefker mentioned the green light on SR 65 – Sycamore St- the light is too short on time. Mr. Vance is going to call to see if this can be changed.

Mr. Wolfe informed Mr. Vance that the speed bump back at the dump was knocked off the spikes and needs to be repaired. Mr. Wolfe also asked that Council think about the Halker Building and getting a decision made to do something with the building and discussed the junk cars around town.

There were no changes to the Committees for 2025

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to go into Executive session to discuss personnel. Mr. Langhals seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 yeas, 0 nay at 8:43 pm

Mr. Schroeder made the motion to leave executive session. Mr. Langhals seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 yeas, ) nay at 9:04 pm

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to hire Ryan Shartell with 3 wks of vacation, sick time transfer at $28.00 per hr for the water/ sewer department and David Collins with 2 wks vacation, sick time transfer at $28.33 per hr. Mr. Langhals seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 yeas, 0 nay

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Langhals seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 yeas, 0 nay at 9:06 pm

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Clerk Mayor