VILLAGE OF COLUMBUS GROVE

May 22, 2023

The Village of Columbus Grove met in regular session on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 7:30 pm at Columbus Grove Council Chambers with Council President Skyler Mayberry presiding. Council members in attendance were Skyler Mayberry, Gretchen Staley, Aaron Siefker, Todd Wolfe and Brian Schroeder and Pete Langhals. Also attended: Village Administrator Jeff Vance, Chief Russell Lammers.

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve the May 8, 2023 minutes. Mr. Mayberry seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 yeas, 2 abstained (Wolfe, Langhals).

Mayor Wright announced that the Emanual Church will be attending the next Council meeting to discuss Turner Hall and their future there.

Mrs. Staley made a motion to approve the bills. Mr. Siefker seconded the motion. Motion carried. 6 yeas, 0 nay

Mr. Langhals made a motion to set new Officer Alex Niese’s hourly wage to $24.50 an hour. Mr. Mayberry seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 yeas, 0 nay.

Mrs. Kerns announced that CD #5197 was set to expire on 5-31-23. Council decided to renew the CD for 11 months at 4.50%. Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve such renewal. Mr. Siefker seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 yeas, 0 nay

Chief Lammers commented on how well new officer Alex Niese was doing. He just needs to learn the roads, town, businesses and the people.

Mr. Vance announced that they will be going around to the houses that received junk notices and cleaning up their properties. Junk day was down overall but worked out very well at the new location.

East Sycamore Street curbs are poured, and they will be working on the driveway approaches.

The swimming pool passed its inspection and should be opening on schedule.

The Clarifier at the sewer plant is still down and we rcvd 1 estimate so far at around $142,000 minus the labor. The old one was installed back in 1967.

Mr. Mayberry made a motion for a second reading Ordinance 2023-04 Franchise agreement with Ohio Power Company. Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 yeas, 0 nay

Mr. Mayberry wanted to thank Village employees for placing the banners and making the parks look so nice.

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to pass Resolution 2023-07 Authorizing the transfer at no charge of all village owned fire related property. Mr. Mayberry seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 yeas, 0 nay

Mr. Schoeder asked about the new fire station, Mr. Vance announced that the building needs a storm shelter, the engineer is working on incorporating it into the original plans. Chief Brubaker spoke to the Chief at the Elida Fire Station and was told that there is no way around it. Chief Brubaker also talked to the State Fire Marshall and was also told that appealing this will do no good. The Fire dept is working on getting a partial permit to begin with the footer and walls. The Storm shelter will come later anyways.

Batting cages at Hall Ave Park are currently on hold, per Mr. Wolfe he is waiting for the Earl Belch Foundation to make a final decision on whether they are going to donate to the project.

ChoiceOne is putting together the specs for the Hall Ave development and are working on a cost. A few contractors are interested in putting in water/sewer with benefiting from a TIFF from the county. Amy Sealts is working on the legislation for us to pass.

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Mr. Schroeder also asked about the Halker Building and if any updates were available. Mr. Vance is waiting on Mrs. Sealts to get back to him regarding this matter.

Mr. Schroeder also noticed a lot of dog waste on the sidewalks and offered a solution of maybe placing dog waste bags and signs throughout the village.

Mr. Wolfe thanked Chief Lammers for his efforts in getting things cleaned up in town and thanked Mr. Vance for a job well done on junk day.

Mr. Siefker asked Chief Lammers if he was able to contact 133 N High regarding the roof/ gutter issues. Chief Lammers left a door hanger.

Mr. Langhals voiced his many concerns with the residential expansion at Hall Ave Park. He doesn’t feel that the Village should be in the business of development and should not be using taxpayers’ dollars to expand or develop land. Mr. Vance explained this is why we bought the Niswander farm, to expand, this is a need for the Village, it will help our tax base and water sewer department. Mr. Schroeder voiced that we need to keep people in our community, we need to accommodate the young families that want to come back to our community. This will also help with the decline in enrollment at the schools. Mrs. Staley knows that this is beneficial for Council to take the lead on developing the Villages future. “Dipping our toe into starting with a section says Mr. Siefker. It will be a big cost up front but over time it will pay for itself”.

Mr. Wright wanted it to be publicly known that John Neu has taken over the donating of flowers to the downtown Village and wants to Thank John & Julie for their donation.

Mr. Mayberry m:ade a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Siefker seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 yeas, 0 nay at 8:26 pm.

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Clerk Mayor