

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 12, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the meeting was held over the internet via Zoom. The public was invited to attend the meeting and a link was available on www.VillageofLodi.com for the public to view the meeting, adhering to Governor DeWine's directive for meetings and social distancing during the emergency pandemic.

Lodi Village Council met on the above date for a Regular Meeting with the following Council Members present: Miller, Mapes, May, Graham, Ridenour, and Jameyson. Also in attendance were Mayor Robert Geissman, Assistant Village Solicitor Alex Quay, Clerk-Treasurer Annette Geissman, Police Chief Keith Keough, and Fire Chief Chris Ridenour.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joseph Badger, Allison Gavala, and Tracey Hodges-Canaztuj were present from Colonial Life and discussed voluntary insurance coverage options for village employees. After reviewing the information a motion was made by Graham and seconded by May to offer voluntary insurance options to village employees through Colonial Life. The insurance premiums will be paid by the employee through payroll deductions.

Upon roll call: YEAS: Graham, May, Miller, Mapes, Ridenour, and Jameyson
NAYS: None

MINUTES

A motion was made by May and seconded by Ridenour to approve the minutes of the 9-28-20 regular council meeting.

Upon roll call: YEAS: May, Ridenour, Miller, Mapes, Graham, and Jameyson
NAYS: None

LEGISLATION

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF LODI, MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SHANNON RITCHIE FOR CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE OFFICES OF THE VILLAGE OF LODI, OHIO, AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY. A motion was made by Mapes and seconded by May to suspend the three reading rule and pass the ordinance as an emergency.

Upon roll call: YEAS: Mapes, May, Miller, Graham, and Ridenour
ABSTAIN: Jameyson

A motion was made by Mapes and seconded by May to pass the ordinance. Discussion was held regarding the contractor's request for a \$1.00 per hour increase to \$16 per hour for this contract. It was determined that council wished to keep the contract hourly rate at \$15.00.

Upon roll call: YEAS: Mapes, May, Miller, Graham, and Ridenour
ABSTAIN: Jameyson

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT AWARD TO THE VILLAGE OF LODI, AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY. A motion was made by Graham and seconded by Mapes to suspend the three reading rule and pass the resolution as an emergency.

Upon roll call: YEAS: Graham, Mapes, Miller, May, Ridenour, and Jameyson

NAYS: None

A motion was made by Mapes and seconded by Graham to pass the resolution.

Upon roll call: YEAS: Mapes, Graham, Miller, May, Ridenour, and Jameyson

NAYS: None

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE. A motion was made by Ridenour and seconded by Miller to pass the resolution. Mayor Robert Geissman explained the grant possibility to council. NOACA has two million dollars available in grant funding next year for planning grants to further transportation in the area. This grant may help to plan for downtown transportation, pedestrian trails, parks, etc. The Village of Lodi is within one of the environmental justice areas of the state which are eligible for 100% funding.

Upon roll call: YEAS: Ridenour, Miller, Mapes, May, Graham, and Jameyson

NAYS: None

COMMITTEE REQUESTS

MILLER – PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTIES

Mapes reported that she spoke with the Ruritan's regarding possible picnic table donations.

Miller reported that this will be the last weekend for food stands in the downtown area. Council agreed to permit the food stands as part of a village parks fundraiser. Some of the proceeds from the food stands are donated to parks. This weekend is also the Mason's annual pumpkin sale on the square.

Miller reported that a request was received from Nicole Brantner asking for permission for the non-profit organization Project Worth Saving to do Trunk-or-Treat in the square. After discussion, it was determined that council is not in favor of allowing this request. Council already made the decision that Trunk-or-Treat would not be permitted this year due to social distancing and COVID-19 concerns. It was suggested that if Nicole wished to hold Trunk-or-Treat she will need to find a location that is not village property.

Miller expressed concerns regarding organizations using village parks for free for events and charging the public to attend the events. She feels groups should not be permitted to charge a fee for attendance and only be authorized to collect donations for their group.

MAPES – SAFETY

Mapes congratulated Police Chief Keough for the award recently given to him by the Lodi American Legion.

Mapes congratulated Fire Chief Ridenour for his success with obtaining the FEMA Assistance to

Firefighters Grant.

Mapes reported that Fire Chief Ridenour provided council with a monthly Fire/EMS activity report.

MAY – FINANCE & LEGISLATION

May had nothing to report at this time.

GRAHAM – STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Graham reported that she spoke with the Lodi American Legion about the need of seventy replacement flags. The Legion has donated the seventy flags to the village. Graham will send a thank you card from the village.

Council Member Mapes discussed the need for more street lighting on Railroad Street between Market and S. Academy, and on Mill Street in front of the former Lodi Elementary School. This need will be directed to Utility/Street Superintendent Tracy Haltrich.

RIDENOUR – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ridenour had nothing to report at this time.

JAMEYSON – ZONING

Jameyson discussed the tree lawn parking permit application for 109 Baker Street that was tabled at the last meeting. Jameyson reported that the permit cannot be approved due to the location being on the fire hydrant side of the street. Jameyson stated that some of the family members will need to park their cars in the garage. Police Chief Keough reported that he spoke with the property owner and informed him that the permit was not approved. The owner is considering altering his driveway and will be speaking with the zoning inspector regarding permits and procedures. Police Chief Keough also informed the applicant that he may park on the other side of the street except from the hours of 2:00 am to 6:00 am. Council Member Mapes reported that the other property owner in the area of concern currently parking on the fire hydrant side of the street will also need to be notified that they are not permitted to park there.

Jameyson inquired about the status of the old Hob Nob Restaurant that burned. Mayor Robert Geissman reported that he has not heard back from the owner yet but will also be addressing the owner's parking issue on Sunset Drive.

Mayor Robert Geissman reported that the property at 218 Prospect Street has sold. Council Member Mapes reported that the Jarvis home on Church Street has sold.

CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer Annette Geissman discussed using Coronavirus Relief Funds to purchase new utility software that will enable residents to pay and review bills online, thus eliminating the need for direct contact with village offices and reducing the possible spread of the Coronavirus. A motion was made by Jameyson and seconded by Graham for an expenditure of \$84,266 from Coronavirus Relief Funds for this purpose.

Upon roll call: YEAS: Jameyson, Graham, Miller, Mapes, May, and Ridenour

NAYS: None

MAYOR GEISSMAN

Mayor Robert Geissman discussed an email that was forwarded to council members regarding a parcel of property located within the village limits that the Medina County Park District wants to purchase. The park district is asking for a resolution of support from council. After discussion it was determined that council does not support this land purchase. It would be detrimental to the economic growth of the village. This is one of the few remaining parcels zoned R-1 and is desperately needed for residential homes. The village comprehensive plan identifies this parcel as needed for residential housing. The Medina County Park District already owns hundreds of acres of park land within and abutting the Village of Lodi. This area is not needed for additional park land. Discussion was also held regarding the parcels the county park district currently owns within and around the village that have not been touched or developed in many years. Mayor Robert Geissman will attend the next Medina County Commissioner's Meeting and ask the commissioner's to rescind their resolution that supports this purchase.

Mayor Robert Geissman reported that he contacted the Harrisville Township Trustees regarding the possibility of them using any of their remaining Coronavirus Relief Funds for Lodi Fire Department needs. This is an allowable action that has been done by other townships in the county who contract with a local fire department for services. Mayor Geissman sent them some quotes for fire department needs to consider. He will follow up with them this week.

Mayor Robert Geissman reported that he was contacted by someone interested in purchasing the property at 708 Bank Street to put in a laundromat. Council Member Jameyson reported that he was told that sometimes the expense of getting rid of the chemicals associated with laundromat services prohibits people from moving forward with the idea.

Mayor Robert Geissman asked council if they are agreeable to having village employees assist with leaf pick up using the VAC truck inside of the Harrisville/Lodi Union Cemetery as long as the truck can fit into the driveway areas. The cemetery is owned by both the Village of Lodi and Harrisville Township through the Cemetery District that was created. Council agreed to this assistance.

There being no further business to come before council, a motion was made by Graham and seconded by Mapes to adjourn the meeting.

Upon roll call: YEAS: Graham, Mapes, Miller, May, Ridenour, and Jameyson
NAYS: None



Robert Geissman, Mayor



Annette Geissman, Clerk-Treasurer