

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 28, 2021

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 Utility/Street Superintendent Tracy Haltrich.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kyle White, from The Ohio State University Extension Office, was present and reviewed a presentation she emailed to the village this evening. Kyle reported that she has been working with the citizen group EDOLH (Economic Development Organization of Lodi and Harrisville Township), which formerly went by the name of LHEDO (Lodi Harrisville Economic Development Organization). She has been working with them to formulate a grant request asking Medina County to consider dedicating a portion of their American Rescue Plan Act funds for the EDOLH group activities. Kyle reported that she was seeking the support of the village elected officials for this request, which has to be submitted to the Medina County Commissioners by July 9. Discussion was held regarding the fact that the Lodi Village Council and Lodi Planning and Zoning Commission are the groups legally responsible for and already working on the planning activities being proposed by EDOLH. Council Member Miller reported that EDOLH is a group of citizens and is not an actual organization with any authority over these items. She also expressed frustration with this group in the past regarding communication issues. She reported that she feels something like this should have begun with Council Economic Development Chair Jenn Ridenour. Council Member Jameyson expressed concerns regarding receiving this information right before the meeting tonight and not having enough time to review the information to make a proper evaluation. It was determined that Mayor Robert Geissman and Council Economic Development Chair Jenn Ridenour will discuss the matter further with Kyle White. After discussing her proposal, Kyle White exited the zoom meeting. In later discussion Council Member May reported that she felt communication had begun with the wrong group and asked Council Member Mapes why she didn't bring this to council's attention as Mapes is a member of the EDOLH group. Mapes responded that she was blindsided by this presentation tonight and did not know that Kyle White would be attending the council meeting. Mapes also reported that the downtown businesses and buildings will benefit from this request and some of the money is needed for her son Tyson's business. Council members expressed concern that the village should have been contacted about this proposal and it should have been made through the proper village authorities and not through the EDOLH citizen group.

MINUTES

A motion was made by May and seconded by Mapes to approve the minutes of the 6-14-21 regular council meeting.

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

LEGISLATION

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 1253 RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT OF THE LODI ZONING CODE. A motion was made by May and seconded by Miller to declare this a second reading of the ordinance.

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

A RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY TO LEVY A RENEWAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN (10) MILL LIMITATION TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE VILLAGE OF LODI, OHIO, TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2021 ELECTION (R.C. 5705.03, 5705.19(A), 5705.191, 5705.192, and 5705.25).

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

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

COMMITTEE REQUESTS

MILLER – PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTIES

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Graham for an expenditure of \$13,500 for cleanup needs at Lodi Community Park.

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

Miller thanked Tim Samples for all the work he is doing in organizing the annual Park Fest concert fundraising event to be held on September 11.

Miller thanked the street department employees for their hard work in refurbishing the benches in Lodi Central Park.

Miller reported that the new patriotic banners are up and look good in the downtown area.

Miller reported that she will schedule a council parks committee meeting soon.

Miller asked Police Chief Keith Keough if she had any influence on or any part in his decision for her daughter-in-law's recent promotion in his department. Chief Keough responded no, the decision was totally made by him alone, without any outside influence. He made the decision he felt was best based on the individual's performance in his department. Miller then proceeded to read aloud a statement regarding her thoughts on this situation (see attached statement). Miller also reported that she has copies of the Facebook posts referred to in her statement if anyone needed a copy. Council Member Ridenour responded that she also had copies if anyone needed them.

SAFETY

Mapes had nothing to report at this time.

MAY – FINANCE AND LEGISLATION

May had nothing to report at this time.

GRAHAM - STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Graham had nothing to report at this time.

Utility/Street Superintendent Tracy Haltrich reported that Columbia Gas is scheduled to complete their gas line installation work by mid-July.

RIDENOUR – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ridenour had nothing to report at this time.

Council Member Mapes reported that the art studio on Wooster Street is going to close in August. Council Member May reported that the owner is moving to Vermillion due to a change in her husband's job.

JAMEYSON – ZONING

A motion was made by Jameyson and seconded by May to rescind the approval made at the last council meeting for a tree lawn parking permit application for 105 Mill Street. Jameyson reported that this permit was mistakenly thought to be a renewal of an existing permit. Jameyson asked council members to review the location. He looked at the situation and feels that there is room for three cars in the driveway and room for one more car in the small area to the right near Medina Street. He does not feel the permit is warranted.

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

A motion was made by Jameyson and seconded by Graham to approve the tree lawn parking permit renewal applications for the following addresses: 105 Prospect Street, 104 High Street, 145 ½ Harris Street, and 125 S. Market Street.

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

MAYOR GEISSMAN

Mayor Robert Geissman reported that the Medina County Parks District has requested permission to allow an annual deer culling hunting event on their park land within village limits. A resolution will be prepared for council consideration at the next meeting.

Mayor Robert Geissman reported that the village solicitor is working on the lot split necessary to purchase the portion of the Grimm property the village is working with the Medina County Parks District on.

Mayor Robert Geissman reported that the village solicitor is working on collecting more documents from the Ohio Department of Commerce regarding violations in mobile home parks.

Mayor Robert Geissman reported that there are sewer backup issues occurring at the Sunset Drive Mobile Home Park. The village solicitor has sent a letter to the park owner to address the issue.

Mayor Robert Geissman reported that a notice of demolition letter will be sent out this week for 106 Prospect Street. The village solicitor is working on contacting the bank that currently owns 310 Wooster Street to discuss zoning remedies. The village solicitor is also looking at the next legal steps for the zoning issues at 219 Wooster Street. Mayor Geissman is also watching for the date of the Medina County Sheriff sale of the property with many zoning issues located at 139 Harris Street.

Mayor Robert Geissman discussed the letter received from Will Genkin regarding his wish to use the property at 118 Medina Street as a duplex. Mayor Geissman has informed Mr. Genkin that this property is a non-conforming use and cannot be reestablished as anything that does not comply with the current zoning for the property. Mayor Geissman invited Mr. Genkin to attend the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on June 16, 2021, but Mr. Genkin did not attend.

Mayor Robert Geissman reported that the Whisper Creek Phase 3 subdivision project plans are being reviewed by the village engineers. The Phase 2 plan still needs electric installation work completed. There will be a punch list of items the village engineers will need to sign off on. The Mylar has been signed and returned. Once the Medina County Auditor's Office assigns parcel numbers, the Whisper Creek Subdivision will update their HOA documents to include the new parcels.

Mayor Robert Geissman reported that he reached out to NOACA regarding the next steps for the TCLI Grant that was awarded to the village. He has not received a reply yet.

It was determined that the next council meeting will be held in person at the Lodi Fire Station.


There being nothing further to come before council, a motion was made by Graham and seconded by May to adjourn the meeting.

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

NAYS: None



Robert Geissman, Mayor



Annette Geissman, Clerk-Treasurer

First - I have a question for Chief Keough -
Did I in any way influence you or have any
say in the promotion of my daughter in law?
Why was she promoted?

I have been advised to make a public
statement in regards to rumors on facebook
and around town against the Village, myself
& my family.

I voted to terminate an employee purely
on the facts and the recommendations of
the Village Prosecutor, the Mayor and the Village
legal team. The recommendation made by
Chief Keough were denied by the employee.
The promotion of my daughter in law (months
later) had absolutely nothing to do with my
decision. She was appointed by Chief Keough -
her Superior. I actually found out a week
after it even happened.

The rumors/accusations are also being
fueled by another council member. Which is
absurd! What about the other three votes
of termination? Take my vote out for a
minute - Nothing would have changed.
Myself + my family have remained silent
but will not continue to do so.

It is a shame an employee in good standing is being placed in this smear campaign due to a former employee's bad decisions.

I am disgusted and highly disappointed in the actions of a fellow Council person who continues to bash the Village + elected officials whether in facebook posts about the Village being responsible for their neighbors having to pay for tree removals or publically (thousands)

Verbally bashing in meetings. People are talking - We take an oath to do what is best for the Village + the majority.

If you are so anti-village, why are you here?
Do you have a personal agenda?

I encourage the public to request all public records pertaining to these matters to get the facts.

I personally have copies of ^{all} the facebook posts also.

VILLAGE OF LODI
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES


Tuesday, July 6, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Lodi Village Council met on the above date for a Special Meeting at the Lodi Fire Station to discuss grant opportunities with The Ohio State University representative Kyle White.

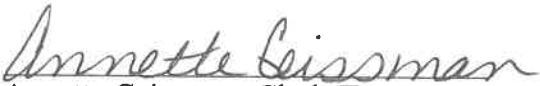
Upon roll call the following Council Members were present: Miller, Mapes, May, Graham, Ridenour, and Jameyson. Also in attendance were Mayor Robert Geissman, Clerk-Treasurer Annette Geissman, and Fire Chief Chris Ridenour.

Kyle White went through various exercises and gave a presentation on grant opportunities.

There being no further business to come before council in the Special Meeting, the meeting adjourned.



Robert Geissman, Mayor


Annette Geissman, Clerk-Treasurer