

VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR

COUNCIL MEETING

January 4, 2024

The Bolivar Village Council met in regular session at Village Hall on Thursday, January 4, 2024. The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said. White opened the meeting with a prayer. Bellinger, White, and Diveley, all answered yes to roll call.

Tim White administered the oath of office to Robert Lloyd the newly elected Mayor of the Village of Bolivar for a term ending December 31, 2027.

Mayor Lloyd asked both Zachary Nussbaumer and Daniel Oberlin to stand to be sworn in for their elected terms, ending December 31, 2027.

Will Bellinger explained that he and Loretta Diveley interviewed 5 potential candidates for the open council seat. Interviewed were Becky Hubble, Ted Finlayson, John Nussbaumer, Doug Kendle, and Steve Pancoe. Will briefly explained how he and Loretta decided to recommend Steve Pancoe be appointed to the open seat. Oberlin made the motion to appoint Steve Pancoe, the motion was seconded by Bellinger. In a roll call vote, Bellinger voted yes, White voted yes, Diveley voted yes, Nussbaumer voted yes, and Oberlin voted yes. Steve Pancoe was welcomed as an appointed council member. Mayor Lloyd administered the oath of office to Steve.

Mayor Lloyd opened the floor for nominations of President pro tempore. Oberlin nominated Bellinger. There were no more nominations. Nominations were closed. Oberlin made a motion to appoint Bellinger as Council President pro tempore, the motion was seconded by White. In a roll call vote: Bellinger abstained, White voted yes, Diveley voted yes, Oberlin voted yes, Nussbaumer voted yes, and Pancoe voted yes.

A motion to approve the December bills totaling \$207,281.56 was made by White and seconded by Oberlin. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Nussbaumer yes, and Pancoe yes.

A motion to approve the December 7, 2023, regular meeting minutes was requested by Mayor Lloyd. Oberlin made the motion that was seconded by Bellinger. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Nussbaumer yes, and Pancoe yes.

Receipts for the month of December totaled \$66,021.01.

Additions/Correction to the Agenda – None.

Public Speaks - Eric Menser requested the council give forgiveness on part of his water bill stating the water softener caused excess use and he was not aware of the problem until the Bolivar water clerk, Stepanie Long, contacted him. The council agreed to allow Stepanie to forgive the excess above the normal average monthly amount, capping the forgiveness at \$300. The council had established a forgiveness threshold of not to exceed \$300 at the November council meeting.

Chris Berens wished the new Mayor the best for the coming year, stating he has a lot of talent surrounding him and is certain they will do amazing things for the Village.

Anne Strauss expressed concern over the condition of a lot of the playground equipment the Village is requesting to remain at the Intermediate school. She said she was a student aide at the Intermediate school and was told numerous times to not allow children on some of the equipment due to hazards. Mayor Lloyd said he has inspected much of the equipment and talked with business owners in the Village for assistance with repairs needed. He said as he campaigned for the office of the mayor, he became very aware that the Village has a tremendous number of young families that will need and will enjoy this playground. Anne also was concerned about the pea gravel instead of the rubber products being used for the ground cover. Chris Berens said the pea gravel has been determined the best and safest ground cover available. Dan Oberlin stated that the council has requested the equipment remain and will ensure the equipment will be inspected and in good repair before use and scrapped if deemed necessary. Loretta Diveley read a letter from the Township Trustees in support of the playground equipment remaining.

Old Business – None.

MAYOR

Mayor Lloyd said it is premature to discuss the annual financial status of the Village given the ongoing extensive cleanup Maria and Patty are working on.

Mayor Lloyd asked if any staff member had a list of key holders for the Village. Levi said he does have a list of all keys that have been given out.

Mayor Lloyd briefed the council on the possibility of a very sizable grant application for replacement/upgrading of water lines, drainage basins, and sewer lines in the Village. He and GPD assessed some of the high concern areas around the Village today. They are assessing where 4" lines could be increased to 6 or 8" lines as well as other necessary improvements. Mayor Lloyd also said he and GPD looked at a major storm drain problem on the south side of the Village. He asked

the council if they would like him to pursue collecting estimates and handing these off to OMEGA who will write the grant. Mayor Lloyd said the deadline to submit is only 2 weeks away, so it is a long shot, but can possibly be done. Mayor Lloyd asked all present to please pray the Village can get this done and awarded. Diveley made a motion to make every attempt to get the grant submitted and the motion was seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Nussbaumer yes, and Pancoe yes.

Loretta talked about a flyer she received saying AARP has a grant program named improving life across American. Robert will review.

Mayor Lloyd announced the following positions:

Street Superintendent/Village Administrator: Levi Kaser

Water Operator: Chuck Williams

Tax Administrator: Heather Lecce

Mayor Lloyd announced the following committees:

Finance Committee: Bellinger (Chair), Diveley, Pancoe

Safety Committee: Diveley (Chair), Bellinger, Pancoe

Street & Alley Committee: White (Chair), Nussbaumer, Oberlin

Parks & Recreation Committee: Nussbaumer (Chair), Oberlin, White

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE – Will Bellinger reported \$207,281.56 in expenses and \$66,021.01 in receipts for the month of December and a total of \$2,265.67 in interest received from StarOhio and Huntington.

Maria is looking into purchasing a timeclock for use at her remote working address. Mayor Lloyd will approve when she submits a cost. Her estimate is between \$99 and \$150.

The Committee is currently reviewing the credit card policy.

Bellinger stated Chief Haugh is researching the purchase of a new police cruiser. Part of the cost will be supported with ARPA monies with the balance of the ARPA money going to Engineering and design costs for water line replacement.

Bellinger said there is a potential for an increase in the amount the Village is billing for trash service. Maria and Patty will look at the costs and expenses and prepare a recommendation for the council at the next meeting.

Legislation at tonight's meeting increasing the rate of pay for the Village of Bolivar tax administrator.

Levi had a hazardous tree removed in the Village at a total cost of \$650.

Planning and Zoning – Bellinger said that Zoning now meets on the first Monday of the month at 5:30pm. The committee is working on current zoning rules for R1 and R2 in commercial areas to see if this can be changed. R1 and R2 in the commercial areas allow for certain sizes of housing. The idea is to promote larger single-family homes, and fewer multi-family structures. Bellinger stated nothing will happen quickly, that there will be public hearings and a lot of investigation before any charges are proposed and adopted. The committee is also working on the implementation of subdivision rules and regulations for the Village.

Safety- Patty was asked to check on the cost of keeping the Police Explorer cruiser on the insurance for use during festivals and other events. Chief Haugh said this will save excess use of the newer cruisers.

Chief Haugh reported that the Bolivar Police Department is certified and accredited for the next two years, and all officers are certified and qualified.

There was a discussion of the intersection at Water and Park Streets. Chief Haugh reported there was an accident with injury at this location last week. Several council members stated this intersection is a problem. Bellinger said Levi will check into the cost of lighting the Stop sign at the intersection to make it more visible.

Chief- Nothing to add. All covered in safety and finance.

Street & Alley- Dan reported the committee met on December 21, 2023. Oberlin, White, Diveley, Kaser, and the mayor were present at the meeting. Oberlin thanked Levi for getting the hazardous tree removed on Park Avenue. He said Levi repaired the sidewalk and a large pothole by the alley beside the Towpath Tavern. Street & alley will focus on sidewalk replacement and repair in 2024 as well as trimming more trees. A total of 97 trees were trimmed in the Village in 2023.

Oberlin stated he would like to form a committee for the Shade Tree Commission and investigate the need to replace some of the trees that have been removed in recent years. Mayor Lloyd said he will forward suggestions of people he knows with tree experience that may want to be a participant on this committee.

Parks and Recreation – Diveley stated she forwarded a copy of the insurance requirements for use of the Village ball fields to the Baseball Association for review. If this meets with their expectations, she will get them to sign an original.

Diveley spoke with Wendy Levengood about the possibility of using her recently purchased American Legion building for council meetings. Wendy said she would welcome council meetings in the future but currently has a lot of requested repairs being done prior to transfer of the property. Diveley will continue talks with Wendy in the future.

Diveley presented the Rules and Regulations for Public Parks and Ball fields, and the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail rules and regulations. Tedd Finlayson had handed them out at the last parks and recreation meeting. Robert Lloyd will review the documents.

Street Superintendent – Levi received a complaint about an excessive number of potholes on a portion of Lover’s Alley. He reported the potholes have been fixed.

Fiscal Officer – Maria thanked Patty for all the work with the cleanup of records. Maria stated that there was a resignation submitted to the Village this past week. Patty asked the council for a vote on the acceptance of the resignation of Gary App. Oberlin made the motion to regretfully accept the resignation and it was seconded by Diveley. All stated “I” with no nays. Oberlin thanked Gary for all the hard work he did at the Village, stating he did an exceptional job when the Village was really in need.

Maria stated cleanup continues as well as preparing to close for year end. Employee cards and leave balances have been audited and corrected.

Village Administrator – Levi requested that attendees at the committee and council meetings be more aware of talking over others saying it becomes difficult to understand when people are talking.

Levi stated he attends the Regional Planning Commission’s meeting each month as the representative for the Village. Levi will see if there is any information that will help the Village with the implementation of the subdivision rules and regulations and bring this to the Zoning meeting. Mayor Lloyd said he will be the alternate for this meeting if there is a time that Levi cannot attend.

Law Director- Solicitor Steve Babik

Steve congratulated Mayor Lloyd, Zachary Nussbaumer, and Steve Pancoe on their election wins and appointments.

Steve continues dialogue with the homeowner concerning the welcome sign at the 3 way-stop entrance to the Village. He has sent a letter proposing a sign easement allowing the sign to remain in perpetuity.

Legislation:

First Reading: An ordinance to authorize 2024 Permanent Appropriations.

An ordinance to amend the language in the distribution of income tax revenue as an emergency. The motion was made by Bellinger and seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Nussbaumer yes, and Pancoe yes. **Ordinance 1-2024.**

An ordinance increasing the rate of pay for the Income Tax Administrator. 18.25 per hour, 15 hours per week as an emergency. The motion was made by Bellinger and seconded by Oberlin. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Nussbaumer yes, and Pancoe yes. **Ordinance 2-2024.**

An ordinance to allow to Mayor and Fiscal Officer to upgrade phone lines and MiFi devices with Verizon Wireless and to add a new phone line for the mayor as an emergency. The motion was made by Bellinger and seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Nussbaumer yes, and Pancoe yes. **Ordinance 3-2024.**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2024, by Oberlin and seconded by Diveley. Roll Call: Bellinger, Oberlin, White, Nussbaumer, Pancoe, and Diveley all voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Fiscal Officer

Maria App

Mayor Robert Lloyd