

Bowerston Village Council

Regular Meeting Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Village Officials Attendance: Karen Donovan, Polly Wolfe, Juliet Bryant, Chase Bryant, Jon Humphrey, Paula Beamer, Janeen Scott, Bart Busby, Jeremiah Warner, Jacquie Humphrey and JJ Ong.

Visitors: Matt Miller of Quicksall, James Trunball, utility customer

Call To Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Council

Public Comments: Matt Miller explained the current status of the water project, estimates were provided for services. Waiting on EPA so submission can be given to the USDA before bidding can begin.

Solicitor James J Ong advised that Council can give Mayor permission to sign with Quicksall to approve bidding and negotiations. Miller reviewed expected expenses including \$178,200.00 for an on-site representative.

1. Chase made motion to approve mayor to sign on Village's behalf, Julie seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.

Matt reported on PTI for wastewater project and explained the contracts and expected costings. Matt explained that we need to begin the bidding project as soon as possible. Expect the bid opening by October 28th.

The community park building was chosen as the location for opening the bids, 400 Maple Street.

1. Juliet made motion for Mayor to sign on Council's behalf, Chase seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.

Approval of regular August minutes Julie made motion, Jon seconded, unanimous

Pending and/or New Legislation:

1. Ordinance 2024-10, second reading, governing camping on public property.

Loan/Grant Status Reports:

1. Juliet made motion to move October meeting to the 29th for the approval of bids for the wastewater project, Jon seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.

Mayor's Report:

1. Paula reported that she has added a spreadsheet for tracking letters issued for ordinance violations. Karen inquired about a residence on Grant Street and requested a letter to clean up be issued, Paula will review and follow up.
2. Report attached, Karen made motion approve, Julie seconded, unanimous

Village Administrator's Report:

1. Report Attached, Chase made motion, Julie seconded, unanimous.

Utility Clerk's Report:

1. Janeen updated council on August collections, issues and usages.
2. Karen made motion to accept Janeen's report, Julie seconded, unanimous

Income Tax Administrator's Report:

1. Janeen reported that she will have a quarterly report at the September meeting. JJ advised that he has sent out the letters to non-filers that he was given at the August meeting, he inquired as to how long recipients should be given to respond. A discussion took place regarding the matter, Janeen said that she is required to issue a certified letter because the Village has adopted HB52. Council agreed to have the certified letters sent after next (October) meeting.
2. Julie made motion to accept Janeen's report, Polly seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.

Fiscal Officer's Report:

1. Resolution 19-2024, accepting new funds for leak detection equipment grant. Jon made motion to approve, Julie seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.
2. Need motion to accept amounts and rate for 2025 from Harrison County, Julie made motion, Chase seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.
3. Motion to approve bills, as presented, Julie moved, Jon seconded, unanimous by roll call vote
4. Motion to accept financial reports, as presented, Julie made motion, Chase seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.

Solicitor's Report:

1. Oil & Gas Lease paperwork, JJ reported that we are awaiting final contracts on revisions that he made.
2. Leesville fire hydrant, no court date yet
3. Easement Update, JJ is going to go door to door on the 4th week of the month to tie up the unsigned leases, will coordinate with Paula.
4. Karen made motion to accept JJ's report, Julie seconded, unanimous.

Old Business:

1. Have received paperwork from County on forfeited land, Paula explained that we will owe \$203.07 for each property. Also, Council needs to approve waiving the

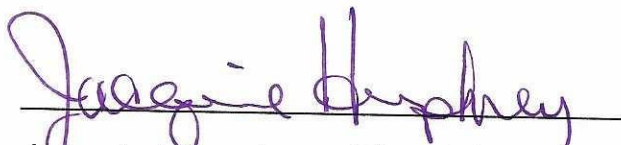
monies owed to the Village. Chase made motion to proceed, Julie seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.


2. Decision on utility bill penalty waiver requested at last meeting. Mr. Turnball was present at the meeting, JJ told Mr. Turnball that he had advised Council that they would be setting a trend for a discrimination claim if they waive the fees. Mr. Turnball requested an itemized billing. JJ inquired if there is plumbing in the house if the water would be turned on, Mr. Turnball said that it is. JJ said that he strongly suggested that Council not waive the monthly fee of \$25.00 or an additional 10%. Paula reported \$907.50 is the amount owed with the compounding removed, plus there would be the deposit and turn on fee. Jon made a motion to approve this waiver, JJ will draft an ordinance to cover this going forward, Karen seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.

New Business:

1. Trick or Treat will be held on Thursday, October 31st from 6 to 8pm. Those interested in participating should turn the porch light on.
2. Wednesday September 25th will be the next employee lunch, all are welcome.
3. Have information for ODOT leasing of land on SR212, Paula said that we can give them the land, lease them the land or do an easement. Jon made a motion to do an easement, Chase seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.
4. Have a person interested in doing community service hours with the Village, Paula said she will be responsible for this person. JJ said that the Mayor has the authority to do this, no action from Council is required.
5. Paula inquired if it is permissible to move the December meeting to Monday the 9th to ensure a quorum. Karen made motion to move the meeting, Polly seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.

Adjournment: Jon made motion to adjourn, Polly seconded, unanimous.


Jacquie Humphrey, Fiscal Officer


Paula Beamer, Mayor