

Bowerston Village Council
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Attendance: Paula Beamer, James J. Ong, Bart Busby, Jeremiah Warner, Janeen Scott, Jacquie Humphrey, Jon Humphrey, Juliet Bryant, Karen Donovan and Polly Wolfe.

No Visitors

Juliet made motion to accept the October minutes, Karen seconded, unanimous.
Julie made motion to pay bills, as presented, Jon seconded, unanimous
Juliet made motion to accept the financial reports, Karen seconded, unanimous.

Committee Reports

Personnel:

Karen reported that annual reviews had been completed for both Janeen and Bart.

Finance:

Juliet reported that the Finance committee had met and recommendations are as follows:

1. 3% raise for Janeen for both utility billing and income tax, 50 cents per hour for Nick, and \$25.00 per month for both Bart and Jacquie. Jacquie noted that her 90 day review is not yet complete and her raise will be appropriated for, but is contingent upon a satisfactory review.

Polly made motion to approve these pay increases, beginning in January of 2024, Karen seconded, unanimous.

Mayor's Report

1. Janeen played a message from a resident, Rick Lightell, praising Jeremiah's work on the streets.
2. Paula reported that she and Bob had met with OMEGA yesterday and both recommend that the Village go with OMEGA for grant funding moving forward.
3. Paula said that we will still work with EL Robinson to track the funding, Erin Wright and Bob Allen will work together.
4. Karen made a motion to reimburse Paula for mileage to Cambridge, Jon seconded, unanimous.
5. Paula presented Resolution 2023-024, authorizing Mayor to participate in funding for the Village, Jon made motion to approve, Julie seconded, unanimous.

Village Administrator

1. Bart reported that the door at the garage has been repaired and he has obtained an estimate to repair the door at the park building, \$2,190.70, both front and back doors.
2. Bart said that the tree by the flag pole needs pruned, he will schedule this.
3. Bart reported that he and Jeremiah met with FEMA again yesterday, 3rd time now, and he feels that this will have a good outcome, but may be 18 months down the road.
4. Polly made motion to accept Bart's report, Karen seconded, unanimous.

Utility Clerk's report

1. Janeen said that work orders must be in place before any work is performed by employees. She needs these turned in to be tracked.

Income Tax Administrator

1. Janeen reported that we now have 92 individuals that have filed taxes, 56 last year.
2. Julie made motion to accept Janeen's report, Karen seconded, unanimous.

Fiscal Officer

1. Jacquie presented Resolution 20223-022, supplement appropriations, Jon made motion to approve, Julie seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.
2. Jacquie reported that the 2024 appropriations will be ready at the December meeting. Karen and Juliet noted that they would like money appropriated in the park and street funds to purchase trees.
3. Jacquie presented a letter of resignation from Melody, Julie made motion to accept, Jon seconded, unanimous.

Solicitor's Report

1. Ordinance 2023-5, Authorizing Mayor to enter into a water and waste water system grant agreement. Julie made a motion to suspend the rules and pass as an emergency ordinance, Jon seconded, unanimous.
2. Julie made a motion to pass the ordinance, Polly seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.
3. JJ has not heard from the Leesville FD, he has sent the agreement to them twice, has questioned if he should attend a meeting.
4. JJ inquired if any more has been heard from the school regarding the land acquisition.

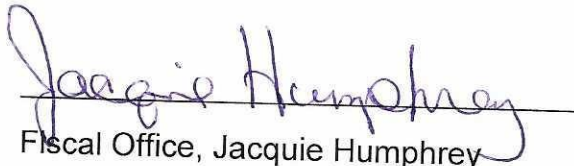
Old Business


1. Karen said that we need to decide about Holiday decorations. She has spoken with the WC and they are proceeding with decorations at the entrance to town. Karen to set a date and those available will meet to assist.

New Business

1. Bart reported that they would like to mandate the first of each month, at 5pm, the time for shut off. Janeen said that they would also like to charge \$75 fee to turn utilities back on, which can be applied at a later time, if necessary. A lengthy discussion took place.
2. JJ suggested a disconnect/reconnect fee, not a deposit. No action taken, utility committee to meet and review.
3. Paula noted that we will have a potluck after the December meeting.

Julie made motion to adjourn, Karen seconded, 6:45


Fiscal Office, Jacquie Humphrey


Mayor, Paula Beamer