**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of The Regular Meeting

Held December 18, 2023, @ 7:00 P.M.

Council met in Regular session with Lora Lyons, Annette Danner, Jason Hower, Nancy Speice, Allen Wobler and Jennifer Zartman present. Kevin Wannemacher was absent.

Guests Present: Officer Brandon Shuherk, Tim Copsey, Paulding County Economic Development Director, Dylan Worden, Midstates Energy Solutions , Scott Strahley, Scott Strahley Engineering. Also, present to be recognized, retired and retiring elected officials, including Austin Scheiner, Brad Young, Eric Gross, John Hall and Cathy and Scott Schoenauer representing Ron Schoenauer.

The Minutes from the November 27, 2023 meeting were read. Councilman Hower made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Zartman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Interim Mayor Lyons welcomed the guests and presented the plaques to the following to recognize their service as elected officals for the Village of Payne:

 Brad Young-12 years served as a BPA Member

 Eric Gross-12 years served as a BPA Member

 John Hall-40 years served as a BPA Member

 Austin Scheiner-7 years served as a Councilman and Mayor

 Ron Schoenauer represented by Cathy and Scott Schoenauer-24 years as a Councilman

In special appreciation for his 40 years of dedicated service to the Village and community,Councilman Wobler presented John Hall with personalized water/sewer lid with his name of years of service presented on the lid.

Interim Mayor Lyons introduced Dylan Worden from Midstate Energy Solutions. Dylan explained that the USDA had $1 billion to distribute for solar energy, however they received $10 billion in applications. He suggested Plan B which would be funding through the Toledo Port Authority for a 2% or possibly 0% interest loan. He invited the Village to attend a meeting with the USDA, Paulding County Commissioners and Village of Paulding in January 2024. He did stated that the first phase to obtaining funding would be an environmental study.

Interim Mayor Lyons introduced Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copsey. Tim stated that he believes Cultivated Power will be asking the Village for a non-exclusive easement at the lagoons. He suggested the Village research what other entities are receiving for easements before signing any paperwork. Tim also informed Council that the Village has six properties in the que with the Land Bank. He asked Council to continue to look for properties that may be eligible for the Land Bank program.

Interim Mayor Lyons introduced Scott Strahley of Scott Strahley Engineering. Scott explained the process he used to survey the properties on Oak and Townline Streets to determine if the fence at 301 West Oak Street was installed on or over the property lines of three adjacent properties. Using a survey grade GPS, Scott determined that the fence was not located on the adjacent properties. He did find that one of the survey markers was missing and will install one which he included in the price of the survey. He offered to speak to the property owner(s) with Inteirm Mayor Lyons to explain his findings. Before leaving the meeting, Scott stated that he has turned in a petition to be on the 2024 ballot for the Paulding County Engineer. He asked Council for their support.

**EMS: EMS** Coordinator **Zartman** was not present. **Interim Mayor Lyons** explained that the EMS Department was also having a meeting tonight and that there was no report from the EMS.

**Fire Department: Chief Hefner** was not present. **Interim Mayor Lyons** explained that the Fire Department was also having a meeting tonight and that there was no report from the Fire Department.

**Police Department:** **Officer Shuherk** was present. He and **Interim Mayor Lyons** reported the following to Council:

1. Police Chief Miller is on vacation until January 2, 2024. Officer Shuherk is working a floating shift while Chief Miller is off.
2. Officer Shuherk has finished inventorying the items in the back room of the Village Hall that were recovered from a mail fraud case. Council will consider what to do with the items.
3. There have been car break-ins and mailbox tampering on Fox Ave. Officer Shuherk is investigating the incidents.
4. Officer Shuherk has asked two companies for quotes to install a security window in the entrance of the Village Hall. He has spoken to All Better Roofing, LLC and Siding and C.C. Seemless, LLC. C.C. Seemless has given a quote of $6,951.00. All Better Roofing and Siding has not yet submitted a quote.

**Street:** **Interim Mayor Lyons** reported the following to Council:

1. A quote from Tawa was received for mulching at the brush pile. The quote is $8,980.00. Go Green was also asked for a quote. They said it would be $6,000.00-$7,000.00. Interim Mayor Lyons stated that she would check with Antwerp and Paulding to see if the mulching services could be shared and hopefully sharing would result in a cost savings.
2. WT Art Teacher, Angie Stokes and the WT Art students have made parade banners for the Village. They have also offered to make street signs and decore for events. The WT Art Deparment is currently working on banners to recognize Veterans in the WT communities. The cost of the banners are free, however, the Village will need to provide brackets to hang the banners. Interim Mayor Lyons will geta quote for the brackets.

**Zoning:**  **Interim Mayor Lyons** reported the following to Council:

1. Two new members are needed for the Zoning Committee. Interim Mayor Lyons provided Council with the Zoning Meeting dates for 2024. All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. The metting dates are as follows:
2. January 22, 2024
3. April 22, 2024
4. July 22, 2024
5. October 28, 2024
6. Interim Mayor Lyons reported that there was a County Zoning Meeting on December 14, 2023. Sarach McCabe from the Paulding County Auditor’s Office was present to give updates.
7. Interim Mayor Lyons reported that Dave Mielke is potentially interested in replacing Tony Gonzales as the Zoning Inspector. He is the Blue Creek Township Zoning Inspector. Interim Mayor Lyons will schedule a meeting with him.
8. Zoning Inspector Jill Treat has been able to contact the owner of 412 Maple Street regarding a fence that was installed without a permit. She is also working with the owner of 416 Fairfield Drive concerning a fence installed without a permit.
9. Interim Mayor Lyons informed Council that the cost of the survery work completed by Scott Strahley Engineering was $1,250.00. Councilwoman Zartman made motion to pay Scott Strahley of Scott Strahley Engineering $1,250.00. Councilwoman Danner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** There were no Committee reports.

**Correspondence Letters:**

1. Interim Mayor Lyons presented Council with Christmas snack gifts from Ohio Gas Company and Jones & Henry Enginerring. She also presented Christmas cards to Council.
2. Interim Mayor Lyons informed Council that a letter requesting nominations for a Hero Award was received from the Safety Council. Nominations are due February 28, 2024.
3. Interim Mayor Lyons stated that a flyer was received from Northwest State Community College promoting a Purse Bingo event on February 9, 2024.
4. Interim Mayor Lyons informed Council that the annual letter and invoice from the Payne Chamber of Commerce has been received. The annual dues are $50.00. Councilwoman Danner made a motion to join the Payne Chamber of Commerce for 2024 for the cost of $50.00. Councilwoman Speice seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Interim Mayor Lyons informed that there is a pipe in the lot purchased by James and Jane Linder in Young Acres that they are concerned could be damaged when mowing. Water/Sewer Superintindent Brant Heck believes it is a water pipe and will cut the pipe down and cap it.
2. Interim Mayor Lyons informed Council that the Village has been awarded a $20,000.00 grant from the Paulding County Area Foundation to repair the pavilion at the Village Park, to repair or replace the playground boarder and add a games. The grant money is expected in early 2024.
3. Interim Mayor Lyons reported that Johnny Swartz and his crew are working on the pavilions (sun shades) above the bleachers at the Village Park that are being constructed with a Natureworks grant. The post holes have been dug and the crew is working to finish the work this week.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Interim Mayor Lyons presented Council with the quote for a new ambulance. The quote is for $320,725.00. The Village would be responsible for 37.5% of the purchase price or $120,271.88. Councilwoman Speice made a motion to have Interim Mayor Lyons sign the purchase order and purchase the ambulance. Councilman Hower seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Interim Mayor Lyons will contact the Benton and Harrison Township Trustees to sign the purchase order also.
2. Interim Mayor Lyons introduced Ordinance 2023-13, an ordinance setting temporary appropriations for 2024 and declaring an emergency. Councilman Wobler made a motion to suspend the rules. Councilwoman Speice seconded and the motion passed unanimously . President of Council, Speice, read Ordinance 2023-13. Councilwoman Zartman made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-13. Councilwoman Danner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Interim Mayor Lyons discussed an invoice for $11,581.19 received from Dangler Excavating, to install an outlet, a catch basin backflow preventer and hook a discharge line into the catch basin near the Village water plant and Mercer Landmark. Interim Mayor Lyons suggested paying the invoice with funds from the ARPA disbursement because this is an improvement to the Village infrastructure. Councilman Wobler made a motion to pay the $11,581.19 invoice from Dangler Excavating with ARPA funds. Councilman Hower seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
4. Interim Mayor Lyons introduced Resolution 2023-Z, a resolution to amend appropriations for the General Fund (1000), the Police Fund (2903) and the Coronavirus Relief Fund-American Rescue Funds (2153) and declaring an emergency. Councilman Wobler made a motion to suspend the rules. Councilwoman Zartman seconded and the motion passed unanimously. President of Council, Speice, read Resolution 2023-Z. Councilwoman Danner made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-Z. Councilwoman Zartman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
5. Fiscal Officer Rhonda Stabler asked Council for permission to advance funds of $8,672.00 from the General Fund (1000) to the Natureworks Fund (2061) when the invoice from Johnny Swartz is received. Councilman Hower made a motion to have Fiscal Officer Rhonda Stabler advance $8,672.00 from the General Fund (1000) to the Natureworks Fund (2061) when the invoice Is received. Councilwoman Speice seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
6. Interim Mayor Lyons reported that she has received her bond as Mayor from V.S. Beck Insurance.
7. Interim Mayor Lyons informed Council that she swore in Ray Speice as a BPA member effective January 1, 2024 before the meeting tonight. She will swear Brad Bohland in as a Councilman effective January 1, 2024 on Thursday December 21, 2023.
8. Interim Mayor Lyons informed Council that she completed grant paperwork for the Capital Budget Grant for the construction of a new Fire/EMS Department. This is a 80/20 grant and was submitted to Representive Roy Klopfenstien. She had initially intented to apply for street lights through this grant but discovered from AEP that there is a tariff involved that would require ground work. Since Main Street (State Route 49) is not scheduled until 2029, it makes sense to wait on the street light project. Interim Mayor Lyons stated that she has met with Paulette from Kleinfelder about the East Merrin Street and Veteran’s Lane Waterline Replacement Project which is estimated at $465,700.00 and is a matching grant.
9. Zoning Secretary Jill Treat and Councilman Jason Hower have been working on quotes for business cards. The cards can be ordered from Vista Print for $148.05. Councilwoman Danner made a motion to order the cards from Vista Print for $148.05. Councilman Hower seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
10. Interim Mayor Lyons reported that the Sunday sale of alcohol at the Payne American Legion will be on the ballot in 2024.
11. Interim Mayor Lyons informed Council that Payne resident and Paulding County Coroner, Dr. Joseph Kuhn contacted her regarding negative and harmful effects of marijuana distribution in the Village.
12. Interim Mayor Lyons reported electric contact with Palmer Energy exprires in May 2024. She has been contacted by Palmer Energy and IGS to quote the new rates available for a new contract in May 2024.
13. Fiscal Officer Rhonda Stabler informed Council that she will be removing four funds—Coronavirus Funds (2151 and 2152), CDBG Grant Fund from 2019 (5701) and OEPA Generator Grant Fund (5702). She reminded Council they had approved removal of these funds earlier, but she was unable to remove them at that time according to UAN.

**BPA: Interim Mayor Lyons** reported the following to Council:

1. The Wastwater Combined Sewer Overflow Inspection is complete with no violations. Thank you to Water/Sewer Superintendent Brant Heck for his preparation and attention to the department.
2. The project near the Water Plant and Mercer Landmark to to install an outlet, a catch basin backflow preventer and hook a discharge line into the catch basin is complete. The paving for the Hyman Street project will not be completed until Spring 2024.
3. Zoning Secretary Jill Treat is helping Water/Sewer Superintendent Brant Heck with GIS. A system to determine when water lines were installed and what materials were used when installing the lines.
4. Payne resident and Class 3 Water/Sewer Operator Joel Jacob attended the BPA meeting tonight to see if he would be interested in the BPA position that will be vacant on January 1, 2024. Interim Mayor Lyons will follow up with him.

**Good and Welfare:**

1. Interim Mayor Lyons and Council would like to thank Payne Elementary and Divine Mercy Students for creating artwork for the Jolly Jamboree. Also, thank you to Santa for visiting the Village, for the Event Committee volunteers for helping with the event and to the Village businesses for participating and making it a great event.
2. Interim Mayor Lyons and Council would like to thank Mike Treece and Eric Gross for hanging the garland and pole Christmas decorations and to Randy Miller and Brant Heck for helping with the metal trees.
3. Interim Mayor Lyons would like to thank the Councilmembers for distributing blank thank you notes to the Village residents to complete for the Fire/EMS Department. And a big thank you to the residents for completing the thank you cards. Your participating is greatly appreciated.

Councilman Hower made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented by the Fiscal Officer. Councilwoman Specie seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Hower moved to approve the payment of bills presented, Councilwoman Danner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Hower moved to go into Executive Session for personnel and legal matters at 9:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Danner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Zartman moved to return to regular session at 9:23 p.m. Councilwoman Speice seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning to regular session, Interim Mayor Lyons introduced Ordinance 2023-10, an ordinance fixing the compensation, bonds and benefits of officers, clerks and employees of the Village of Payne, Paulding County, Ohio, and repealing Ordinance 2023-8 and all prior ordinances inconsistent herewith, with repect to the same, and declaring an emergency. Councilman Hower made a motion to suspend the rules. Councilwoman Speice seconded and the motion passed unanimously. President of Council, Speice, read Ordinance 2023-10. Councilman Hower made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-10. Councilwoman Speice seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

With no further matters to discuss, Councilwoman Danner made a motion to adjourn, Councilwoman Zartman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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Interim Mayor Lora Lyons Fiscal Officer Rhonda Stabler