

## Minutes of Cedarville Village Council

Held February 13, 2023

Council met in regular session on February 13, 2023 with Mayor Cody presiding. Council members present were Brooks, Combs, Dawes, Jones and Ruth.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 23, 2022 regular meeting were accepted as presented.

Mayor Cody:

- Will fill open Councilmember seat later in meeting
- “Laura Spittler Day” – pronounced by the Mayor on January 28 at Ms. Spittler’s retirement after 30+ years at the Greene County Library in Cedarville.
- The Little Miami Watershed is now 50 years old and a group will provide six (6) signs for the three (3) locations it passes through Cedarville if the Village will install the signs. (‘Yes’).
- The Mayor proposed some change to the previous plans for the Village offices to Council. Council concurs with the changes and the Mayor/Administrator will proceed with plans and cost estimate.
- The Mayor has received requests to open Council meetings with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor would like to do this – using local pastors on a rotating basis – after he confirms the process with the Solicitor.

Police Chief Smith:

- 263 calls in the past three (3) weeks.
- Wednesday, 2/22 will be a “night shoot” practice session for members of the P.D.
- Officer Cody Smith became a dad for the first time.

Village Administrator Porter:

- Business grants – currently processing a grant request from Orion after the building ownership questions have been resolved.
- Sold two (2) vehicles on govdeals.com
- Cedarville University CE students would like to do some water system testing using water from the park. Permission granted.
- Administrator would like to have some soil testing done at the Community Park in preparation for possible construction of a splash pad – or any other development that might be considered there. The cost to do this is \$6,500 and is in the budget.
- Regarding splash pad:
  - What are liability issues?
  - What are the estimated on-going O&M (operations and maintenance) costs?
  - Approved the soil testing – will be needed for any future development whether it is a splash pad or something else.
- Additional opioid settlement funds are available – being provided via grants. Knowing that these funds, if awarded, will likely remain with the County instead of the Village, should the grant be completed. Council would like to apply for the grant – and begin keeping track of the funds designated for the Village that are retained by the County.
- Question: Who is responsible for planning “public events”? When does the Council need to approve?

- If an event is being held at the park but is not a “Village event”, then a courtesy notification to the Council is requested.
- If additional resources (i.e., police officers) are needed or if Village property/assets are to be used, Council needs to approve these events.  
A notice to this effect will be put on the website.
- Property: 42 N. Miller St. is currently owned by the bank. A potential buyer would like to purchase the property and use it as a BNB or a rental property; however, ordinances seem to indicate that providing off-street parking is required. There is no room for this on that property; however, since on-street parking is allowed in this area, is this required.

Answer: Off-street parking is required per current ordinances. There is a need to review Village parking ordinances as some seem to be either unclear or contradictory.

- Landlord registration update:
  - 3 individual are left to register as landlords
  - There are currently 49 non-conforming properties that fall into five (5) general categories:
    - Originally built as a non-conforming property – presumably with permit approval.  
Should these be rezoned?
    - Alterations made without permit
    - Converted without a permit
    - Converted with a permit
    - Most fall under the “family” definition.
- Requests Executive Session regarding legal issues (at end of meeting).

#### *Open Council Seat Interviews*

- Five (5) applications have been received for the open Council seat:
  - Mr. Michael Whitby (not able to be present)
  - Ms. Andrea Canady
  - Mr. Dan Howdyshell
  - Ms. Grace Becknell
  - Ms. Barb Shanahan
- After hearing from each applicant and asking questions as desired:

Mr. Dawes moved and Mr. Brooks seconded to move to Executive Session to discuss / fill the open seat. Motion passed with all ayes.

Mr. Dawes moved and Mr. Brooks seconded to return from Executive Session. Motion passed with all ayes.

Ms. Grace Becknell was elected to fill the open Council seat and was sworn in; voted on all actions outlined below.

The committee members are:

- Community Relations: Mr. Brooks, Mr. Dawes, Ms. Becknell
- Finance & Utility: Mr. Combs, Ms. Jones, Mr. Ruth

Old Business: Will be heard after executive session following the meeting.

New Business:

- Resolution 2023-06: A Resolution of the Council of the Village of Cedarville, Ohio to Amend the Monetary Compensation of the Mayor.

Mr. Dawes moved and Ms. Jones seconded to approve Resolution 2023-06. Motion passed with all ayes. (Note: this Resolution will take effect on January 1, 2024 after the next (Mayoral) election.)

- Ordinance 2023-03: An Ordinance to Amend Sections 137.03(c), (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(3), and (c)(4) of the Codified Ordinances to Remove Specific Powers of the Village Administrator Which Are No Longer Applicable. Ordinance presented for first reading.
- Ordinance 2023-04: An Ordinance to Amend Section 121.02 of the Codified Ordinances to Amend the Monetary Compensation for Council Members. Ordinance presented for first reading.
- Ordinance 2023-05: An Ordinance to Amend Section 149.05 of the Codified Ordinances to Updated Designated Employee Holidays to Agree with Section 12 of the Village of Cedarville Employee Handbook. Ordinances presented for first reading.

Warrants: Warrants in the amount of \$63,564.20 were submitted.

Ms. Jones moved and Mr. Brooks seconded to approve the warrants for payment. Motion passed with all ayes.

Committee Reports:

- Community Relations – To meet February 20.
- Finance/Utility – Discussed pay for Council and Mayor. Invited Dr. David Rich to the next Finance Committee meeting to discuss Village planning.
- Fiscal Officer – Updates:
  - Presented the January Financial Reports
  - All tax filings have been made and W-2 information sent
  - Working on Annual Financial Statements – to be submitted by 2/28
  - RITA – assigned several accounts to the Village for collection
- Solicitor – Excused
- Activities – No report

Comments:

- Guests – None
- Council – None

Mr. Dawes moved and Mr. Ruth seconded to move to Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Action is possible afterward. Motion passed with all ayes.

Mr. Combs moved and Ms. Jones seconded to return from Executive Session. Motion passed with all ayes.

(Old Business from Agenda)

Mr. Brooks moved and Mr. Ruth seconded to rescind action taken at the last meeting to retain the law offices of Robert D. Ross to handle the case involving the pumps at the Sportsman's Lake. Motion passed with all ayes.

Resolution 2023-07: A Resolution of the Council of the Village of Cedarville, Ohio to Retain Special Counsel (for the purpose of determining ownership of pumps and mechanical equipment at Sportsman's Lake). Kristina J. Sims of Sims Law to be retained to represent the Village.

Mr. Dawes moved and Mr. Ruth seconded to approve Resolution 2023-07. Motion passed with all ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.