
Village of Cedarville



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Minutes of Cedarville Council **Held February 26th, 2024**

Council met in regular session on February 26th, 2024, with Mayor John Cody, Jr. presiding. Council members present were Ms. Becknell, Mr. Combs, Mr. Dawes, Mr. Brooks, Ms. Jones, and Mr. Ruth. Fiscal Officer Howdyshell recorded the minutes.

Andy Shroyer from Restoration Church led prayer to start the meeting.

Minutes from the February 12th meeting was approved.

Mayor Cody Started the meeting with discussion on the bridge street property annexation into the village. The property is currently a property residing in the township but borders the village. Cedarville University has requested to annex the property into the village along with most of their other properties.

- Mr. Steve Burnett spoke on behalf of all but one property owners adjoining the property in question. The residents adjoining the property have signed a petition requesting council reject the proposal to annex the Cedarville University property in question. There is no firm commitment from the University as to what they want to do with it, and moving the land from the township to the village may ease the restrictions on future development of the land. There could be potential long-term liabilities brought to the village because of an absence of definitive plans presented by Cedarville University. There is uncertainty as to how annexing the property into the village benefits the village because the University does not pay taxes on the land. Mr. Burnett supported future application when more definitive plans are presented for proper assessment.
- Mr. Nathan Martindale asked if any studies have been done as to whether there are any economic benefits to the village to annex the property. There is uncertainty as to how this annexation would benefit the village.
- Mayor Cody identified that the annexation had already been approved by the council through resolution, along with approval at the county level. A question was asked in the room as to how it helped the village. Solicitor Bogenschutz presented information on a dual method of application that the requestor can submit and that one of those ways is expedited. He identified that the request came through as an expedited request giving the village limited time to respond.
- Mr. Rod Johnson spoke on behalf of Cedarville University identifying that the University simply submitted an application for annexation to the village as in most all of their other properties and that they felt it would benefit the village as a result. He spoke on taxation and a few fiscal benefits that it would bring the village. A member of the community present asked why the university would try to push the annexation through with an expedited request. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bogenschutz both identified that there wasn't a specific attempt on behalf of Cedarville University to expedite the request, that is how the county recorded it and put it through. Mr. Johnson identified that the night of this meeting was the first he had heard there was an expedited request put through, or that there was even an option for that. A couple members of the community addressed disbelief in that notion.

- Mr. Dan Sharrett expressed strong concern that due to the lack of reasons given by the university related to property usage intent, and lack of benefit to the community, that the village should decline the annexation.
- Mr. Garrison asked if anyone had reasons to not carry out the annexation. A couple members of the community identified that until there are plans for the property, it is their obligation to express concerns. Additional individuals also said that they do not wish there to be houses behind their property.
- Mr. Combs discussed his belief that community members would have an increased voice on what the property would become if it were in the village.
- Mayor Cody gave an update that on Wednesday the 28th there will be a meeting in the opera house at 5:15 to discuss restoration opportunities of the opera house.
- Revitalize Cedarville initiative has secured a date for the initial visit. April 10th and 11th.
- We received an email from Waynesville Soccer Association and asked if we could use our soccer fields. A general discussion was held in the room about using the field, who was using it now, etc. The council was generally favorable of the idea but is going to continue to follow up with current stakeholders of Cedarville Soccer Association and what additional property upkeep would be required to carry out if they used it.
- Mayor Cody requested an executive session after the meeting with no actions anticipated.

Police Chief Smith:

- 106 calls between 02/12/2024 and 02/25/2024
- We are fully staffed.

Village Administrator James Kannedy:

- Mr. Kannedy discussed research that he had done on crosswalk installation and presented a few quotes for different options. Cedarville University has contributed some resources to the village for adding a crosswalk close to their gravel lot going north on 72. Mr. Kannedy gave some ideas and Mr. Stephen Ayers also discussed some research and ideas he has seen work in the past regarding crosswalks. There was still some minor indecision on what we will install, however, in the meantime we will begin looking to establishing the paint on the road while we are determining signs or barriers needed at the location of the crosswalk.
- Veterans memorial will move forward with submitting a transfer of guardianship of the cannon to us.
- Mr. Kannedy reached out to a couple of fence and net installation companies for quotes. One of the vendors would be able to do the fence for \$26,800, and a separate company would complete the net installation for \$1,600. Council identified that we may still have a pathway to receive a donation from the county to ease installation cost. Mr. Kannedy will try to identify how much we could potentially receive from the county to assist. The finance committee will continue discussions at their 03/04/24 meeting.
- The neighborhood watch program meeting is 02/27/2024.
- The Milburn road drainage project continues progress.
- Mr. Combs identified an existing memorial in town that we really need to explore either improving the surrounding area or including it in our Veterans memorial. If we cannot do either, or need to move it, we should try to assist in facilitating that well.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Warrants: \$29,607.49 were submitted for approval.

Ms. Ruth moved, and Mr. Dawes seconded to approve the warrants. The motion passed with all ayes.

Committee Reports:

- Community Relations:
 - Did not meet but are starting to put their thoughts on the upcoming Cedarfest.
- Finance/Utilities:
 - Did not meet.
- Fiscal Officer:
 - No update.
- Solicitor:
 - No update.

Comments:

- Council:
 - No update.
- Guests:
 - Mr. Mike Terrell is asking if the village would be willing to contribute towards establishing a middle school softball team for the season by contributing financial support. He is asking for \$1,500 to contribute towards getting the program some equipment, umpires, field lining, etc. He has some additional donors lined up. The donation would assist with bringing the cost of the participation fee down for participants. Mr. Terrell is working on forming a non-profit organization to assist with donations.
 - Mr. Combs asked if there would be any conflict between the village and middle school. Mr. Terrell identified that there would be little to no conflict. Mr. Combs asked if Mr. Terrell could bring his presentation to the finance committee meeting, and he agreed.
 - Mr. Nathan Martindale spoke to concerns with parking on Elm Street. He is asking if council could take note of some unsafe parking activity and try to resolve best for all parties. Mr. Kannedy will be looking for missing signs and replacing them.

Ms. Jones moved to enter executive session and Ms. Becknell seconded. The motion passed with all ayes.

Mr. Combs moved, and Ms. Becknell seconded to leave executive session. The motion passed with all ayes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.