

**The Village of Weston
Council Meeting Minutes
April 05, 2021**

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor, Jeremy Schroeder at 6:00PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call of the present council members was then taken: Mrs. Ashley Patel, Mr. Dean Babcock, Mr. Dave Dewitt, Ms. Diane Hillier, and Mr. Rick Easterwood. *A motion to excuse Mr. Shad Kendall was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously. A motion to approve the March 15, 2021 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

Old Business

All petitions have come in for adopting Brown Lane. Ordinance 2021-3, to accept Brown Lane as a dedicated street received a first reading.

Reports

Mayor: Gary Betz from Ground Solutions will be in attendance for reservoir discussion at tomorrow's Streets meeting.

Fiscal Officer/Administrative: Income tax filing deadline has been extended to May 17th. Ms. Hillier had asked why we are only reconciled until January and if Cheryl needs more work days to be caught up. Mayor will talk with Cheryl to see what her comfort level is for getting work done.

Administrator/Maintenance: Palmer plans to start demo work on Wednesday. Mr. Easterwood had asked about the status of the road paving, POs have been made out and the contractor has been informed.

Zoning Inspector: Letters are being sent out for a property on Milton Street for a trailer full of trash and 20542 Elm. Mr. Junk seems to be accumulating junk again, Mr. Taylor had asked if we needed to keep sending letters out since letters did go out last year. Letters need to be sent until the property is deemed a nuisance by council. Paul Skaff shared that the owner can be held liable due to allowing the nuisance, Mr. Taylor shared that the owner typically doesn't know there is a problem until the Village reaches out. The owner lives in Haskins and does not keep contact with the tenant. Ms. Hillier asked what the difference is between the property on Walnut and Mr. Junk, Walnut Street property has junk in the backyard. Mr. Taylor shared that the difference is visibility, Mr. Junk can be seen from all directions, Mr. Taylor will have a letter sent to Walnut Street property and also shared that it would be helpful if any of the neighboring properties spoke up.

Committee Reports

Business: Notes for the Business meeting were not submitted, will get them on record at the next council meeting. Discussed the blessing box, Mrs. Patel was given direction and funding could be done through the Suburban Natural gas grant. Mayor recommended doing a split box, half would be books and half would be food. Discussed ideas about Main Street appearance. 7x energy has reached out and wants to give back to the community once the solar program starts up, it would be a yearly grant opportunity. The idea of the 7x energy grant could be used toward downtown business incentives such as paint and fixing up buildings. Discussed the possibility of a tax abatement program for improvements, the scope for commercial properties needs more research and to possibly include residential. When doing a tax abatement the Village is not the only party involved, it would have to include the school district and county in the decision.

Safety: Kathy stated that they are moving forward on the drug license. As of the meeting there were 69 runs. Jeremy W. has dropped out of the class and the other two individuals are on track and will be needing the required shots for the class. Kathy will be getting with Cheryl for PO direction. The power cot was installed and there was an issue with the other cot that was fixed by the installer. Looking into possible CPR classes for the community and Kathy will be getting with Jamie for possible dates. Mayor and Kathy plan to meet to go over incentive and retention. Tim is working on getting items around that need sold on GovDeals. There was discussion on refused runs and decided that is the price of doing service. There were runs that didn't get billed but paid EMS personnel. No transport (AMA), stand by status like fire calls, welfare checks and police assistance are the types of calls that are just the cost of service that EMS needs to provide. The Fire Department is moving forward on an I.T. base system and EMS will be required to purchase their own IP phone, which costs around \$250, and the fax line is about \$15 (unsure if it is per month or year). The service will be provided through Panda Technology.

Finance: Meeting was held to discuss new building, levy, splash pad, and bathrooms. Suggestion was to remodel current Village hall, do not want to risk having another empty building on Main Street and to separate splash pad and new building completely from a levy. Strategy as Finance committee is to see additional revenue, possible 3mil operating levy for Spring 2022 ballot. Idea is to use the revenue to split 1/3 Infrastructure, 1/3 Parks, and 1/3 Administrative. Need to keep up with inflation and levy would not be specific to just one project, gas tax is tied to only the street fund. Mayor shared wording and millage for general fund levies from other entities, and 90% passed. Want to hear what ideas/projects everyone on council and citizens have in mind. Would like to schedule a public hearing which will be to hear project ideas and let citizens know what their taxes go toward, and the cost of projects and information such as the county dumping bridges on municipalities. Public hearing would be virtual with live feed (possibly on Facebook) and ideas/concerns can be submitted prior. Invitation to public

hearing would be an info sheet about levy, project ideas/costs, etc with a live meeting link. Also want to share with voters how long it has been since the village has asked for additional funds. Discussed putting together a survey of concerns with a list of our ideas/goals, etc through Google Forms or SurveyMonkey. Advertise the public hearing via our Parks & Rec Facebook page and the library's Facebook page also. Possible July virtual public hearing, Clerk will look up how to have a live interactive meeting through Google Meets or Zoom with Facebook Live or Youtube. Work on putting together a survey and info sheet.

Mayor shared he will be working with the Clerk to put together marketing to be transparent with the community and answer all the questions we can. The majority of council would have to be on board to put a levy on. The original timeline was the November ballot but the new plan is to aim for the Spring 2022 ballot. Want to hear input from council. Not having the fire department freed up some money, gas tax is for street fund. Coronavirus - American Rescue Plan money will be coming. Idea is a 3mil levy which would bring about \$45,000 to maintain projects.

Cemetery: Steps on the south side of D extension will hopefully be done within the next week. The gate has a broken hinge that needs fixed. Jodie has not heard from Rutter & Dudley, thinks we may have been forgotten. The deed situation is fixed. The Henry family wants to plant an ornamental bush/tree on an empty plot and the board said no. The gas nozzle was leaking and there were no kits available so Tom had to buy a new one. 2 burials. Jodie will be on vacation 4/9 to 4/18 and also on May 6th so the meeting has been moved to May 13th.

Upcoming Meetings: Streets 4/6 @6PM, Finance 4/12 @5PM, Rec Board 4/14 @6:30PM, Variance (2 Hearings) 4/29 @6PM, Cemetery 5/13 at 6PM

New Business

Resolution 2021-2, approving acceptance of UAN computer received a first reading.

Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed bills paid and warrants to be issued dated 03/16/2021 to 04/05/2021 totalling \$43,395.86 and an invoice for the \$150 renewal for Sedgwick. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Dewitt, seconded by Ms. Hillier; Approved unanimously.

Citizens and Visitors

Keith Leady, Virtual: Paul Skaff (Village Solicitor)

Keith Leady was in attendance and shared that his building where the sister in law lives is allowing the contractor to use their water for the saw cutting, she is worried about the cost of the water. Council suggested to read the meter before and after and if the bill comes in high the council could work something out with the bill. Mr. Leady has talked to the contractor about the details of the work being done for the demolition and plans to take pictures and possible video.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41PM.

Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor

Stephanie Monts, Clerk