

VILLAGE OF GRATIS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 2023

The Village of Gratis Ohio regular Council meeting occurred on October 12, 2023 at the Village office at 404 Harrison Street. The meeting was opened by Mayor Frank Davis with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor, Frank Davis, Kathy Lewis, Shelley Dougherty, Mike Vance, Ryan Poynter, John Million, Jessica Holton, Solicitor

Motion to excuse the absence of David Johnston.

Motion by: Mike Vance

Second by: Ryan Poynter

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Motion to approve the September 28, 2023 regular council minutes.

The date should be the 28th, not 14th on the copy of the minutes

Motion by: Kathy Lewis

Second by: Ryan Poynter

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Department Reports:

Finance

Kathy: This ordinance has to do with the EMS grant money that we haven't received yet. We are having to do some supplemental appropriations for payroll.

Motion to approve 1st reading of Ordinance #2023-07, an ordinance authorizing and approving supplemental appropriations for the year 2023.

Motion by: Kathy Lewis

Second by: Ryan Poynter

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Motion to waive the 3-reading rule.

Motion by: Ryan Poynter

Second by: Kathy Lewis

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Motion to adopt Ordinance #2023-7.

Motion by: Mike Vance

Second by: Kathy Lewis

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Motion to approve payment of the bills.

Motion by: Shelley Dougherty

Second by: Mike Vance

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Motion to approve the purchase orders.

Motion by: Kathy Lewis

Second by: Ryan Poynter

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

EMS Department

Joan Vance: The only thing for tonight is the run report.

Fire Department

Patrick Caplinger: We are having issues with our gear washer. One of the valves has gone bad.

Motion to approve up to \$400 to repair the gear washer.

Motion by: Ryan Poynter

Second by: Shelley Dougherty

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Patrick: We had Fire Prevention this last Sunday and had 150-175 people that came out.

Police Department

Chief Schlub: I would like to express my gratitude to the Fire Department and the EMS for their mutual aid on a couple of calls. They worked well with our Officers and helped the Village out with the traffic. I believe a good job should be acknowledged.

Utility & Street Departments

Julie Roe: You have the Utility Report for the month of September.

Motion to approve the Utility Report for the month of September 2023.

Motion by: Mike Vance

Second by: John Million

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, abs – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Julie: I talked with Chief Schlub last week about getting rid of mailbox #612. I believe there were two keys issued. I have the Police Departments but am wondering if Jeff King has one. Patrick, can you get it back because they will probably charge us for it.

I also received this paper from ODOT saying that they are missing a probe date in AssetWise for the Geeding Street over Sams Creek project.

Darren: I will take it back to my office and see if I can find out who sent it.

Motion to approve 3rd reading of Ordinance #2023-04, an ordinance to increase water and sewer rates 5% per year for five (5) years effective January 1, 2024.

Motion by: Kathy Lewis

Second by: John Million

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Motion to adopt Ordinance #2023-04.

Motion by: Mike Vance

Second by: Kathy Lewis

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Motion to approve Securitas Technology quote in the amount of \$4,000 to install an alarm system at the Brubaker Pump Station.

Motion by: Mike Vance

Second by: Kathy Lewis

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

Mike: We are going to get a tornado siren. The County Commissioners' will be paying for it. It might be spring. We are waiting on some paperwork. We will be putting it in the new park.

The water line has been installed on Ada Doty. We are waiting on samples so that they can start tying them in.

Public Participation

Darren, Mote:

I have a payment application for the Ada Doty Storm project. The only reason for is because OPWC covers only the storm portion. We can't mix it in with the water. It is for \$29,992.46.

As Mike mentioned we are just waiting on samples before tying into existing water lines. It will require a boil advisory in small areas. The storm is pretty much done at this point. Everything should be done by the end of this month.

ODOT may make it in before the end of this year to pave through town. If they don't, it will be the spring.

Council Discussion

Shelley: I was just wondering why we can't get the millings from the black top? We could really use it for the alleys.

Mayor: I already talked to them. They said that every truck is weighed when it is hauled in and dumped.

Kathy: I ordered some pumpkin decorations for the pots. I also think we have some other decorations at the Coleman Park. Elizabeth Highley said she saw them there before. We need to get Tyler to see if they are still up there. We can put them in the pots.

Jessica: We have a pretrial tomorrow morning. Kathy and I were ready to go to trial on August 31st, but Sullivan's did not show up. We had warrants issued for them. They were picked up. They now each have an attorney.

Chief Schlub: I'm about to tow two cars there in front of Fields' house, on the street. I have been trying to make contact with him. He is hiding. I suspect another bench warrant will be issued.

Kathy: Jessica, can you look into an option for us to clean up the property and assess the taxes?

Mayor: The camera guys came today and installed cameras at the Plant. I asked that they not install a camera in Venida's office. We need a camera at the park. We can put that camera on the pole that our electric is on. Betty at the Marathon said that we could use their wi-fi. The camera should get just about everything close enough that we can find out what is going on.

I met with Johnny down at the park today. He is going to talk to Jeremy Combs about doing some extra work for us. Tomorrow we are going to get the trees trimmed down at the Plant so that we can see with the cameras we have down there.

Tomorrow Betty is going to let us use her water at the Marathon to spray wash the big rock that we have sitting down there. We are going to let it dry out, put a stone sealant on it and then put a plaque on it. We said that we would honor Longworth's dad in some way. He has done some work for us. His dad was a basketball player.

Motion to adjourn at 7:04 p.m.

Motion by: Shelley Dougherty

Second by: Mike Vance

Roll Call: Kathy Lewis, yes – Shelley Dougherty, yes – Mike Vance, yes – Ryan Poynter, yes – John Million, yes. Motion Passed.

