

**VILLAGE OF GRATIS**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 9, 2023**

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The Village of Gratis Ohio regular Council meeting occurred November 9, 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, Ryan Poynter, David Johnston, John Million, Mike Vance, Shelley Dougherty.

**Business:**

**Motion to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2023 regular council meeting.**

Motion by: David Johnston

Second by: John Million

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

**Motion to approve the minutes from the October 31, 2023 special council meeting.**

Motion by: John Million

Second by: Kathy Lewis

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

**Public Participation:**

**Robin Richardson/Cathy Wiggington**

We are here on behalf of the Gratis Events Committee to present the Village with a check from the car show in the amount of \$1,000 to be used towards the Bicentennial Park.

**Darren – Mote**

I'm here to go over the outlet project for Ada Doty. Change order #2 for the project, for the 6" line at the north end and then we had the valve down at the intersection, Ada Doty/North Street. There were deducts as well. The total amount of the change order was \$23,491.16. Next is pay application #4, which finishes up the project. The amount due for this application is

\$224,747.11. I also have pay application #5 which is re-pavement for the project that's \$41,108.67. I have the Certificate of Substantial Completion, which is when your 1-year warranty starts which is October 25, 2023. That will leave about \$1,056.00 approximately.

## **Department Reports**

### **Finance Department**

#### **Motion to approve the September 2023 financial reports and bank reconciliation.**

Motion by: Kathy Lewis

Second by: Ryan Poynter

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

#### **Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance #2023-09 an ordinance requesting an amendment to the certificate of estimated resources and permanent appropriations for year 2023.**

Motion by: Kathy Lewis

Second by: David Johnston

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

#### **Motion to waive 3-reading rule.**

Motion by: Mike Vance

Second by: Shelley Dougherty

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

#### **Motion to adopt Ordinance #2023-09.**

Motion by: Ryan Poynter

Second by: Kathy Lewis

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

**Motion to approve 2024 annual dues payment to Ohio Municipal League (OML) in the amount of \$365.00**

Motion by: Ryan Poynter

Second by: Kathy Lewis

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

**Motion to approve payment of the bills.**

Motion by: Mike Vance

Second by: David Johnston

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

**Motion to approve the purchase orders.**

Motion by: John Million

Second by: Shelley Dougherty

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

**EMS Department**

Joan:

**Motion to approve the September 2023 billing report.**

Motion by: David Johnston

Second by: John Million

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

**Motion to approve receipt of the \$20,000 Ohio ARPA Ambulance Transportation Program Grant 2023 for EMS bonuses for year 2022.**

Motion by: Ryan Poynter

Second by: Shelley Dougherty

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

**Motion to approve the hiring of Noro Fogt at \$20 per run for EMS Driver effective 11/9.**

Motion by: Ryan Poynter

Second by: Shelley Dougherty

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

**Fire Department**

Patrick:

**Motion to approve up to \$75 for brush truck maintenance.**

Motion by: David Johnston

Second by: Mike Vance

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

**Motion to approve the hiring of Brian Smithson to the Gratis Fire Department.**

Motion by: Mike Vance

Second by: Shelley Dougherty

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

**Motion to approve the hiring of Cody Randlett to the Gratis Fire Department.**

Motion by: Ryan Poynter

Second by: Shelley Dougherty

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

**Motion to approve hiring of Nora Fogt to the Gratis Fire Department.**

Motion by: Shelley Dougherty

Second by: Mike Vance

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

**Motion to declare excess a 2009 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN 2FAHP71V09X144119 and place it on GovDeals at a minimum bid of \$500.**

Motion by: David Johnston

Second by: Mike Vance

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

A joint Fire Department vehicle has been found.

### **Police Department**

Chief Schlub: The horse on Indian Hill is moving along. The two junk vehicles that are out in front of David Fields' house has been towed. I don't have any current citations yet, but we will. He isn't going anywhere. There is a warrant out for his arrest and he is currently in the hospital. He signed himself out yesterday and then camped out in one of those abandoned trucks for half a day until someone heard him banging on the door of his truck so that they could help him into the house.

Also, I received Hailey Ellis' resignation.

**Motion to accept the resignation of Hailey Ellis from the police department effective September 28, 2023.**

Motion by: Kathy Lewis

Second by: John Million

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

**Motion to hire Loren Donathan as a part time police department patrolman effective November 9, 2023 at \$10.10 per hour.**

Motion by: Ryan Poynter

Second by: Mike Vance

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

**Motion to hire Tonina Lamanna as a part time police department patrolman effective November 9, 2023 at \$10.10 per hour.**

Motion by: Kathy Lewis

Second by: Ryan Poynter

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

**Utility & Streets Department**

**Motion to approve Lower 48 quote in the amount of \$1,124.50 for a new outfall graph for the Enterprise Road Water/Sewer plant.**

Motion by: David Johnston

Second by: Mike Vance

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

**Motion to approve \$1,004 to Municipal Impact by Ohio Rural Water for building our website. The annual rate is \$606.**

Motion by: David Johnston

Second by: Ryan Poynter

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

**Motion to accept the resignation of Julie Roe from the Village Administrator job.**

Motion by: Ryan Poynter

Second by: Mike Vance

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

**Motion to hire Gary Thompson as Village Administrator effect. 11/9/23 at a rate of \$1000 per month.**

Motion by: Mike Vance

Second by: John Million

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

**Motion to approve an additional \$100 to Joe’s Tree Trimming.**

Motion by: Ryan Poynter

Second by: Mike Vance

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

Mike: We had to take the monitor out of the backroom and use for the cameras, so we need a new monitor.

**Motion to approve the purchase of a 24” monitor for \$89.97.**

Motion by: David Johnston

Second by: Mike Vance

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

Contract discussions being brought up regarding Gary Wagner and Jonathon Moore’s contracts being due.

**Committee Reports**

Kathy: I talked to Wooley Fencing and they have agreed to donate time and labor to install the black vinyl chain link fence around the park.

The work that needs to be done is the handicap accessible walkway from parking lot at the shelter house to the gate on St. Rt. 503 including a walkway to the playground area and the flagpole area. The concrete bench pads for the flagpole area, playground and basketball court need to be poured. We have landscaping that needs to be done and a message board added.

(conversations about location of bench pads and quantity).

**Council Discussion**

David: When will we be doing reviews for Tyler and Jeff?

Mayor: Not yet. We will have to sit down and discuss that.

Shelley: Thanks to Justin Newkirk for putting up a missing sign at 725 and 122. Also, our next meeting falls on Thanksgiving.

Mayor: We can have a special meeting before Thanksgiving.

**Motion to adjourn our meeting at 7:43 p.m.**

Motion by: Shelley Dougherty

Second by: Mike Vance

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