

MIDDLEPORT VILLAGE COUNCIL

JANUARY 9,

2023

Middleport Village Council met in regular session on January 9th in council chambers. Mayor Fred Hoffman presided. Council members present were Matt Lyons, Ben Reed, Brian Conde, Penny Burge, Tyler Andrews and Larry Byer. Also present were Solicitor Rick Hedges, Village Administrators Joe Powell & Andy Blank, Police Chief/Jail Administrator Mony Wood and Code Enforcement Officer Jimmy Spears.

The mayor introduced Tyler Andrews as his appointee to the vacant council seat left by Shawn Arnott's resignation.

Byer made a motion to appoint Brian Conde as Council President for 2023. Burge seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes to approve. Conde voted no.

Byer made a motion to appoint Richard Hedges as Village Solicitor for 2023. Lyons seconded and council approved with 6 yes votes.

Lyons made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting and Conde seconded. Council voted with 6 yes votes to approve.

Reed made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$5,566.10. Conde seconded and council approved with 6 yes votes.

Andrews made a motion to approve the Finance Report and Reed seconded. Council voted with 6 yes votes to approve. The report included a list of bills to pay, Fund Status, Bank rec for December, Cleared Adjustments from Dec bank rec, Payment and Receipt listings for December, Fund Summary and a proposed Permanent Appropriation Resolution.

Conde made a motion to accept the Income Tax Report for 2022 and Byer seconded. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Conde made a motion to accept the Court report for Dec 2022 and Lyons seconded. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Reed made a motion to purchase a ½ page ad in the 2023 Meigs County Tourism book and Lyons seconded. The ad will cost \$415.00. Council voted unanimously to approve.

The mayor told council he was recommending a \$6,000 per year wage increase for the Police Chief so that his salary would be at the same level as the Village Administrator. Council tabled the matter for now.

The mayor said that he believed the fireworks should be launched in a different area than the last few years. Conde said that he felt the village should discuss with Pomeroy and Mason combining resources for the fireworks. He said each community could have their own parades and/or events but all fundraising for fireworks could be combined. The other council members agreed to this and Conde said he would contact Pomeroy and Mason to set up a meeting to discuss this.

The mayor said that the firehouse big doors are in bad shape and he thought that we should use ARPA money and General Fund money to replace them at a cost of approximately \$45,000 to \$55,000.00. No decision was made on this.

The mayor said that he and Fire Chief Darst think it would be good to hire a professional to apply for an AFG grant to purchase a fire truck. He said the cost could be \$5,000.00 to hire the professional with no guarantee of success. He said the grant is very competitive and the application is due on Feb 10th. The grant would require a 5% match also. Council asked that the Fire Chief attend the next meeting to discuss this.

The mayor said he recommended placing a 1 mill Fire Protection levy on the ballot.

The mayor introduced our contracted Code Enforcement Officer Jimmy Spears to council. Spears said he has been working on several issues in the village and with getting 4 properties cleaned up.

Police Chief Wood asked council to approve payment of \$7,351.98 for body armor. He said the department has been awarded a grant for this amount so we would be reimbursed after showing proof of the payment. The total cost of the body armor is \$9,929.98 and he is paying the difference using Law Enforcement Trust funds. Conde made a motion to approve the payment and Andrews seconded. Council voted with 6 yes votes to approve.

Wood said that Officer Harrison will be training to be a firearms instructor and Officer Snoke will train to be a taser instructor.

Wood recommended increasing our jail rate to \$68.00 per day for a regular contract, \$64.00 per day for a 8 reserved bed contract, \$65.00 per day for a 4 reserved bed contract and \$72.00 per day for agencies with no contract. Lyons made a motion to approve these rates and Byer seconded. Council approved with 6 yes votes. Conde made a motion to increase the booking fee to \$25.00 and Byer seconded. Council approved with 6 yes votes.

The mayor read a letter of resignation from council from Penny Burge effective January 10, 2023. With regret, made a motion to accept the resignation and Lyons seconded. Council accepted unanimously.

The mayor appointed the following Committees of Council for 2023:

FINANCE: Ben Reed, Chairperson; Matt Lyons, Brian Conde

STREETS: Brian Conde, Chairperson; Larry Byer, Ben Reed

SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS: Brian Conde, Chairperson; Matt Lyons, Larry Byer

INSURANCE: Matt Lyons, Chairperson; Tyler Andrews, Penny Burge

RECREATION: Brian Conde, Chairperson; Ben Reed, Matt Lyons, Dave Boyd

ORDINANCE: Tyler Andrews, Chairperson; Larry Byer, Penny Burge

HUMAN RESOURCES: Larry Byer, Chairperson; Tyler Andrews, Penny Burge

UTILITIES (WATER, SEWER, REFUSE): Larry Byer, Chairperson; Ben Reed, Matt Lyons

LOCAL BUSINESS PLANNING: Larry Byer, Chairperson; Ben Reed, Matt Lyons

RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS: Tyler Andrews, Chairperson; Penny Burge, Matt Lyons

CEMETERY: Larry Byer, Chairperson; Matt Lyons, Brian Conde

Joe Powell asked the Utilities Committee to meet to discuss the needed increases in trash fees and water rates. The committee will meet on January 17 at 6pm.

Conde suggested appropriating ARPA funding for Recreation. The mayor disagreed with this and the matter was tabled. Finance Committee will meet at 6pm before the next council meeting to discuss appropriations.

Conde made a motion to enter into agreement with Debbie Wells for custodial services at \$600 to be paid monthly for cleaning of all areas of Village Hall. Reed seconded and council voted with 6 yes vote to approve.

Conde made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss employee compensation and Andrews seconded. Council approved with 6 yes votes.

Council returned to Regular Session and no action was taken on the matter.

Conde said the ADA playground area was now completed with improvements to the foundation of the swing area. He said the only thing left to do was to spread mulch and add a 15ft concrete sidewalk.

Lyons made a motion to adjourn.