

## **Village of Ashton Board Meeting – April 11, 2022**

Village President Tim Henert called to order 7:00p.m.

Present: Steve Garrison, Susan Larson, Chuck Ellis, Rhonda Cardot, David Chapman (late: 7:01), Tim Henert, Village Clerk Katie Koks, Village Attorney Russ Crull; Absent: Martha Holder

*Motion to approve March Meeting minutes as presented* – Larson; Second – Ellis

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

*Motion to approve March 29, 2022 Special Meeting minutes as presented* – Larson; Second – Garrison

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed

*Motion to accept financial statement as presented and to pay monthly bills and additional bills list* – Cardot; Second - Larson.

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed

**Public Comment** - None

### **Old Business:**

With regard to Non-Home Rule Video Gaming, Henert's recommendation is to waive the \$25 fee due to COVID struggles and inflation issues from the last two years. Crull said if no changes are made, the ordinance would stay as is. Larson said that she would like to see the ordinance updated in a good amount of time- ideally this fall. Garrison said that he was fine with waiving the fee for this year if the board works with the business owners to help them budget and plan for next year. Henert confirmed with Lirim Mimini who was in attendance in the audience that the businesses budget for a calendar year January – December. Crull mentioned that the other communities he covers are all over the board with updates and are including in their ordinances that the annual fee would be split between the terminal operator and the vendor. The fees and update to the Village of Ashton's Video Gaming Ordinance will be revisited in September or October.

*Motion to waive the annual Video Gaming fee per machine for this fiscal year* – Garrison; Ellis – Second

Roll Call Vote: Cardot – Aye, Chapman-Aye, Ellis – Aye, Larson –Aye, Garrison – Aye. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent – Holder. Motion passed.

### **New Business**

Henert read a proclamation recognizing May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as "Teacher Appreciation Week".

### **Zoning**

Manheim reported that he's starting to get a few letters out for yards. Most of time he's answering questions about permits and projects. Chapman asked Manheim if we were focusing on just yards and if that would include heaps of scrap metal and junk. Chapman said he is seeing lots of piles of "stuff". Henert mentioned that three years ago there was a blight ordinance passed that is being implemented, although it is a constant battle. Manheim said he expected the letter distribution for ordinance violations will pick up in May.

### **Community Economic Development**

Garrison reported that over the last month he and Koks had met with several vendors to update the website. Garrison's recommendation is Stahr Media in Rock Falls based out of Rock Falls because they had all the features we needed, there is room for growth, and they are within our budget. Koks added that there was also the opportunity for logo creation and rebranding through Stahr. Kolton Morgan added he has also worked with Stahr and had a good experience.

*Motion to hire Stahr Media as the new vendor to develop the Village website* – Garrison, Second – Chapman

Roll Call Vote: Chapman-Aye, Ellis-Aye, Larson-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Cardot-Aye. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent-Holder. Motion passed.

### **Streets & Alleys**

Ellis asked if the Village was responsible for sidewalks that had been ripped up by a plumber. Henert said no, that the Village would generally pay for 50% of the sidewalk repair. Spots on Rt. 38 and N. Third St. were specified as problem spots. Garrison asked if it was feasible to extend the sidewalk to the ball fields. Henert said that would fall

under the School District responsibility to extend the sidewalk in that area. Henert asked Ellis to put together a Streets and Alleys meeting before the next board meeting to make a plan to submit to the Blum Grant. Chapman asked Ellis and Henert if he would be able to volunteer time and/or materials for filling pot holes. He also brought up installing speed bumps on Richardson. Ellis and Chapman said there would not be any damage to the road due to the installation of the bumps. Larson said that there are also issues with speed on Western by the school. Henert said that there could be further discussion at the Streets and Alleys Committee meeting to go over speed bump placement and problem speed areas.

**Water & Sewer** - Nothing new

**Parks**

Henert reported that parks clean-up has been cancelled twice due to the area being too wet. They will try to reschedule soon. The next parks meeting is April 26<sup>th</sup>. The Easter Egg hunt is Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>. Hot dogs, chips and water will be provided.

**Liquor Commissioner**

Henert is approving liquor licenses for all applications except Casey's until they complete the updated application and provide the Liability Insurance certificate. Henert has yet to hear back from Casey's, despite putting in several calls.

**Police Report**

Morgan reported that he is getting acclimated to the Chief position and has a new Hire – Kyle Rankin. He anticipates another possible new hire soon. He addressed the boards concerns for speeding in town and said that he has an open door policy. He encouraged board members that have questions or concerns to give him a call.

**Clerk's Report**

Golf Cart Stickers are ready to distribute. Residents that need next year's stickers should come to the office and bring their updated insurance card and a valid driver's license. Koks also reported that the street crew is almost ready to begin water meter installation and letters are being drafted for residents. Lastly, water bills went out April 1<sup>st</sup>. Koks put out an announcement that if for some reason, residents did not receive a bill on April 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> to call the office to have it reprinted. The due date for payment is April 20<sup>th</sup>. Late fees will be applied on April 21<sup>st</sup> as the board voted in March to remove the 10 day grace period before penalties are applied.

**Cemetery Board**

Henert reported that the weather has been holding up clean-up at the cemetery. Dena McCoy would like to get in and start mowing later this week.

**Mills & Petrie Board** – Nothing new

**Village Attorney**

Crull will check in on progress on 804 and 806 Main St. He's also working on some items related to the new development.

**Other** – Nothing

*Motion to Adjourn- Larson; Second-Cardot*

Voice Vote: 5-Ayes, 0-Nays – 1 Absent - Motion Passed

The meeting adjourned at 7:46pm

Submitted by Katie Koks, Ashton Village Clerk