

## VILLAGE OF CASTALIA

### MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2023

**Minutes were taken from audio tape.**

The Council of the Village of Castalia met in Regular Session on May 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall at 126 Main Street, Castalia, Ohio. The meeting was called to order followed by Roll Call with the following in attendance: Mayor Jim Johnson, President Pro Tem Barb Weyer, Jake Smith, Si Nicholson, Georgia Artrip, and Counsel Randy Strickler. Fiscal Officer Kathy Niehm was ill and unable to attend.

**Mrs. Artrip made a motion to excuse Fiscal Officer Kathy Niehm. Mr. Nicholson Seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

**Mrs. Artrip made a motion to Approve the Minutes of April 25, 2023. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

**Mrs. Artrip made a motion to approve the Finance Report, Dated May 4, 2023. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous.**

**Mr. Smith made a motion to Approve the Pay Warrants, Dated April 22, 2023 to May 4, 2023. Mrs. Weyer seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

**Mrs. Artrip made a motion to Approve the Receipts, Dated April 22, 2023 to May 4, 2023. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous.**

Mr. Johnson stated the bids were opened on May 4, 2023 for the Adams and Lester Street project. Kleinfelder suggested as the Council's representative the best and lowest bid received was by Gerken Paving for \$278,998.30. **Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the bid from Gerken Paving for \$278,998.30 for the Adams and Lester Street Paving Project. Mrs. Weyer seconded the vote. Roll Call: Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Weyer, yes; Mr. Nicholson, yes; Mrs. Artrip, yes. Motion Carried.** Mr. Johnson stated he would notify Kleinfelder.

Zoning Inspector Tom Johnson gave his report to Council. (The audio on the tape was very hard to hear). Mr. Johnson gave purchasing information to Mrs. Weyer regarding purchasing barrels for the Village.

Mr. Johnson informed Council that he spoke to 7L and Erie Blacktop about their proposals for Lucas and Pheil Lane.

Mr. Johnson stated Josh Hula and his crew did an excellent job on the new sidewalk downtown across from Village Hall. The estimate from Mr. Hula did not include the painting of parking spaces.

Council had received an estimate for \$8,192 from Oglesby. Council felt the estimate was very high and Mr. Tom Johnson agreed the cost was very high. Mr. Johnson stated his company has a stripper and can do the painting of parking spaces and paint the top and bottom of steps in reflective paint for half of the price. His company has all of the necessary machinery and the Village has the paint needed. **Mrs. Weyer made a Motion to Hire Mowing and More to Paint Parking Spaces and Top and Bottom of Steps for a Cost Not to Exceed 50% of the Present Bid of \$8,192. Mrs. Artrip seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous.** Mr. Johnson will contact Oglesby and state the Council is not interested.

Mrs. Weyer mentioned the issue of installing railings on the new steps. Mr. Tom Johnson stated Mr. Alan Strouse verbally told him he would like to donate the materials and labor and time for the railings. **Mr. Nicholson made a motion to Accept the Donation of Materials, Time and Labor for the New Railings on the Steps Across from Village Hall. Mrs. Artrip seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous.** Mrs. Weyer stated Kathy should send a thank you letter after the project is completed.

Mayor Johnson did not receive a call back from Jeremy Blakley regarding drainage issues. Randy Whyde stated there is a sink hole by the pond.

There was a discussion on the spraying of the tail race. Mayor Johnson stated there was a proposal of \$2,550 from RW. **Mrs. Weyer made a motion to Approve the Proposal from RW for Treatment of Water Cress in the Tail Race and Also Not to Exceed 10 Hours of Raking and Removal of Water Cress. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous.**

Council Attorney Randy Strickler read the first reading of **An Ordinance Amending the Salary Arrangement for the Members of the Council and the Mayor of the Village of Castalia, Ohio, and Repealing and Replacing Any and All Ordinances and/or Resolutions Inconsistent Herewith.** The second reading will be at the next Council meeting on May 23, 2023.

There was a discussion on utility aggregation and that the Village is currently not in a program for gas and electric. Mr. Strickler stated Council should vote on it in June or July so it can be on the ballot in November. Ms. Amy Hoffman of Palmer Energy will speak to Council at the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson stated he was thrilled with the outstanding job Council has been doing for the Village of Castalia. Mr. Johnson stated he will be out of the country starting May 26 and will return in June from vacation. Mr. Johnson stated he distributed the traffic counts to Council and stated Council can discuss with Sheriff Sigsworth when he attends the next Council meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mrs. Weyer stated Shannon from Cold Creek Coffee wished to thank Mr. Hula and Council for doing such a great job on the new steps. Mrs. Weyer stated the new printer has been ordered and Ms. Niehm will arrange when she can be at the office for the installation. Mrs. Weyer further stated the new Council member emails are on the website. Mrs. Weyer stated she has noticed as it has been the beginning of grass cutting season that there are numerous residents blowing the grass clippings in the roadways which is a safety hazard. It was discussed if Council has an ordinance against blowing grass in to the roadways the Sheriff would need to enforce it. Mrs. Weyer also stated there are kids playing basketball with the basketball hoops in the roadway and it being a safety hazard. Mrs. Weyer stated she has not seen people parking in front of the church on Main Street anymore.

Mr. Smith suggested in the Fall sending the newsletter by email. Mr. Smith stated there could be a survey on the Village Newsletter to see if there would be interest in having the newsletter sent to residents' email.

Mr. Smith stated Council has received one letter of interest for obtaining a seat on Council, the letter was from Joseph Greer. Council asked Mr. Greer to introduce himself. Mr. Strickler asked Mr. Greer if he was a registered voter. Mr. Greer stated he would call the Board of Elections. Mrs. Weyer stated a person also needs to be a resident for 30 days.

Mrs. Artrip asked if Ohio Edison has installed new signage. Mr. Johnson stated there were new signs.

Mr. Nicholson stated Greg Cook is on vacation for 2 weeks and he will contact him again about an estimate for the repair on the picnic shelter and the bleachers in the park. Mr. Nicholson also stated he received an estimate from All Season Tree Service for \$1,850.00 for the removal of 16 tree stumps in Meyer Park. **Mrs. Artrip made a motion to accept the estimate of \$1,850 for the removal of 16 tree stumps in Meyer Park. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous.**

There was a discussion on the trailer that there were no bids received when the trailer was advertised in the newspaper. **Mrs. Artrip made a motion to scrap the trailer and take to the scrap yard. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous.**

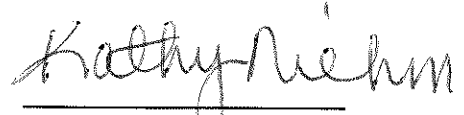
**Mrs. Artrip made a motion to exit the Regular Session and enter into the Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation per ORC Code# 121.2G. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Artrip, yes; Mr. Nicholson, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Weyer, yes. Motion Carried and Council entered Executive Session at 8:34 p.m.**

**Mr. Smith made a motion to Exit Executive Session and Return to Regular Session at 8:52 p.m. Mrs. Nicholson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Nicholson, yes; Mrs. Artrip, yes; Mrs. Weyer, yes.**

With no further business to come before Council, Mrs. Artrip made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.



**James Johnson**  
Mayor



**Kathy Niehm**  
Fiscal Officer