

VILLAGE OF CASTALIA

MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2024

The Council of the Village of Castalia met in Regular Session on February 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall located at 126 Main Street, Castalia, Ohio. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Johnson followed by the Roll Call with the following in attendance: Mayor Jim Johnson, Barb Weyer, Jake Smith, Cindy Crawford, Si Nicholson, Georgia Artrip, and Fiscal Officer Kathy Niehm.

Mayor Johnson introduced Erie County Sheriff Paul Sigsworth. Sheriff Sigsworth stated his views on the ODOT Resurfacing Main Street and South Washington Street in the Village of Castalia. Sheriff Sigsworth stated he is concerned for the safety of the intersection of Main Street regarding the traffic light on Main Street. Sheriff Sigsworth stated there is safety grant money available from the State of Ohio that the Village can apply for. Sheriff Sigsworth stated the penalty number of the ORC for weight limits for truck should be #4511.99 ORC. Also, Sheriff Sigsworth pointed out that Barden Street was not listed in the ordinance. Sheriff Sigsworth further stated the total solar eclipse will take place on April 8, 2024. Erie County will be expecting an influx of visitors to the area. Sheriff Sigsworth stated all deputies will be on duty that day. Sheriff Sigsworth stated all schools are closed and many businesses will also be closed that day.

Mrs. Artrip made a Motion to Approve the Minutes of February 13, 2024. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Mrs. Artrip made a Motion to Approve the Financial Report, Dated 2/23/2024. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous.

Mrs. Crawford made a Motion to Approve the Pay Warrants, Dated 2/11/2024 to 2/23/2024. Mrs. Artrip seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous.

Mr. Smith made a Motion to Accept the Receipts, Dated 2/1/2024 to 2/23/2024. Mrs. Weyer seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous.

Zoning Inspector Tom Johnson stated he felt the removal of the green arrow will allow a backup of traffic. There was a discussion on the removal of the green arrow light on Main Street.

Tom Johnson stated with the upcoming solar eclipse every ambulance will be on duty that day. Mr. Johnson stated all camp grounds in the area have been booked. Mr. Johnson informed Council and the audience to go to the grocery store the Friday before the eclipse. Mr. Johnson reminded the Council and audience of the last total solar eclipse that occurred in Tennessee that had grocery store shelves bare, gas stations empty and hours long of traffic of visitors leaving that area.

Tom Johnson stated in 2025 there will be an addition of a round-about on Portland Road and Route 269. Mr. Johnson further stated a lot of Route 2 entrances and exits are slated to be redone.

Fiscal Officer Kathy Niehm stated the meeting with the auditor regarding the audit will be on 3/9/2024 and the auditor will at that time bring back with Village's boxes of records. Ms. Niehm stated in her opinion Council needs to slow the spending as there is no guarantee of the amount of money coming in from real estate taxes. Ms. Niehm stated one of the ballasts in her office is out and it is hard to see. Mr. Nicholson stated he will install an LED light in her office. Ms. Niehm stated she has been trying to contact Bob Day to assist her in the 3 adjustments from the auditor suggestions but Mr. Day is very busy with tax season. Ms. Niehm mentioned she received an invoice for a toilet from H&H Plumbing. Ms. Niehm stated after discussion she will research to see if it has been paid previously. Mr. Tom Johnson stated he is waiting for the Council attorney to instruct him on 711 Main Street and he heard that 315 Adams Street will soon go up for auction.

Mrs. Crawford stated Kathryn from the ODOT office informed her the Council can apply for safety funds for Village roads.

Mayor Johnson stated he had a meeting with Tim King of Erie Regional Planning and he informed Mayor Johnson the Village could ask ODOT to do a traffic study on Main Street. Mrs. Weyer asked how many fatalities have occurred on Main Street? The accident in question was not an actual fatality as the person passed over 30 days from the accident. Mrs. Weyer stated ODOT will research all the previous accidents and she does not want the Village at a greater risk of something happening.

Mrs. Crawford stated she will call Kathryn at ODOT. Mrs. Crawford stated she was told the studies with the ODOT engineers is free.

Mrs. Weyer made a Motion to Ask ODOT for a Study of the Rt. 269 and Rt. 101 Intersection and Pedestrian Lights and the Downtown Intersection and Move Forward with a Study. Mrs. Artrip seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Weyer, yes; Mrs. Crawford, yes; Mrs. Artrip, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mr. Nicholson, yes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson stated when he met with Tim King he informed Mayor Johnson the Village did not receive an OPWC grant or small business loan for Lowell and Bardwell Streets. Mayor Johnson further stated the fee from the State of Ohio had been reduced to \$41,000 that the Village will need to pay and there is an opportunity to receive a 3% loan and pay back the State of Ohio over 5 years. Mayor Johnson stated Ohio House Bill #370 if passed will restrict the State of Ohio of passing on to Villages for road work on State of Ohio roads.

Mayor Johnson stated the Village of Castalia could levy a 1% Income Tax for Village residents as the Village has little money to pave roads. Mrs. Crawford stated this information should go in the newsletter and the Village website to inform residents.

Mrs. Weyer stated she will email Scott Ockunzzi of ODOT office #3.

Mayor Johnson stated the Village will have ongoing tree removals.

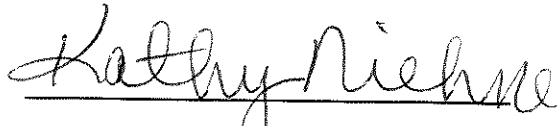
Mayor Johnson stated he will not be on vacation for the March Council meetings.

Mrs. Crawford stated someone asked her about the veterans' plaque on the outside of Village Hall if it could be restored. Mr. Smith suggested to contact Downing Billiards.

With no further business to come before Council, Mr. Nicholson made a Motion to Adjourn. Mrs. Artrip seconded the motion. Roll Call: Yeas, Unanimous. Motion Carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



James Johnson, Mayor



Kathy Niehm, Fiscal Officer