

Regular Council

December 4,

23

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Mayor White presiding.

ROLL CALL

The following Village Council members were present: Adam Gongwer, Bob Jarvis, Wynn Kearns, Kim Little, Jeff O'Brien and Todd Wise.

Other officials present: Attorney John Studenmund, Chief Troy Weaver, Finance Director James Banks, Village Administrator Andrew Smallstey , Assistant Finance Director Peter Them and Todd Ward Parks Superintendent.

Residents and other guests: Keith Bacin of 419 Cedarwood Drive, Mike Mitchel of 410 Fox Road, Jeff Carter of 180 Castor Road, Tom Rose of 52 Morgan Drive, and Charles Comstock of 199 Essex Road.

Motion by O'BRIEN to excuse

Councilman Allehouse.

Seconded by GONGWER.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by O'BRIEN to approve the minutes of November 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Seconded by WISE.

Roll call. Yea: 6; Nays: 0; Abstain: 0.

Motion carried.

FIXING TIME OF ADJOURNMENT

Motion by JARVIS to set the time of adjournment for 8:32 p.m. Seconded by KEARNS.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Mayor White requested any Village resident wishing to address Council concerning Council business to please stand, state their name and address for the record, and their purpose for attending Council.

No comments were heard.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RULES AND PERSONNEL: No report.

FINANCE: Met before tonight's Council session. Bills have been checked through November.

SAFETY SERVICE: No report.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: No report.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS: No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: No report

FINANCE REPORT

No report.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As reported by Administrator Andrew Smallstey:

Request has been made by resident Ben Mutti to display the Menorah in the Plymouth Street parks from December 7th through December 15th. The Menorah will be displayed in Lexington Community Park.

Motion by GONGWER to display
Menorah at Lexington Community Park
from December 7th through December 15th.

Seconded by O'BRIEN.

Roll call. All yeas: 6 – 0.

Motion carried.

The press box at Algire Field that was damaged last spring has been repaired. Mr. Ward reported Algire Field fascia needed to be completed.

EPA report, for water production and billing, has been finalized.

Tree City application was submitted. We will know in January if we are approved.

Under 100 residents left to install new meters.

You have copies of 2024 Budget report.

Councilman O'Brien asked for update on Village Income Tax report. Mr. Smallstey reported as of end of November, 2023, Income Tax was up \$412,000.00 over last year.

Mayor's report

As reported by Mayor Brian White:

Andrew Smallstey's retirement letter has been submitted to the Mayor.

Motion by JARVIS to accept
Andrew Smallstey retirement letter.

Seconded by KEARNS.

Roll call. All yeas: 6 – 0.

Motion carried.

Light Up Lexington was a success. Carol Parkison was recognized for her start of the unique approach 42 years ago.

I am meeting with officials to apply for grant opportunity for Main Street Improvement. This is in cooperation with EDGE Group.

Councilman O'Brien asked how much fines does the Village receive for marijuana charges. Questioned if the Village will no longer receive fines considering the State of Ohio has legalized recreation marijuana. Attorney Studenmund estimated approximately \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 monies in marijuana fines were received yearly.

Councilman O'Brien asked if there are currently any storm water drains located outside Village limits. Mr. Smallstey said there are none.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

As reported by Chief Weaver:

We have hired Officer Eric Wendling; he started today. Officer Wendling brings experience to the Village. Both officers will complete all their training by the end of this year.

Councilman O'Brien asked who the SRO for the Village are. Chief Weaver replied, Officer Glennon and Officer Anderson.

Mayor White commended Chief Weaver for his quick fill of the two positions.

PARLIMENATARIAN REPORT

As reported by Parliamentarian Adam Gongwer: No report.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance No. 23-35 by Mr. Little

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PERMANENT BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR DECEMBER FOR THE INCOME TAX AND POLICE FUNDS.

Motion by LITTLE to waive rules of Council requiring that a Ordinance comes from a standing committee.

Seconded by WISE.

Roll call. All yeas: 6 – 0.

Motion carried.

Motion by LITTLE to waive rules of Council requiring that a Ordinance is read on two separate occasions.

Seconded by WISE.

Roll call. All yeas: 6 – 0.

Motion carried.

Motion by LITTLE to adopt.

Seconded by WISE.

DISCUSSION: Moves necessary for end of year.

Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0

Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 23-36 by Mr. Little

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT OPERATING EXPENDITURES AND OTHER EXPENSES OF THE VILLAGE OF LEXINGTON, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR 2024.

HELD TO FIRST READING

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Kearns updated information regarding the Lexington Cemetery. The committee has completed and is currently working on the second resolution with Attorney Studenmund, and everything is on schedule for March 2024 ballot as ½ mil replacement levy. Cemetery committee will hold its next meeting December 11th.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Kearns thanked Mayor White for the email regarding Mt. Vernon training center for preparing candidates and their first time in office. Councilman Kearns has already completed three modules. Mayor White stated the online program is backed by the Attorney General. Councilman Kearns shared the information with Troy Township Trustees. Councilman Kearns asked about new passage of recreational marijuana and how it will affect the Village. Attorney Studenmund stated it is all still too new and there will be more opinions/researched as time passes. Attorney Studenmund will be attending a meeting at the Richland County Prosecutor’s office this Thursday regarding this subject. Mayor White stated the Village Handbook stands solid and employees will continue to abide by that writing. Attorney Studenmund reminded Council an Ordinance addressing this was passed approximately three or four years ago.

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MISCELLANEOUS

No comments.

Motion by GONGWER to adjourn
before the appointed hour.
Seconded by KEARNS.
Roll call. Yeas: 6; Nays: 0; Abstains: 0
Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda J. Wilson
Clerk of Council

Brian White
Mayor