

Regular Meeting

August 1, 2023

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Anderson, Hennessey, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Excused: Curtis. Also present: Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Elizabeth Aschenbrenner, and Village Administrator Teresa DeLong.

Public Comment

Elizabeth Aschenbrenner appeared to request the Village Board re-address the decision to not allow chickens within the Village. She stated those who are interested in having chickens are now aware that votes for the decision do not need to be in person, and she felt this could reveal a more realistic evaluation of the community as a whole moving forward. Ms. Aschenbrenner stated every person that chose to attend the past meeting was in favor of it while none of the “no” votes attended. She stated a few of the “no” votes could have been remedied with the proposed amendments; however, none of those individuals were present to hear the proposed revisions or weigh in on the topic. Individuals that have expressed interest thus far have done the research, leg work, and stepped up to decrease the workload of the Village by having volunteer inspectors for the permits. It is her belief that the amendments stated in the last meeting should now be considered, those being no enclosure shall be located closer than 25 feet to any residential structure on an adjacent lot and must have neighbor approval through a permitting process. She stated that these amendments would address the population not wanting chickens or to be affected by their neighbor’s having chickens.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 18, 2023, as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$127,676.30. Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Reserve “Class” Liquor License Application

An Original Alcohol Beverage License Application was submitted by Las 3 Fronteras Restaurante LLC. for 201 City Highway 16 E. None of the applicants were present at the meeting.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to table the application until the applicants can attend a Village Board meeting and answer questions. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Special Event Application

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the issuance of a Special Event Permit to Hmoob Cultural and Community Agency, Inc. in order to hold the La Crosse Hmong New Year event scheduled for Saturday, September 23 and Sunday,

September 24, 2023, at Veteran's Memorial Park from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. both days. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Application for Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's License

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the issuance of a Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's License to American Legion Post 51 Baseball/Softball in order to hold a Bean Bag Tournament at the West Salem Community Shelter on Sunday, August 20, 2023. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Board of Zoning Appeals Alternate Members

Motion by President Schumacher, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the appointment of Pete Belling and Tim Jones as alternate members of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

July 28, 2023, Storm Clean Up Activities

Damaging winds and hail swept through the West Salem area Friday evening, July 28, 2023, leaving downed trees and power lines, stripped and smashed siding, displaced roof shingles, and smashed vehicle windows and dented vehicles. Winds as strong as 80 miles per hour with hail as large as softballs fell followed by heavy rain, all in the span of about 15 minutes. Electricity was out for at least seven hours, and streets were blocked by fallen trees and debris well into Saturday morning. Public Works Director Loren Schwier and the public works department employees worked from Friday night to well into the early morning hours Saturday morning, they worked over eight hours on Saturday, and then another four hours Sunday morning clearing fallen tree and brush from the streets and cutting trees from Village facilities. The Village drop off site was overwhelmed with tree limbs and brush, so Mr. Schwier opened up a second site at the Riverview ballfield parking lot. This strategy worked well, and the parking lot has a significant amount of brush and trees. Mr. Schwier would like to hire a service to grind up and dispose of the trees and brush, and the Village Board agreed this was a good solution. Brush and tree limb curbside pickup was discussed along with the public works department plan for the next couple of weeks. The Village Board praised and thanked Loren Schwier and his department for its efficiency and work well done.

Finance and Personnel

Trustee Leicht reported on the July 25, 2023, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The Committee convened in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of a public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to-wit: Administration and Police Department Employees. In open session, the Committee accepted Chief Holzhausen's proposal to create a new police department organizational structure by dissolving the police lieutenant position and creating a non-union detective sergeant position and a non-union patrol sergeant position and to begin the process of creating an ordinance for a full time, salaried Clerk/Treasurer position and revising Village Code Sections 1.04 and 1.05 accordingly.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting minutes of July 25, 2023, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Lautz to approve moving forward with the creation of a new police department organizational structure as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve creation of an ordinance revision to Village Code Sections 1.04 and 1.05 as recommended. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Leicht to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. DeLong, Village Administrator