

Village of West Salem
Public Hearing
Ordinance No. 530 Amending Chapter 8 Holding Tank and Septic Tank Waste Charges
May 21, 2024

Public hearing called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Anderson, Curtis, Hennessey, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Also present: Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Police Chief Kyle Holzhausen, and Village Administrator Teresa DeLong

Ordinance No. 530, if adopted, will delete and re-create sections of Chapter 8 of the Village Code of Ordinances in order to facilitate a fixed rate increase to licensed dischargers of low and medium strength holding tank waste and septic tank waste. There were no citizens present to speak for or against the proposed Ordinance.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to close the public hearing at 6:53 p.m. Motion unanimously approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. DeLong, Village Administrator

Village of West Salem
Regular Meeting
May 21, 2024

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

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2024, regular meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$30,855.79.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Ordinance No. 530

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve Ordinance No. 530 Amending Chapter 8 Holding Tank and Septic Tank Waste Charges as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Law Enforcement Committee

Trustee Lautz reported on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting held on May 13, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to review for recommendation to the Village Board a proposed ordinance allowing the raising and keeping of chickens within the Village limits. Proposed Ordinance No. 520 mirrors the City of La Crosse ordinance except the Village Ordinance would allow up to five chickens. The City of La Crosse allows up to eight chickens, while the City of Onalaska allows three, Village of Rockland allows five, and the Village of Holmen does not allow chickens in any zoning other than Agricultural. The Village of Bangor bases the maximum number of chickens allowed according to how much square footage is owned, and the maximum is eight chickens. Residents desiring to own chickens must obtain an annual permit prior to January 1 of each year or within thirty days of acquiring chickens. The Committee discussed possible permit fees and compared a proposed fee of \$25 to other communities in La Crosse County. The City of Onalaska, for example, charges \$75 for the initial permit and an annual renewal fee of \$40. Forfeitures for raising chickens without a permit was discussed, and it was decided a penalty range as set forth in other Village ordinances would be incorporated into this Ordinance. The Village may revoke a permit if there are two or more violations or complaints within any consecutive twelve-month period. The Committee agreed the Ordinance needs to also include a notification to all property owners within three hundred feet of the applicant's residence, just as applications to exceed pet limit and zoning considerations require. Provisions prohibiting the slaughter of chickens and requiring registration with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection were also added. The registration is free and enables the Department to alert owners to disease issues that affect poultry. The Committee recommended the Village Board approve Ordinance No. 520 with the discussed changes.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the minutes of the Law Enforcement Committee meeting held on May 13, 2024, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Leicht to adopt Ordinance No. 520 Amending Animal Control to Allow Keeping of Chickens in the Village of West Salem. Roll call vote: Lautz and Twining – nay; remainder of Board - aye. Motion approved.

Finance and Personnel Committee

Trustee Leicht reported on the May 16, 2024, 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: Department head resignation.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Lautz to approve the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of May 16, 2024, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

The Village Board acknowledged that May 19 through May 25, 2024, is National Public Works Week. National Public Works Week is held annually the third full week in May to celebrate the public utility investments in the United States. This is an opportunity to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works in their daily lives. The Village Board formally thanks the West Salem Public Works Department employees for their work for the Village community.

The Village Board then presented Police Chief Kyle Holzhausen with a commemorative plaque thanking him for his service to the Village of West Salem, and the plaque read as follows: "In recognition of twelve years of distinguished and valuable service as a Police Officer, School Resource Officer, Lieutenant and Police Chief for the Village of West Salem. The Board of Trustees extends its appreciation for your time, efforts, and dedicated public service."

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. DeLong, Village Administrator