

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Steve Smith presided over the meeting.

Members answering roll call were Kathy Burrier, Jeff Smith, Don Wallick, Dustin Briggs, Liz Dreher, and Martin Zehnder. Other's present were Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger, Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Police Chief Dave Warrick, Fire Chief Steven Laskey, Andy Slemmer, Zoning Inspector Ted Foster, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, Chase Willis, Brandon Baker and Brent Metzger.

A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2022 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Mayor Steve Smith announced that spring clean-up for the village is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022 and information is on the village's website.

Brandon Baker, Chase Willis, and Brent Metzger addressed council regarding the hiring of the full-time fire chief and how the salary was determined. Mayor Steve Smith explained that a levy was passed through the township for 24/7 staffing and that the need for a full-time fire chief was presented to council years ago when the discussion of the levy was presented to council and the township. Mayor Smith noted that the village advertised for applicants for the position, interviews were done by himself, the safety committee members, and a member of the community. Mayor Smith noted that the salary was based on other local municipalities. Baker asked about the duties of the new full-time fire chief. Fire Chief Steve Laskey noted that he will perform administrative duties and will respond on calls. Laskey noted that he will perform 40 hours per week at the fire station and will also work from home on his own time. Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger noted that the mayor has the authority to appoint the fire chief. Dustin Briggs noted that there were four elected officials in the interviews. Brandon Baker expressed disappointed in the mayor and council members on the hiring of the new chief stating the it seems unfair to Andy Slemmer and employees of the fire department. Briggs noted that people need to have an open mind about the change in the staffing and give Laskey a fair chance. Jeff Smith noted that we were told years ago by the fire department that the volunteers do not show up for calls and the need for the 24/7 part time staffing. Mayor Smith noted that the budget of the staffing levy was provided to council by the fire department and that we are doing what the fire department requested including the full-time chief, purchasing equipment needed, and renovating the social hall. Mayor Smith noted that Laskey is working on a schedule to begin the 24/7 staffing beginning April 1, 2022 and that the township will receive their first settlement of the new levy this month.

Chase Willis expressed the need to have qualified personnel at the fire station when the fire chief is not at the station and asked about overtime for the fire chief. Mayor Smith noted that we have very qualified EMT's and Paramedics that will be covering the 24/7 staffing and Laskey noted that he will keep his overtime to a minimum but it will depend on calls and that he will be working from home and will not clock those hours. Willis asked if the village has the budget to pay his salary. Jeff Smith noted that his salary and the volunteer side of the department will come out of the Fire Safety Fund which is part of the General Budget and that the Fire Safety Fund has been paying for fire chief, the part time staffing, and the volunteer side since the end of the staffing grant. Smith noted that the 24/7 staffing will be paid through the levy. Laskey noted that there will be officers at the station and that there will be a training system in place for all employees. Martin Zehnder asked if Laskey is working another job also. Laskey noted that he resigned from his last job and that his last day was February 25, 2022 and that his first day for the village was today.

Brent Metzger addressed council noting that he had offered a year ago to assist and sit on a committee to discuss the 24/7 staffing. Metzger noted that the community member that sat in on the interviews is a current resident who serves as a fire chief at Jackson. Metzger noted that the mayor does have the authority to hire and noted that the chief is involved with training, respond on calls, and that most of the job is administrative. Metzger expressed his concern of Laskey living far away from the community but wished him the best on the new position with the village. Metzger asked why he was not asked to assist the village with the hiring. A brief discussion was held and Briggs noted that the social side of the fire department is under investigation through BCI for mismanagement of funds for multiple years so we did not want to bring in any past employees because of the investigation and we feel that in the best interest for the community, we are moving in a new direction.

Andy Slemmer read resignation letters from Eric Houze, Wade Conway, and Eli Bosler and noted that he had received a text from Dave Edie stating that he will be submitting a resignation letter. Council accepted the resignations.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert reported to council that February 25, 2022 was Trevor Dreher's last official day and that his replacement Colt Silvius is working out well. Lambert reported that Kres Kiser was replaced by Solomon Cox and that he has past experience in water, sewer, and street, noting that he had applied for the vacant position on the street department.

Zoning Inspector Ted Foster supplied council with a permit report including a business permit for Shed Solutions, 998 N Wooster Avenue.

Park – Chairman Dustin Briggs reported that the Soccer Association has received a donation of a shed for storage of equipment and is asking for a location at the park. A discussion was held and Briggs will get the dimensions of the shed and where they want to locate the shed and bring the information to the next council meeting. Briggs reported that the village received notification that the Rosenberry Foundation has awarded \$ 10,000.00 for the new playground equipment and Briggs thanked Kathy Burrier for submitting the grant application.

Street & Alley – Chairwoman Liz Dreher reported that the committee met to discuss paving projects for 2022 that will be submitted to the county paving program. Dreher noted that it will include alleys by the Lutheran Church, Fernsell Avenue from 7th Street SW to 9th Street SW, 8th Street SW from Weber Avenue to Fernsell, Leoffler from 7th Street SW to 9th Street SW, and Zeltman from 12th to the corporation limit. Dreher noted that the estimated cost is \$ 175,000.00. Dreher reported that we still owe \$ 90,000 to complete the Maple Avenue project and that Weber Avenue will be a 2023 project.

ORDINANCE O-11-2022

Ordinance O-11-2022 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to suspend the mandatory three readings. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Zehnder, no; Wallick, yes; Smith, yes; Dreher, yes; Burrier, yes; and Briggs. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Jeff Smith, to approve Ordinance O-11-2022, AN (EMERGENCY) ORDINANCE CREATING NEW FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER POSITION, AND AUTHORIZING POLICE CHIEF TO HIRE NEW POLICE OFFICER. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Zehnder, no; Wallick, yes; Smith, yes; Dreher, yes; Burrier, yes; and Briggs, yes. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-12-2022

Ordinance O-12-2022 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to suspend the mandatory three readings. At roll call, the members voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Ordinance O-12-2022, AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING FEDERAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT, IN CALCULATING OVERTIME FOR POLICE AND FIRE EMPLOYEES. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-13-2022

Ordinance O-13-2022 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Jeff Smith, to suspend the mandatory three readings. At roll call, the members voted approval. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Jeff Smith, to approve Ordinance O-13-2022, AN (EMERGENCY) ORDINANCE HIRING OF NEW PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION 2022-1

A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Jeff Smith, to approve Resolution R-2022-1, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FIRE CHIEF TO ENACT NEW CODE OF CONDUCT, CORRECTIVE ACTION AND DISCIPLINE POLICY, AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY. At roll call, all members voted approval and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Jerry Schultz thanked the fire department for all they do. Schultz will bring dates for the chicken BBQ's held by the American Legion and reported that if there is a Corn Fest, they will be unable to have the chicken BBQ there.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to enter into an executive session at 7:20 pm to discuss police personnel. Council reconvened into regular session at 7:35 pm. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Jeff Smith, to adjourn at 7:36 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.