

PRESIDING OFFICER, THOMAS J. GARDNER, MAYOR

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Joe Bourne, Ed Steffek, Brandie Bourne, John Little, Nate Penrod, Steve Adams

ABSENT: N/A

OTHER ATTENDEES: Rick Swiger, DJ Meek, Donna Meek, Brandon Bishop

VISITORS: Nancy Bourne, Jacquie Price, Michael Kennedy

PLEDGE

The meeting was opened with The Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Gardner.

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Joe Bourne and seconded by Steve Adams to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes from regular meeting held November 7, 2023.

Roll call taken as follows: Joe Bourne yay, Steve Adams yay, Nate Penrod nay,

Brandie Bourne yay, John Little yay, Ed Steffek yay. Penrod offered no reason to the “nay” vote for approval.

VISITORS,

*Visitor/Resident Jacquie Price addressed Mayor Gardner as to what she must do to get the village to communicate and cooperate with her in order for her to have events to bring the community together. Price indicated that the village council promised her that the Christmas Lighting Event would take place on Dec. 1st. But council member Brandie Bourne took it upon herself to change it without notifying her. Price addressed Brandie Bourne to whether she had checked with other council members before making the decision to light the Christmas Lights on Main Street earlier than originally planned. Bourne indicated that she had made the decision herself based on whether she could get volunteers back on Dec 1st. Bourne felt that it was best to light the street lights earlier while having volunteers accessible – but still have a lighting event for the Square of Port Washington. A Christmas Tree, Gazebo and Nativity Scene is located on the square. Bourne also noted that she did notify Price that the Main St. Christmas Lights “may” be lit earlier than planned; which Price acknowledged Bourne did speak to her about it – but Bourne did not confirm it with her. Council member Brandie Bourne apologized to Price several times; as Price continued to repeat and address Bourne about Bourne’s actions numerous times. Mayor Gardner inquired whether Price wanted the village to turn off the Main St. Christmas Lights and continue with the lighting event for Dec. 1st. Price stated “no” as the “spirit” of the Christmas Lighting was gone and she had already cancelled her lighting event for the Movement Center. Mayor Gardner also inquired whether she wanted to proceed with just the lighting of the town square. Price stated “no”. Council member Steve Adams stated that the lighting event cancellation was not done intentionally and was sorry for any miscommunication.

*Michael Kennedy introduced himself to council as the pastor of Lost and Working Towards the Light Ministry. He has partnered with the Movement Center for church services. He is married with three children. His wife is from Port and he is originally from Newcomerstown. He indicated that he is eager to bring Jesus back to the community. Mayor Gardner welcomed him to Port Washington.

PAY BILLS

***Motion made by Brandie Bourne** and seconded by Joe Bourne to pay bills from respective funds. Roll call as follows: Joe Bourne yay, Ed Steffek yay, Brandie Bourne yay, John Little yay, Nate Penrod yay, Steve Adams yay.

FISCAL OFFICER

*No Reporting

POLICE

*Patrolman Brandon Bishop was present – but had no reporting.

STREET

*Street Supervisor Rick Swiger expressed gratitude for the volunteers who helped with installing the Christmas Lights on Main Street.

*Swiger indicated that there is no power on the square. DJ Meek will check out the power/plugs.

ZONING/MAYOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

*No Reporting

INCOME TAX ADMINISTRATOR

*No Reporting

MAYOR

*Mayor Gardner distributed a resume and letter of interest from Attorney Mark Perlaky from Dover. Perlaky is the village solicitor for the Village of Newcomerstown and Prosecuting attorney for Guernsey County. Perlaky also works out of McGonegal and Struhar Law Office in New Phila. Village solicitor Michael Cochran had referred Perlaky for the position of village solicitor; as Cochran will be retiring as of Dec. 31, 2023. It was noted that Perlaky has already handled several prosecution cases for the village. Council member Nate Penrod inquired whether the village had any other prospects. Penrod noted that he really doesn't want to employ anyone that Michael Cochran refers. Mayor Gardner indicated that the village has no other prospects for the solicitor position. And that it is difficult to find an attorney for the position for the village solicitor position.

*Council member Nate Penrod and visitor Jacquie Price both addressed Mayor Gardner concerning the inappropriate comments made towards Nate Penrod by Solicitor Cochran and council member Joe Bourne. Penrod indicated that Bourne had called him "stupid" in a previous meeting and Cochran had verbally attacked him during the last meeting. Council member Joe Bourne stated that he did not call Penrod "stupid" – Bourne stated that he had said "the idea was stupid". Penrod mentioned filing some type of complaint against the village for the inappropriate comments. Mayor Gardner directed Penrod to do whatever he feels necessary. Mayor Gardner stopped the discussion and replied "we all need to do better" and moved on.

MAYOR-CONT'D

*Mayor Gardner readdressed the traffic light issue at the intersection on Main Street (ST. RT. 36) on the square. DJ Meek (Mayor's Administrative Assistant) noted that he had spoken with Bobby Taylor – Head of Traffic from ODOT. Taylor indicated the ORC 4511.132 indicates the village is not permitted to make the traffic light at the intersection into a 4-way stop when the traffic light is not functioning. Two way stop signs are permitted on the side streets with the traffic flowing on Main Street/St. Rt. 36. Council member Penrod indicated that this creates a safety issue when the traffic light is not functioning. DJ Meek suggested that the village install a small generator at the intersection; which would keep power to the traffic light at all times.

Motion was made by Brandie Bourne and seconded by Ed Steffek to purchase and install a generator at the intersection of the square to keep power to the traffic light at all times. Roll Call taken as follows: Joe Bourne yay, Steve Adams yay, Nate Penrod yay, Brandie Bourne yay, John Little yay, Ed Steffek yay. Visitor Jacquie Price expressed gratitude for the vote; as she witnessed a near accident last year at the intersection.

JOE BOURNE

*Reminder -Dec. 3rd – Delaware Fire Dept Christmas Party – 6pm.

STEVE ADAMS

*No Reporting

NATE PENROD

*No Reporting

BRANDIE BOURNE

*Heard that the next Breakfast at the Delaware Fire Dept. will be December 9th from 9-11am.

*Reminder – Dec. 17th- Santa will be at the Delaware Fire Dept. from 5-7pm.

*Was reported that the AED has been ordered. Bourne suggested that the village hold a CPR & AED Training Class. Cost would be \$17 per person and Tri-County EMS would hold the class at the Delaware Fire Station. This class would be open to the community. Council member Nate Penrod agreed to donate the entire cost of the class for anyone who would like to attend. Once the AED machine arrives – the class will be scheduled and the community will be notified in order to register for the class.

*Bourne indicated that there are 12 Flags that have been stored in the village garage for a number of years and inquired whether council would like to install them on the Main Street light poles. Bourne also indicated that new replacement bulbs for the Christmas Lights were needed. **Motion made by Brandie Bourne** and seconded by Steve Adams to purchase the necessary items to install the flags and purchase items needed for the Christmas Lights. All council members present were in favor.

*Heard that Bourne will contact AEP concerning the electric for the service of the Christmas Lights. The village is being charged approximately \$25 per month when the lights are not being used. Bourne will take care of processing the necessary forms with AEP in order for the off-season months to be free of charge.

JOHN LITTLE

*No Reporting

ED STEFFEK

*Steffek noted that the AED machine will be very simple to use; as the machine will walk you through the steps needed for usage.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting will be December 5, 2023 at 7:00pm.

_____ Date
Thomas J. Gardner, Mayor

_____ Date
Darissa R. Lute, Fiscal Officer