

DECEMBER 11, 2023
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

Members present were: Doug Fehrman, Eric Emmert, Bill Mohler, Chris Shonk, Ryan Green and Mechelle Siemer. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Will Flautt, Chief Schons, and Kelly Beem. New council member Cindy Hayes was also present.

President Emmert started the meeting. The Mayor was running late.

MINUTES: Mechelle motioned to approve the minutes from November 28, 2023, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye, except Doug with a No vote.

Mayor arrived.

SBC update:

Erik Peterson: He has applied to funding to build out a mixed use community kitchen and bakery at 109 and 113 E Main St. The funding would cover renovations of the historic building and towards creating a functional social enterprise kitchen, bakery and café. Total funding applied for is \$4,583,709.00 We should know if we are approved in the Spring.

Erik submitted a grant application through Hocking College for the Crooked Road, Winding Road tourism. The proposed budget is \$454,000. This would bring cultural assets to Somerset such as the Columbus Symphony, America in Bloom, AI Sidewalk Art, Downtown Art Walks, Sculpture Walks and Outreach and Awareness.

Trace Johnson shared the new design plans for the Builders Club from Schooley Caldwell. He has met with Check Underwood on this as well. The basement will be mostly mechanical use We need to have a lease agreement with Underwood's and SBC. Doug motioned to approve the final plans as presented, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye. This can now go out for Bids.

Trace present council with invoices for the ACGP. Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

Trace and Erik have a couple new programs. The Chess club and the 4H Club going on now.

POLICE UPDATE: Chief Schons reports that Sgt. Love is on leave for a few months with Workers Comp to have his shoulder repaired from the injury at SWAT training. W/C will pay for his salary while he is off. Chief is bringing on Gabe Poling who is the New Straitsville Police Chief as part-time to help cover Sgt. Love's absence. Rodney Walters will also pick up more hours.

OLD BUSINESS:

ODOT Streetscape: The next project that Klinefelder submitted was for all of W Sheridan. Mayor asked if council would like to change it to finish N. Columbus St. Council would like to finish North Columbus, and W. Sheridan, and as much of E. Sheridan as money allows.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lions Club Lease Agreement: The Lions Club built the Shelter House in the early 1990's. The lease agreement between them and the Village has been lost on both ends. Joe Flautt created a new 99 year lease to become effective on Jan. 1, 2024. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye, except Bill abstained.

Zoning Ordinance: The new Zoning Ordinance just needs to be approved as an amendment to the original ordinance. Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

Annexation Agreement: Will Flautt drafted an agreement between the Village of Somerset and Reading Township Trustees. Council needs to review this and be prepared to discuss and vote on it in January.

2024 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS: Kelly present the appropriations for 2024 which total \$6,172,007.50. This will need approved tonight in order to operate on Jan. 1, 2024. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

Appoint BPA Member: According to the ORC, Council appoints a vacant seat on council, and the Mayor appoints a vacant seat on the BPA. Tom appoints Karen Cooperider to remain on the seat as recommended by Greg Litzinger and Jim Wilson.

PAY ORDINANCE 20-23: Ryan motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Nov. Bank Rec and Financials: Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

Mayor Johnson presented Bill Mohler with a certificate of appreciation for his 32 years on Village Council. Bill will remain on the Zoning Committee. Bill's knowledge will be missed. Everyone wished Bill well and a group picture was taken.

Mayor would like the Sheridan Monument on the next agenda.

This is the last meeting in 2023.

Doug motioned to adjourn, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye.

President Eric Emmert

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem