

**FEBRUARY 7, 2017**  
**VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT WERE: Eric Huston, Eric Emmert, Doug Fehrman, Bill Mohler, and Mike Lally. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Stacey Hicks, Chief Pressdee and Solicitor Will Flautt.**

**Guests:** Jenny LaRue with OCVN, Eddie Smith with SEO Public Energy, Michelle Robinson, and Kevin Snider with David Love with the SUMC

Mayor Johnson opened the meeting by leading The Pledge of Allegiance

**Minutes:** The minutes from January 17, 2017, were mailed to Village Council members. No changes requested.

Jenny LaRue spoke on behalf of the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists (OCVN) and requested that the alley leading to the Emerald Necklace park area be named with signs posted. She also asked that signs are posted at the entrance to the park with the name of the park (to be determined) and stating the park is a tobacco free area. It was suggested that the five trails in the park be marked with signage as well. The Creating Healthy Communities Grant would pay for the signage. The idea of having a contest to name all of the alleys in the village was brought up by Mayor Johnson.

Eddie Smith from the Southern Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) needed approval on Ordinance 17-03 Plan of Operation and Governance for the SOPEC Electrical Aggregation Program. There were two public hearings held with no concerns. The ordinance is needed to file with the Public Utilities Commission as the final item required to be added to the electrical aggregation list, and then savings can be provided. Eric Huston motioned to suspend the rules to make an emergency motion to vote on Ordinance 17-03, Bill Mohler seconded. All voted Aye. Eric Huston motioned to approve Ordinance 17-03, Doug Fehrman seconded. All voted Aye.

Eddie also asked for approval of Resolution 17-04 for the Mayor to enter into a letter of interest with SOPEC allowing competitive generation pricing for the village electric load through a procurement auction. Bill Mohler motioned to suspend the rules to approve Resolution 17-04, Eric Emmert seconded. Bill Mohler motioned to approve the Resolution 17-04, Mike Lally seconded. All voted Aye.

Michelle Robinson informed council that the Village had exhausted the number of D-1 and D-2 liquor licenses allowed. She would like to apply for a D-51 liquor permit that is available for businesses located in a revitalization district. She requested council to make a motion setting the precise boundaries of a Somerset Revitalization District. The boundaries were set as Gay Street to Sheridan Avenue and Pigfoot Square to North High Street. Eric Emmert motioned to approve the boundaries of a revitalization district, Eric Huston seconded. All voted Aye.

Michelle Robinson requested two modifications to the Historical Preservation Ordinance 13-9 be made to complete the application to become a Certified Local Government. This would allow for the Village and owners of properties to have access to available funding. The term "archeology" needs to be added, and a paragraph that states we will seek expertise when a nationally registered historic destination is altered. Tom asked Michelle to work with The Ohio History Connection and specifically Nathan Bevel to make sure the modification is done correctly.

Eric Huston motioned to approve the modification of the ordinance, Bill Mohler seconded. All voted Aye.

Michelle Robinson and Jennifer Strong requested that the Mid-East Building Department (MEBD) be used for permits and inspections on new businesses in the village. Currently, Somerset is the only entity in Perry County not using MEBD. Eric Huston motioned to approve the use of MEBD, Eric Emmert seconded. Roll call Eric Huston, yes. Doug Fehrman, yes. Eric Emmert, yes. Bill Mohler, no. Mike Lally, abstained. Motion passed.

David Love and Kevin Snider from the Somerset United Methodist Church addressed council about the two variances need to split the lots of the Gay Street property owned by the church. Several neighbors around the property gave consent to the splitting of the lots and David has attended multiple zoning meetings and was told that council needed to approve the variances to split the lots. Jenny LaRue is on the zoning board and said that it was requested for council approval. Tom asked that Solicitor, Will Flautt will work with David, Kevin, zoning and council members through the process of obtaining the variances.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

STREETSCAPE: Nothing to report

ST JOE'S LAKE: Tom informed council that the closing on St. Joe's Lake occurred and thanked David Snider and Kelly Beem for all of their work.

SOMERSET INNOVATION GATEWAY: Tom said that Ohio University received \$2million over three years to support the Somerset Innovation Gateway along with other adjacent areas. A young man from Silicon Valley that works in computer coding making cellular phone applications would like to return to his home in rural Kentucky, but Tom is giving the man a tour on Thursday to try to get him to offer the course in our innovation gateway.

SOMERSET MOBILE HOME PARK: Application was submitted to purchase the non-trailer park portion of the property. We will find out in March if the application gets approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Council was requested to approve Ordinance 17-02 adopting and enacting American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code 2017 Edition as the code of Ordinances for the Village of Somerset. Bill Mohler motioned to approve, Eric Huston seconded. All voted Aye.

**Pay Ordinance 17-03:** After reviewing the Pay Ordinance, Eric Huston motioned to approve, seconded by Eric Emmert. All voted Aye.

Council was requested to approve 90-day raises for BPA employees Nate Compston, and Brian Boring (either \$1 or \$1.50). Bill Mohler motioned to approve the raises, and Eric Houston seconded. All voted Aye.

A motion to suspend the rules to go into executive session was made by Mike Lally, Eric Emmert seconded. All voted Aye. A motion to go into executive session to discuss a real estate transaction was made by Mike Lally, Doug Fehrman seconded. All voted Aye. Executive session began at 8:40pm. A motion to come out of executive session was made by Mike Lally, Doug Fehrman seconded. All voted Aye. A motion to return to regular session was made by Doug Fehrman, seconded by Mike Lally. All voted Aye. They returned with no action taken.

A motion to enter a real estate agreement for 3 acres adjacent to the park/Genesis building was made by Doug Fehrman, seconded by Mike Lally. All voted Aye.

Chief Pressdee gave a brief update. The police department issued 7 citations for driving under suspension, 8 speeding citations, 2 drug paraphernalia cases, 4 drug possession charges, 1 failure to comply, 1 failure to yield, 2 domestics, 5 warrant arrest, 3 felony cases are with the prosecutor, 1 theft, 2 possession. There was a fake call to 911 on Thursday night attempting to interfere with a traffic stop. Saturday Matt dealt with a fake call to 911 about a stabbing at The Hole in the Wall and locked down the bar until it was sorted out. The Ohio Collaborative was submitted. The police department and village office got new furniture from the Longaberger Company closing. The furniture cost \$900 for five desks, six chairs, four cabinets, and shelving. The Safety Committee will begin meeting once a month with the Chief. The Somerset Police department will be conducting more traffic stops and searches because Perry County has the third largest opiate in the state and drug overdoses are on the rise. Tom asked for people to be ticked for failure to yield to pedestrians at the crosswalks. The crosswalks need to be outlined again in the near future.

Eric Emmert requested that a sizeable pothole be filled in behind the fire department by the car lot. Stacey will ask Ronnie and Chris to fill in the pothole.

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25pm with a motion from Eric Huston seconded by Doug Fehrman. All voted Aye.**

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Mayor Tom Johnson

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President David Snider

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Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem