

Council Minutes April 7, 2015

On Tuesday, April 7, 2015 Council met in regular session. Present were Mayor Tom Johnson, Council Members Dave Snider, Eric Huston, Mike Lally, Bill Mohler, Doug Fehrman and Linda Henrey.

Also present were, Kelly Beem, Fiscal Officer, Jane Foulk, Mayor's Assistant, Will Flautt, Village Legal Counsel and Mitch Altier, IBI Group.

Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor read the minutes from the last meeting. Dave moved to accept the minutes, Bill seconded. Roll call vote, all yeas.

Resolutions 1507 and 1508 (third reading at last meeting). Reviewed County Auditor's Property Certificate of Estimated Tax Revenue.

Resolution 15-09 ODOT Streetscape. Doug moved and Dave seconded to enact legislation proposing cooperation with the Director of Transportation for sidewalk replacement, drive apron, curbing and street lighting along US Route 22 and State Route 13 as part of the Streetscape project.

Pay Ordinance 1513 Dave moved and Doug seconded to approve. Roll call vote, all yeas.

Financial Report prepared by Heidi was presented by Kelly. She said Heidi had already audited first quarter numbers. Everything is fine now except for police department and Heidi and Kelly are recommending some changes. Part time officers need to work 39 hours, **not** 40. Full time police officers and firemen should be eligible for Police and Fire retirement rather than regular OPERS. We need to do some more research. Jason is ok with 35 hours and Jeff with 40 hours in 2 different classifications.

Reserve balances – We have too many CDs – need to consolidate. Water debt payments \$110,000. The \$5 increase is helping but will not cover the debt. The Water Department should have enough reserves to cover first half. \$10,000 in cuts that were promised but still haven't been done. This issue needs to be addressed now.

Bill suggested Council needs time to read over the Financial Report and discuss at the next meeting.

Res 15-10 authorizes the Mayor to apply for a Nature Works grant for park equipment, according to Eric.

Doug moved to and Dave seconded to approve grant. Roll call vote, all yeas.

Linda moved to suspend rules and to go into executive session to discuss a real estate issue. Roll call vote, all yeas.

Dave moved and Eric seconded to come out of executive session. Roll call vote, all yeas

New Business

Bill discussed meeting with Sen Brown about food issues. Tom said Sherrod was happy with the session and was impressed with all Somerset was doing.

Tom, went to Virginia to see how small towns there are developing heritage tourism. He saw lots of bikes and bed and breakfasts. Our outdoor recreation activities are good comparable to Virginia. One town had recruited a community college to downtown. Tom thought that sounded like a good idea that Somerset could pursue.

Linda – talked to the health department about Jerry's property to see if he would allow us to clean it up. There is a health issue with standing water in tires, etc.

Linda said that employees of the Village need permission from Ron Padgett to use the Village garage. Linda talked to him about sidewalks in front of Kevin Wichert Ins. Is the Village or property owner responsible to take care of sidewalks? She also said residents should not put their own garbage in Village trash containers. There is standing water on High Street. There are problem alleys that need to be addressed. Doug asked if Ronnie used the Village garage. Will said Kevin Howell was the one with sidewalk problem. Will will research. Health department wants paid to go with him to Jerry Bowers. Mitch agreed to address the water on High Street. Kids are walking in the street around cars parked at Carpenter's.

Tourism Update – Burr Oak conference to learn how to increase tourism was very successful and another one is being planned. Virginia Director of Crooked Road, was the main speaker. 80 people attended, including County Commissioners, directors, program director, business owners etc.

Eric – Retain is Detail – helped him in how to rearrange his store. Other businesses participating are Rosey Reds and Anthony's.

Tom had conference call about streetscape lighting, proposal to do gateway signs, kiosk for travel. Needs to be done in next month before sidewalks go in. Next meeting we will present options.

Doug moved, Linda seconded to adjourn at 8:12 pm.

Kelly Beem, Village Fiscal Officer

Dave Snider, President

Tom Johnson, Mayor