

MAY 11, 2021
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

Members present were: Bill Mohler, Doug Fehrman, Mechelle Siemer and Mike Lally. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Will Flautt and Kelly Beem

Minutes: The minutes from April 27, 2021 were reviewed. Mechelle asked to change her comment about speed bumps on the square to speed strips. With the change, Mechelle motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

Builders Club: Alex Bandar gave an update on the Builders Club. The construction is largely completed. There are just a few final cosmetic costs left. The remaining construction funds of about \$20,000 will be to patch the roof. The equipment is being ordered and installed within the next month.

Outdoor Seating: Bret Allphin said he is making great progress and has a good draft in place. He contacted ODOT regarding right of ways, and parking availability within a 5-15 min walk to the square. Tom would like to contract with Bret on the DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area for \$4,000 using Covid or American Rescue Plan fund. Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Traffic Study: Kevin Wood has been in touch with ODOT, and they will begin the study last summer or early fall. Kevin also said the Village was awarded another \$250,000 for the Streetscape Project. That will allow sidewalks on the East side of N. Columbus Street to 757, with no costs to the Village. Total project estimate is \$950,000.

Broadband: Mayor Tom said there is a new company willing to give free Broadband to the Builders Club and possibly the Village Office for them to be able to put a tower on our water tank. It would be roughly 50 lbs. of equipment on the tank. Bill motioned to allow Tom to start discussions with this company, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Earmark: Tom stated that now that Stivers is leaving office, he will have to contact the State Senators regarding renovation money that was set aside for the Courthouse. He stated the slates on the tower are rotting and loose, and need replaced.

Alleys: No discussion

Police Tax Levy: At the last meeting, Kelly informed council the Police Levy for 6.5 mil is up for renewal this year. Council asked to obtain the amounts for a Renewal versus Replacement. Kelly shared the renewal would generate \$127,000 and the replacement would be \$144,000.00. Bill motioned to place a Replacement Levy on the November ballot, seconded by Mike. All voted Aye.

New Police Cruiser: Last month Aaron May presented a quote to purchase a new cruiser using the American rescue Plan Act Fund. Those funds need to be used by 2024, and Tom said it makes sense to purchase a cruiser, or maybe two with it, spread out over a couple years. More discussion will continue once the funds arrive to the Village.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pop Up Competition: Todd Christensen was live on Zoom, stating a second Pop up competition will be taking place. Tom has received commitments from North Valley Bank, Ludowici, Waste Away Services and Wichert to sponsor the Prize money again. Todd would like Council members to start talking on the streets about this. It is a great opportunity for someone to perhaps open a small business here in Somerset. More information will become available soon.

Res. 21-06: To create a new Fund: Kelly stated that since we are getting the American rescue Plan funding she will need to set up a new fund to keep it separate from the other funds. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mike. All voted Aye except Mechelle abstaining.

Sheridan Ave. curb: No discussion

Dead tree on Pig Foot Sq. Tom has asked Arborist Ann Bonner to look at the tree for advice. He would also like to receive quotes to remove the tree.

New mower and trailer for Street Dept. Kelly shared quotes for mowers and a quote for a carry-on trailer. Council would like Ryan to check into a Commercial Grade mower and report back next meeting. Doug motioned to purchase the trailer for \$1300.00 for the Toy Store, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Nature Works Grant: The Park Board is working with IBI for a grant to install a new bathroom. Mayor needs approval for him to sign the paperwork to apply for the grant. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

PAY ORDINANCES: Ordinances 7-21 and 8-21 were presented to Council. Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye except Mike abstaining from the O'Lally power wash payment.

APRIL BANK REC AND FINANCIALS: Kelly closed the month with \$924,316.95. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mike. All voted Aye.

With no further business to discuss, Mike motioned to adjourn, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Mayor Tom Johnson

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem