

MAY 24, 2022
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

Present were: Mechelle Siemer, Doug Fehrman, Chris Shonk, Bill Mohler and Ryan Green. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Kelly Beem, Will Flautt and Chief Schons.

MINUTES FROM MAY 10, 2022: Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

Outdoor Seating: Mayor previously distributed plans from MKSK. The process includes contacting business owners and discussing their cost shares. A new Fro-Yo is going in the Snack Bar so they and Strong's will have to share patio space.

SBC: Tim Sword is focusing on programming now and is scheduling for summer Art courses and possibly painting classes. We have a usable facility now but needs to include a sink for washing paint brushes. He is working on a Non-Profit Committee of 5 people with Will Flautt. The Engineers are coming in Thursday to inspect the structure. Mayor applied for a Capital Funding Grant to restore the upstairs. We should be hearing on that soon.

Mayor mentioned more grants coming soon. There is a Law Enforcement or First Responders Grant for Youth training.

NEW BUSINESS:

National Register of Historic Places: Mayor shared with council a copy of the register of Historic places in Somerset. Somerset was registered in June 1975. We could get National Recognition for the Courthouse. In the past we received money to restore the external of the Courthouse. Now we need to concentrate on the inside. Major upgrades in heating, electric, bathrooms, etc.

Medical Mutual Renewal: Our employee medical insurance is with Medical Mutual. Last year our rates decreased 6% which was unheard of. This year, the renewal rate is 9.57% which is split between employee and The Village. Kelly asked council if they wanted to shop around or accept these rates which go in effect on August 1. Doug motioned to renew Medical Mutual with 9.57% increase, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

Superior Vision and Dental Renewal: Our vision and dental plans will renew in August as well. There is a slight decrease in premiums for dental coverage and the vision remained the same. Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Zoning request: Shannon Wilson and Trent Coble are opening a Java 13 at 109 N. Columbus. The business is zoned Commercial but the back yard is Residential. They need the back to change to Commercial so they can put in a parking lot. We need to post signs around the property requesting a zoning change, and have 3 readings on the change. Ryan motioned to approve the first reading, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye. They are hoping to open in 30 days.

POLICE UPDATE:

The outside audit of the Police Dept is about finished and we should have a report soon from Chief Caskey. Chief Schons would like to hire a Full Time officer and a Part Time officer.

Mechelle motioned to suspend rules to go into executive session, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye. Mechelle motioned to go into executive session to discuss HR issues, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye. Bill motioned to return from executive and continue with regular session, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye. No action taken.

Ryan motioned to offer Chief Schons a salary of \$61,000, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye. A motioned to pay a salary of \$39,500. To a full time officer and \$13.00 an hour for a part time office, pending approval by Mayor, was made by Bill, seconded by Doug.

Chief Bob Schons was given the Oath of Office by Mayor Johnson.

PAY ORDINANCE 11-22: Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

April Financials and Bank Rec: Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

Bill asked if Council would donate to the 4th of July celebration like we have done in the past. Bill motioned to approve \$2500.00 for fireworks, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Mechelle stated we need signs on St. Rt. 22 to slow down. She will bring sample signs at the next meeting.

Mayor will look into the cost to clean the Sheridan Monument.

Public Comments were held.

Nothing further to discuss, so Mechelle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem

President Eric Emmert