

OCTOBER 10, 2023
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

Members present: Ryan Green, Bill Mohler, Chris Shonk, Doug Fehrman, Eric Emmert and Mechelle Siemer. Also present were Mayor Johnson and Kelly Beem.

MINUTES: Doug motioned to approve the minutes from September 12, 2023, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye except Eric abstained.

Ann Bonner: Ann is an Arborist with ODNR. She and Ryan Yzenski walked the Village looking at trees. They have a list of trees that need removed because they are a hazard, some trees need pruning. There are some stumps that also need taken care of. Discussion on planting 4 trees on N. Columbus Street. She said London Plain trees would be perfect. Doug motioned to get estimates on the trees that need cut down and pruned, and to purchase 4 trees for N. Columbus St at \$250.00 each. Bill seconded. Roll call was Mechelle, Eric and Chris NO, and Doug, Bill and Ryan Yes. Mayor voted yes to break the tie.

SBC UPDATE: Trace Johnson: Trace reports the roof has been repaired with a 1-year warranty. He presented the following invoices for payment: SBC for Tech Cred \$707.50; SBC Senior Tech Program \$7,943.85; SBC Workforce \$1,200.00; and Mike Zimmer for Tech Cred \$2,975.75. Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Tom introduced Erik Peterson. He will be working at the Builders Club through Rural Action 16 hours a week. The goal is to build an office for Perry County in Somerset. Tom presented in invoice from Rural Action for the Contract for Economic Revitalization for \$14,625.00. Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye. This will be paid through the ACGP Grant.

Cindy Cooperider asked council for approval to use the Pub Crawl mugs on Oct. 21st instead of the Dora Cups. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Andrea Cullinan would like to use the jail as part of their Scare on the Square. She was contacted by Jessica Rockey about not using it. They decorate it as a 4H project for Trick or Treat night. They don't want anyone else in it beforehand. Council approved both using the jail.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rules of Council 2nd Reading: With a couple deletions, and corrections, Doug motioned to approve the second reading, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

Safety Study: We have 50K Grant from Buckeye Hills. We need to focus on all the crosswalks and pedestrian safety on the square. And also new signage. We need a proposal ready for the next Council meeting. Crosswalk at the schools are a big issue as well. Another issue is parking. We need to find municipal parking behind the square. Tom would like to see all the crash reports that are handled with the Sheriffs Office and the State Highway Patrol, along with the Somerset PD.

Appalachian Community Grant Update: We have several projects in the works: Downtown Revitalization, Outdoor Recreation, St. Joes Lake, Bike Path, The Cut. We need to get the CSX acquisitions before next September. There is 4million in funding for St. Joe's Lake and Callahan property, (Park related) but we need to prioritize. The Downtown Revitalization project is being rejected with ARPA funding.

The Christmas Committee has asked for council to purchase some picnic tables that can be folded up and moved around town. Council approved to purchase 2 tables for now to see how stable they are.

PAY ORDINANCE 16-23: Mechelle motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

Bill motioned to suspend rules for executive session, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye. Bill motioned to go into executive session to discuss a Real Estate Transaction, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye. Mayor invited Julie Paxton from the Planning Committee as well. Bill motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

The to do list for the Callahan property:

1. Letter to Reading Township Trustees for Annexation
2. Work with Klinefelder on the sewer line easement
3. Survey off 10 acres and house
4. Advertise Coming Soon for the house and 10 acres
5. Tom to process lots with developers
6. Will to advertise farmers to rent the pastures.

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

Eric Emmert, President

Kelly Beem, Fiscal Officer