

Minutes of Special Council Meeting

Held October 15, 2020

At 5:30 p.m. the Honorable Mayor Scott Garrett called the meeting to order and led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country. Mr. Garrett stated the reason for the meeting is to make determinations of CARES Act Funds.

Roll Call: Cheryl Belknap – present Lawrence Cunningham – present
Terrie Altieri – present Cindy Cale – present
Cheryl Taylor – present Sherri Pennington – present

Also present were: Tom Reitz, Eric Breiding, Elizabeth Dertthick, Debbie Blewitt, Sheila Moore, and Rick Layer.

Finance by Cindy Cale

Mrs. Cale made a motion to remove Ordinance O-2020-28 from the table. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Altieri and carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

Mrs. Cale opened up discussion on how to complete Ordinance O-2020-28. Mr. Garrett said he thought that Council was not going to proceed with this and give the remainder of the money to the Joint Fire District. Mrs. Taylor said she would like some further discussion on this matter. Mrs. Taylor said if you are listening to the experts about COVID 19, then she thinks the Village employees deserve hazard pay because they have worked the entire pandemic. Mrs. Taylor said Bill Pennington is dealing with the public's waste every single day and she considers that dangerous, Cheree Taylor and Mr. Reitz are still going to court, and the police are still doing their jobs. Mrs. Taylor said you can't have it both ways, you put all these restrictions in place and still make people go to work, this means that they are still in danger. Mr. Garrett agreed that anyone working outside of their homes is in danger. Mr. Garrett said his concern is the Joint Fire District is down to one ambulance and they need \$98,000 to fix the other ambulance and the Township has given them \$50,000. Debbie Blewitt said she heard that the Joint Fire District had already agreed to fix the second ambulance before the CARES Act funds were issued and Mrs. Cale confirmed that. Mrs. Taylor said she is not saying that the Village should not contribute to fixing the second ambulance, but she believes that the Village employees deserve some hazard pay also. Mr. Garrett said the problem is that after the approved projects for the CARES Act funds in the Village there's only about \$30,000 left. Mrs. Cale asked if this was an everyday payment or in case someone is exposed to COVID. Mr. Reitz said with respect to safety forces the Department of Treasury has determined this to be an accommodation, you are by definition being exposed to hazardous conditions due to the COVID 19 pandemic, and as always this expenditure cannot be budgeted in March and it has to be needed because of the public emergency. Mr. Reitz said he does not think it is a stretch to include the Water department, Sewer department, and the office staff in this legislation because they are all exposed to the public and public waste. Mr. Reitz said in regards to himself this would only apply to the hours he is exposed to the public; an example is going to court. Mr. Reitz said this hazard pay can be retroactive to the beginning of the public emergency, March 1, 2020. Mr. Reitz said this is not mandatory; it is a policy decision for Council to make. Cheree Taylor said she was asked by a Council member to call Hiram and see what they did with the hazard pay. Cheree Taylor said Hiram gave all their employees an additional \$1.25 per hour retroactive from March 1, 2020 and it will be a separate check outside of the employee's normal paychecks. Mr. Garrett said we will have to figure out what that total payment will be and he thinks it is a great idea if it doesn't exceed that amount. There was discussion and calculations by Council as to how much the hazard pay would be. Mr. Garrett suggested that we give the Village employees hazard pay and whatever is left over the Village will sub grant to the Joint Fire District.

Mrs. Cale made a motion to amend Ordinance O-2020-28 as decided to complete the Hazard Pay Ordinance at the rate of \$1.25 per hour. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Altieri and carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

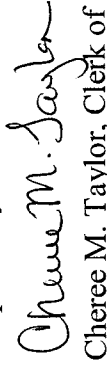
Mrs. Cale read Ordinance O-2020-28 **AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A POLICY AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL HAZARD PAY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES WHO ARE SUBJECT TO WORKING IN HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS**

DURING A DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY and made a motion to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Ms. Belknap and carried by a 6 – 0 vote. Mrs. Cale made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-2020-28 as amended, which was seconded by Mrs. Altieri and carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

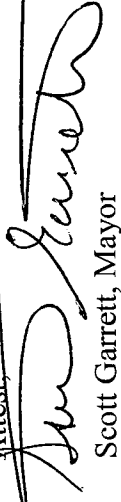
Mrs. Cale read Ordinance O-2020-29 **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF CARES ACT FUNDING TO UPGRADE FACILITIES IN THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING SO EMPLOYEES CAN SHOWER AND SANITIZE AFTER EXPOSURE TO COVID -19 IN CONFORMITY WITH TO CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES DESIGNED TO STOP OR MINIMIZE THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** and made a motion to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Ms. Belknap and carried by a 6 – 0 vote. Mrs. Cale asked a question about the amounts on the L&L Construction quotes. Debbie Blewitt said that originally Rick Layer took off \$5,000 so that the amount was under \$50,000, so that it would not have to be competitively bid, but we came to find out that it would not have to bid, the Village was just going to pay that money out of the General fund anyway. Mr. Reitz said he was not privy to those discussions and would not have recommended that, because that is an improper avoidance of the competitive bidding process. Mr. Reitz said this project is exempt from the competitive bidding process because it is a real emergency and that is written in the legislation. Mr. Reitz said the part he was not consulted on was the under bidding by \$5,000 and paying that from another source. Debbie Blewitt said she was not aware that it did not have to be competitively bid until after Rick Layer has already given her the bid. Debbie Blewitt explained that this was done to avoid the competitive bidding process because we would run out of time. Mr. Reitz explained that in order to avoid competitive bidding you cannot divide a project up into separate quotes (example: plumbing or electrician) in order to keep all the costs below \$50,000. Mr. Reitz explained that the whole project totals about \$103,000 and normally would have to be competitively bid, however this is an emergency, one because of the pandemic and two because of the time restraints put in place for the CARES Act Funds. Mrs. Cale made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-2020-29, which was seconded by Mrs. Altieri and carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

Mrs. Cale made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mrs. Altieri and by unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Cheree M. Taylor, Clerk of Council

Attest,


Scott Garrett, Mayor

**** NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUMMARY BY DIRECTION OF COUNCIL ****

All Council & Committee Meetings will be held in Windham Council Chambers, unless otherwise noted.