Council July 22, 2019

Present for the regular meeting of the Village of West Liberty was: Mayor G. Hostetler, Mr. M. Hostetler, Mr. Hyland, Mr. Keller, Mrs. McKelvey, Mrs. Griffith, Ms. Yoder, Chief Oelker, Street Superintendent Mr. Derick, and Clerk Boyd. Media Nate Smith of Bellefontaine Examiner and Colton McCabe of WPKO. Guests: Tami Wenger, Paul Ober, Lisa and Scott Guenther, and Diane Allen. Absent: Solicitor Moell.

Meeting was opened with Pledge of Allegiance and Lord’s Prayer.

A MOTION was made by Mr. M. Hostetler seconded by Ms. Yoder to approve the minutes of July 8, 2019 as written/read. Motion Carried.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hyland seconded by Mrs. Griffith to approve the following bills in the amount of $36,888.94. Motion Carried.

John Deere tractor for Lions Park 3048.52

Bowman Handyman gutter at police bldg.. 37.50

Cintas mat 37.12

Cintas uniforms 215.40

Wex Bank gasoline 1065.82

Medical Mutual insurance 4038.52

Lee Deloye 80 reg. 1124.46

Nate Fickle 72 reg. 10 OT 8 vac 1150.53

Hodge Hager 8 hrs. 76.57

Bret Mancini 64 reg. 16 SL 8 OT 1185.91

Shane Oelker salary 1434.11

Doug Lash services 100.00

Tom Cooksey services 300.00

Bill Detrick salary 1251.15

Shane Freehauf 79 reg. 1 pers. 1020.29

Dennis Lance 80reg 1019.51

Robert Griffith 25 hrs. 298.36

Hieby Oil fuel 778.79

IRS WH MC Emp. MC 1505.98

IRS WH MC Emp. MC 1375.72

CCA municipal tax 295.77

Ohio Dept. Taxation state tax 706.84

Ohio School Inc. Tax school tax 443.85

Berry Digital Solutions emails July 59.76

Berry Digital Emails August 59.76

D P& L electric 638.87

Miami Valley Lighting street lights 2127.99

Allied Waste curbside 2772.29

Heiby Oil fuel 187.12

Heiby Oil fuel 220.07

Contract Sweepers street sweeping 979.00

Time Warner Cable phones 94.31

Cherokee Run Landfill 38.67 Tn 3060.79

Fire Safety boots for Morris 240.00

P S & L loan 3079 1735.00

P S& L loan 57439 2201.26

Cont. July 22, 2019

Tami Wenger gave her history on the tree and reasons she wants to keep it. She doesn’t believe it needs to come down like Mayor and Council reported. She believes it is not a threat.

Lisa Guenther was here to give her expert opinion. She has several degrees in biology. She was here to question and clarify why the tree was going to be removed. She said the tree survived the ice storm of 2005 and storm of 2012. It's not just a Christmas tree, it's a beautiful tree. I knew people were going to approach the subject from an emotional point of view and I wanted to provide a scientific point of view.

Paul Ober said he thought lights were going to be removed and projector lights will be looked at. He has the lights at his house and will have them up this week. He asked Council members to come and look.

Mr. M. Hostetler was very upset with Tami Weger because on social media she called him liar. The last words he said was “I’m only one of six council members.” He also said we don’t do this job for the money. Out of 11 elected positions between Liberty Township and Council, 8 were appointed, 2 were elected uncontested, and 2 were contested. So people don’t want this job or they would run. Mr. Keller said his family has been harassed and he has been stalked on FB because of the expert opinion he wrote for Bellefontaine Examiner about the tree. He has lived here for 10 years and has been a part of Macochee Ambulance and Fire Department. Mrs. McKelvey has received nasty letters. Historical Society had a master plan for landscaping from Phil Brandt. We have many other things to think about by taking down the tree. We are concerned with the height and weight of the tree; and it falling. It was asked why the north tree was taken down and was explained it was dead on the backside. The Mayor wanted to ask if the tree can stay until we have a replacement. Council agreed. Council members thanked Jeremy for his work in Bellefontaine Examiner.

Ordinance 2019-11 entitled “An Ordinance by the Council of the Village of West Liberty, Ohio Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute Deeds and other Necessary Documents to Effectuate the Sale of Certain Real Property” was read. A MOTION was made by Mr. Keller seconded by Ms. -Yoder to approve Ordinance 2019-11 on third and final reading. Bids will be taken until August 26, 2019 at 4:00 PM. It will be advertised for five consecutive weeks.

Ordinance 201-13 entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

2019-04 FOR THE VILLAGE OF WEST LIBERTY, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019 “ was read. A MOTION was made by Mrs. Griffith seconded by Mrs. Griffith seconded by Mr. Keller to pass Ordinance 2019-13 on 1st reading only. Motion Carried. This is an Ordinance to amend Sewer fund in the amount of $70,000 and breaks down in capital outlay $20,000, Electric $20,000 and contractual services $10,000.00.

Mr. Detrick will meet with street finance about the raises for street department.

We have about 4 months of trash bags left and need to order more in the amount of $6832.50. Clerk will look at finances and will be put on hold.

Water Department was authorized to rent the vac/hydro truck for a month and street department will use it for 1-2 days.

The leaf machine was picked up for repair.

Mr. Detrick talked with Orkin and A-1 Pest control. Orkin does our mosquito control now and charges $500.00 per month and only spray at parks and drops pellets in storm sewer. He will be meeting with A-1 Pest next week.

Cont. July 22, 2019

Mr. Detrick, Mr. M. Hostetler and Mr. Hyland went to Springfield and visited the splash pad. Mr. Hyland loved it and is in support of this project, along with Mr. Hostetler. However, the location may be better at the North end of the park. Flooding would not be an issue, restrooms and shelter house is right there, more parking, and it won’t be near the road. We are looking into water lines and sewer.

Chief Oelker will be meeting with building committee August 12th at 10:00 am so they can get bids for winter work.

Chief Oelker also talked about body cameras and possible audio and video for all council meetings. This protects everyone and will be looked into.

Mrs. Griffith received an email back from Kora. This grant for the bridge on W. Columbus is going to be very expensive to get it back to a vehicular bridge with a grant. It may be cheaper without a grant and make it a pedestrian bridge. Still looking for grant from Choice One and thinks the next one is due in February.

Beautification Award is due by August 1st and voting begins August 5th. We have 2 nominations now.

Mr. Keller talked about crosswalks again. Stan Thoman would like to see it in front of his store. Mr. Keller and Mr. Detrick will get together and discuss. They will be just stripes not a speed bump.

It was asked if Council wants to revisit installing sidewalks on SR 68 from CR 189 to Shake Shack. Clerk will look at paperwork from a few years ago.

Bid openings for Library building will be at 5:30 PM on August 26th. We will also be meeting with Liberty Township at 6:00 PM August 26h for our annual meeting.

The finance committee, Mr. Detrick and Clerk met with Howard Weinerman and Angel Payne to discuss trash and recycling fees. He is working with Cherokee Landfill and Republic Services on our behalf to get dump fees and recycling fees reduced.

Mayor G. Hostetler signed Proclamation for a Bell Ringing Ceremony on September 17th at 4:00 PM.

Jim Jordan will be here Monday July 29th 1:30 -2:15 PM then will be visiting Sweetie Pies, Solomon’s Garage and Mac-A-Cheek Castle. Everyone is invited.

Summer Street Market Friday and Saturday this weekend.

Splash Pad upcoming events are

August 10th golf scramble at Liberty Hills

August 16th Bingo Food Trunk at Lion’s Park

August 22nd Ice Cream Sundae Fundraiser at Lions Park

A MOTION was made by Mr. M. Hostetler seconded by Mrs. McKelvey to adjourn at 9:05 PM. Motion Carried.

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Clerk Cindee M. Boyd Mayor Gregory J. Hostetler