

## La Rue Village Council Meeting June 7, 2021

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on June 7, 2021 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Tyler Howell, and Council Members: Connie Kendall, Melissa Shawver, John Howard, Lance Roberts, David Stallsmith, and John Boyd.

**Guests present:** Diane Evans (Board of Public Affairs Representative), Cheryl Johnson, Mary Snyder, Mr. & Mrs. Stofcheck, and Tim Studer.

**Opening:** Mayor Dustin Ford opened the Meeting with a pledge to the American flag.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved with a motion by David Stallsmith and a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed.

**The financial report** was presented and a motion was made Melissa Shawver to approve the bills with a second by Connie Kendall motion passed.

**Mayor** – Mayor Ford reported that he spoke with Access Engineering and the Village was awarded the OPWC grant money. Council would like Craig from Access Engineering to attend the next meeting along with Evie Cummings from Regional Planning to discuss the grant money allocation.

Mayor Ford brought up his concern with the decision to not renew the park levy and would like to open the discussion back up with Council. Melissa Shawver stated she had second thoughts also because there will be maintenance at the municipal building park that the levy can be used for. The cost of the levy is minimal to the residents and the things that can be done with the money to improve the park and maintenance that will need to be done. John Howard stated he still stands by his decision to not renew the levy because the original levy was passed initially because of the expense of the pool. Furthermore, without running the pool it is not accurate to run the levy without the pool in operation. Discussion was held about the expenses at the park. Mr. Howard felt that we should remember that when an opportunity is available to lower taxes then Council should take the opportunity to help the residents.

A motion was made by Connie Kendall to reverse the decision that was made at the May meeting to not renew the levy with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed with a 4 yes and 2 no vote. Council wants to invite Joann Kasotis to the next meeting to discuss the levy and putting it on the ballot.

**BPA** – Tower painting has been completed and it has to sit for 10 days then it can be filled. Hydrant in front of the Methodist Church has been replaced.

**Maintenance** – Tyler Howell reported the Village will not get a dock or flowers this year because the grant money is no longer available. Flags have all been put up, corn stalks cleaned up after the high water, fogger inspected, swing set repaired at the park, and catch basins being pumped out.

Tyler Howell reported that the mosquito spray the Village has on hand can be used but it can no longer be purchased so moving forward a different chemical will need to be used.

**Park & Pool** – Melissa Shawver asked if Tyler Howell can open the North gate at the park and he will be opening it to allow better traffic flow with baseball game traffic.

**Sheriff** – X

**Zoning** – X

**Tree Commission** –X

**Budget** – X

**Street and Alley** – Parking lines have been painted in the downtown area. Montgomery township wants to split the cost of a reusable handicap and railroad painting stencil.

A motion was made by John Howard to split the cost of stencils with Montgomery Township up to \$250 with a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed.

**Fire & Safety** – Lance Roberts reported that the fire department has hired a lawyer to conduct an investigation over the Seiter Rd fire and a recommendation will be presented to the Board.

**Buildings & Grounds** –

**Regional Planning** – X

**Old Business:**

Cheryl Johnson brought up the concern with the way the Village looks. John Boyd mentioned that with the way the Village looks the level of crime will increase and that's a concern. Council discussed what steps need to be done to improve the Village and enforce the Ordinances. Letters need to be sent and then it needs to be pushed past that if they don't follow through with the solicitor to take them to court. Council would like to talk with the Village's solicitor at the next meeting and find out what steps will need to be followed.

**Ordinance 2021-2** was read to increase the Village Clerk's salary from \$18,000 to \$25,000 with a motion to suspend the rules and pass as written by Melissa Shawver and a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

**New Business:**

Tim Studer was present and wanted to talk with Council about his property beside the grocery store and he wants to only have one water bill from where the Masonic Lodge use to occupy. According to Mr. Studer the grocery store and area above has the same address. Also, he would like to cap the meat locker so he no longer gets a utility bill. Council reported that Mr. Studer would need to attend the BPA on July 21<sup>st</sup> @7pm to discuss all his requests with that board.

Elgin West Teachers want to relocate Mr. Bame's plaque by the flag pole and move it to Elgin in a memorabilia case. Council did not have a problem with the plaque being relocated.

John Howard brought up the discussion of a cleanup day and having residents set trash items in front of their properties to be picked up rather than dumpsters like in the past. The estimates at this point from Sam's Sanitation for 3 truckloads would be around \$2,000 and he could take all the general items that can be typically picked up. The earliest that could be arranged is in July and more details need to be gathered with what exactly can be put out for pickup. John Howard will follow up with Sam's Sanitation to get additional details to discuss at the next meeting.

Council granted Tyler Howell approval to push trash off the tree lawn back onto the resident's property if left there for an extend time.

Council would like to get in writing from the library their intent for the library building before the utilities can be switched over to the Village.

A motion to adjourn by Melissa Shawver with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed. Next meeting will be July 6, 2021 at 7pm. Also, the August meeting will be held on August 9<sup>th</sup> @7:15pm.

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Mayor

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Fiscal Officer