

La Rue Village Council Meeting June 2, 2022

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on June 2, 2022 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Tyler Howell, and Council Members: Connie Kendall, Lance Roberts, David Stallsmith, John Howard, and Melissa Shawver.

Guests present: Bailey Higgins

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 Connie Kendall and a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed.

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

Mayor –

Mayor Dustin Ford reported that a preconstruction meeting was held for St Rt 95 and the proposed start date will be the end of June.

BPA – X

Maintenance – Tyler Howell reported they have been working on mowing, trimming, brush hauling, and street patching.

The air conditioner in the municipal building is not working properly and parts are unavailable to repair the 2-ton unit. A motion was made by John Howard to purchase a new 2-ton wall air conditioner with a budget to not exceed \$2,000 with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

Tyler Howell presented pictures of the municipal building roof that needs recoated and repaired. A section of the roof towards the front of the building is leaning and needs repaired or removed. Jimmy Doss quoted \$5,000 for the repair. Council would like an additional quote for the repair so Tyler Howell is going to contact Quality Masonry and Grindell Masonry. Council all agreed to recoat the roof with a budget of \$500.

Park & Pool – X

Sheriff – Mayor Ford presented that he emailed the sheriff's office regarding the condition of Cody Lowe's property and next week the sheriff will be visiting the property. Additionally, a letter will be sent to the owner because an address for the actual owner was obtained.

Zoning – X

Tree Commission – Connie Kendall is going to wait until after the St Rt 95 project is completed to get tree work scheduled.

Budget – X

Street and Alley – Tyler Howell reported that parking spaces need painted downtown and Council agreed he can wait until after the Oorang Bang event.

Fire & Safety – Lance Roberts reported that the alley beside the fire department is in rough shape and needs paved. Mayor Ford presented a quote from Iberia Earthworm for \$16,902 to pave the section of alley from High to Front Street. The Fire Department is willing to contribute towards the project and wanted to know if the Village would be willing to contribute as well. Council all agreed they would be willing to cover up to 50% of the quoted amount. The Fire Department may also be getting funding from the township which could lower the Village's share. A motion was made by John Howard to contribute up to 50% of the cost with a second by Lance Roberts, motion passed.

Buildings & Grounds – X

Regional Planning – X

Old Business:

Council reviewed all the properties that received junk letters and the status:

Spracklen (Lumber Mill) 172 Vine Street – No progress

Pendelton 61 Chestnut Street – Cleaned up slightly but still needs attention

Andrae Williams 148 Chestnut Street – No progress

Bradshaw 44 Vine Street – No progress and didn't pick up certified letter

Cody Lowe 285 N High Street – No progress and didn't pick up certified letter

Demoris Brown 61 Vine Street – No progress and did pick up certified letter

Denise Potts 41 S Front Street – Slight progress

Mayor Ford reported he has heard that the railroad may not be interested in closing Front Street anymore and also may not be raising the tracks. No further information was available at this time.

Land bank now owns the hardware store and at this point no demolition date is scheduled. Council discussed savings some of the bricks to build something.

Steve Dashner's driveway situation was discussed and he is wanting to either purchase the property or be granted an easement. Council discussed that they are unable to sell the property because FEMA funds were used to demo the house and they are not interested in granting an easement. Council would like a certified letter to be sent to Mr. Dashner outlining that he has 30 days to either remove the driveway or lease the property. After the 30 days if nothing is done then the Village will remove the driveway and bill him for the expenses incurred.

Council discussed mowing of properties and what can be done when letters are returned as undeliverable. A notice can be placed in the newspaper with the address, name, and notice then the Village can mow the property.

New Business:

Bailey Higgins was present and discussed her background with Council. Resolution 2022-2 was then read to hire Bailey Higgins as the Village's new Solicitor with a motion to suspend the rules by Melissa Shawver and a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed. A motion was made to pass the Resolution 2022-2 as written by Melissa Shawver and a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

Council asked Mrs. Higgins about the Village entering into an agreement with LCA for usage of the old municipal building. The Village can enter into an agreement and still can keep tax exempt status. A Resolution can be passed to approve the mayor to sign an agreement with LCA. Connie Kendall will need to abstain since she is apart of the LCA group when the Resolution is voted on. Mrs. Higgins stated she can get a rough draft of an agreement for the Village.

Council then asked Mrs. Higgins about the process to vacate and alley/right away. The steps to complete the process are as follows:

1. Resident needs to submit a request to have the alley vacated.
2. Zoning board has to hear the request and the area needs to be surveyed.
3. Any properties that are affected will need to be notified by certified mail.
4. Zoning will need to meet and pass it.
5. Public Hearing will need to be held.
6. Goes to council for approval with a resolution and the surveyed language needs to be in the resolution.
7. Once resolution is passed it has to be recorded and deeded.

The process to vacate the alley will be at the properties owner's expense and could be roughly between \$500-\$1000.

Council asked Mrs. Higgins about hiring minors for summer help and she stated there are labor laws for children under the age of 16. A work permit would be to be obtained from Ohio Department of Education, they can only work 8am-8pm, can't work more than 8 hours per day, can't operate machinery, and breaks every 5 hrs worked.

Council summer schedule:

Wednesday July 13th

Monday August 1st

Council approved that Spot Labor pay rate is \$15.00. Resolution 2022-3 was read to hire Zach Winslow as part time help with a motion to suspend the rules by John Howard and a second by Lance Roberts, motion passed. A motion was made to approve Resolution 2022-3 by John Howard and a second by Lance Roberts, motion passed.

A motion to adjourn by John Howard with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed. Next meeting will be July 13, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer