

**Versailles Village Council Meeting
Held at Fire/EMS Facility**

September 25, 2024

Mayor Dammeyer called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call found the following Council Members present: Mr. Griesdorn, Mr. Steinbrunner, Ms. Shaffer, and Mr. Weaver. Mr. Paulus and Mrs. Dieringer were absent. Also present were Village Administrator Francis, Fiscal Officer Ording, and Village Attorney Tom Guillozet. Guest in attendance was Mr. Mike Francis with Choice One Engineering.

The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation was led by Mayor Dammeyer.

Mayor Dammeyer requested that the agenda be amended under executive session by adding item 9. B. To consider the purchase of property for municipal use and item 9. C. Conference with an attorney for the public body concerning potential disputes involving the public body that may be subject of pending or imminent court action.

Ms. Shaffer made a motion to accept the consent agenda items which included approval of the following:

- Approval of Agenda as amended
- Approval of Minutes from the September 11, 2024 Regular Meeting
- Approval of List of Expenditures for September 25, 2024

Mr. Steinbrunner seconded the motion. Vote: all yeas.

Mayor Dammeyer read a proclamation, recognizing the week of October 6 – 12th as Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You!" Village first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education. Village residents should have working smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires almost in half. Citizens are urged to practice home fire escape and to test smoke alarms at least once a month. The Village has a very dedicated department who are commended for their service.

Next, Mayor Dammeyer read a proclamation, also recognizing the week of October 6 – 12th as Public Power Week. The Village of Versailles Electric Utility provides homes, businesses, schools, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at not-for-profit rates. The Versailles Electric Utility personnel work hard for the well-being of local citizens in providing reliable electricity to the community.

Moving on to old business, Mr. Griesdorn made a motion to have Ordinance No. 24-43 be read by title only, the third reading, seconded by Ms. Shaffer. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried. Village Attorney Guillozet read by title only, the third reading of Ordinance No. 24-43, an ordinance adopting adjusted rates, terms and conditions for water and sanitary sewer services provided by the Village of Versailles, Ohio. Mr. Steinbrunner made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 24-43, seconded by Mr. Weaver. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Next, Village Attorney Guillozet read by title only, the second reading of Ordinance No. 24-44, an ordinance adopting the procedures and application for street-side handicapped parking in the Village of Versailles.

For the first item of new business, Council members were asked to approve a recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee for the designation of public depositories and awarding active public monies. Fiscal Officer Ording reported that 2 bids were received for the Village's active monies (checking account) for the term of January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2029. Park National Bank and Greenville National Bank submitted an application for the Village's checking account giving details of their services, fees, and investment rates. The Finance & Audit Committee recommended to Council the designation of Greenville National Bank as the public depository for active monies

(checking account) during 2025 thru 2029. Mr. Steinbrunner made a motion to approve the designation as recommended, Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Next, Mr. Weaver made a motion to authorize the Village Administrator to change the electric service rate schedule from Commercial Demand (Low Load Factor) Service Schedule "CDLS" to Large Power Service Schedule "LP" for an existing electric service at King's Command Foods effective with their utility bill due November 10, 2024, seconded by Mr. Griesdorn. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Village Administrator Francis provided Council members with vehicle pricing for the replacement of the 2012 Ford F250 truck that is utilized by the Electric Foreman. The 2024 CIP budget was approved for \$60,000. Quotes for the truck were obtained from the following vendors:

- Gaier's Chrysler-Ram-Jeep (2024) - \$43,418
- Hittle GMC (2025) - \$47,460
- Kern's Chevrolet (2025) - \$48,047
- Beau Townsend (2024) - \$49,985

To add a service body to the truck, three companies were contacted for pricing and are as follows:

- Kalida Truck Equipment (Kalida) - \$21,700
- W.A. Jones (Columbia City, IN) - \$18,198
- Knapheide (New Carlisle) - \$16,085

Village Administrator Francis recommended to Council to purchase a new 2024 Dodge 2500 truck from Gaier's with the addition of the service body installation from Knapheide. Mr. Griesdorn made a motion to approve the Village Administrator to purchase the 2024 Dodge 2500 truck from Gaier's and the service body installation from Knapheide, seconded by Mr. Steinbrunner. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Next for consideration was Change Order #1 increasing the contract with Shinn Bros., Inc. by \$35,450 in connection with the North Central Waterline Improvement Project. Village Administrator explained that the additional cost is due to the need of additional asphalt concrete. Ms. Shaffer made a motion to approve Change Order #1 of \$35,450 for Shinn Bros., Inc. in connection with the North Central Waterline Improvement Project, seconded by Mr. Weaver. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

With no further new business, Mayor Dammeyer recognized Mike Francis from Choice One Engineering. Mr. Francis reported that Choice One Engineering will be performing a traffic study for the Village in October. He expressed his appreciation to the Village for the opportunity.

Mr. Steinbrunner then made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the compensation of a public employee, to consider the purchase of property for municipal use, and for a conference with an attorney for the public body concerning potential disputes involving the public body that may be subject of pending or imminent court action. Ms. Shaffer seconded the motion. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried. Members entered executive session at 7:24 p.m. The executive session ended at 7:57 p.m.

Upon returning from executive session, Mayor Dammeyer reported that with the EMS payroll audit, it was determined that employee, Ken Livingston had provided 2 continuing education units to Versailles EMS for which he was not compensated. Per past arrangements, it was agreed upon that he would be compensated at the rate of \$100 per CEU class provided, therefore, Mr. Livingston was owed \$200. In addition, it was discussed that as CE Site Coordinator, he would be compensated an additional \$200. The total amount of \$400 would be credited towards the balance he owed the Village per the audit. Mr. Griesdorn made a motion to retroactively approve a compensation credit of \$200 for 2 continuing education classes performed that Mr. Livingston was not compensated for, seconded by Mr. Weaver. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried. Next, Mr. Griesdorn made a motion to retroactively approve an additional \$200 to Mr. Livingston for him being the CE Site Coordinator, seconded by Mr. Steinbrunner. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Moving on to Administrative Reports, Mayor Dammeyer reported that A Night on The Towne, put on by VAPPA will be held October 12th. Local businesses will have live entertainment, discounts for merchandise and door prizes.

Village Administrator Francis distributed his Village Administrator's Report to members and reported on the following items: The N. West St. railroad crossing reopened to the public on September 16th a week ahead of schedule. Restoration work on the North Central Area Waterline improvements project on the far east side of the project area will take place later into the fall. Where water services were replaced along N. Center St., for example, restoration has not taken place yet due to no rainfall to settle the trenches down. In discussion with Shinn Bros., they will attempt to seed this fall with likely spring repairs to follow next year. Street Dept. personnel have worked to shape the new police shooting range mound at the WJ Bohman Water Tower Property on the east side of the Village. The dirt for the mound was from the Homer St. Lift Station Project a few years ago and with a rental bulldozer, our personnel were able to shape it correctly to the appropriate height for Police Dept. use. We will be working to move the target holders to the site this fall/winter and will look to close down the range at the Terry St. (North) water tower. I attended the Darke County CIC meeting on Sept. 18th. In addition, an annual business meeting with Mike Bowers with Darke County Economic Development, Jerry Bey with Versailles Savings & Loan Co., and myself took place on Sept. 13th. Electric Dept. personnel are down to the last handful of conversion outages in the Cambridge Dr. area. Final lawn seeding will be taking place later this week with Groff Mowing & Lawncare hydroseeding the repair areas near transformers and pedestals for the Village. Hydroseeding is being used in place of straw to prevent it from blowing all over in people's yards. The water plant clarifier bearing replacement went well on Saturday, Sept. 14th with no issues. The clarifier was further cleaned of calcium carbonate and lime build up while the bearing was replaced by Village personnel. A planned power outage will take place the morning of Sept. 29th between 4:00 a.m. - 6:00a.m. to allow Village linemen to reconnect three power leads near the Fire Dept. on Vista Dr. An outage took place on Sept. 15th to disconnect power in this area to allow for a new pole to be installed along Vista Dr. for the Midmark Plant C expansion project. Village linemen have been working to remove old utility poles along Reed Rd. from the Circuit #5 rebuild project in addition to several old poles along SR 47 on the east side of town. The swimming pool has been completely winterized and tarped for the season by treatment plant personnel. The Street Dept. provided barricades and cones as needed for the Tour De Sewer Cross Country Invitational and the Versailles Band Invitational that will were both held on Sept. 21st. The Village was provided a letter from CenterPoint Energy recently outlining that they have filed a notice with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) on August 27th to begin the process of requesting an increase in natural gas distribution rates. This does not involve the cost of the actual natural gas itself, nor the Village's gas aggregation program/rates. The distribution rate is the fee levied by CenterPoint to transport, maintain, and build the gas infrastructure to deliver natural gas to the end customer. The letter states that the proposed rate increase equates to an approximate \$23/month increase for an average residential gas customer. The final one-year warranty inspection took place on Klipstine Rd. from the 2023 improvement project. The only warranty item found was one sidewalk panel needing replaced near Klipstine Rd./Hubert Dr. Small lawn restoration work is needed in a few various spots from recent yard drain and cleanout adjustments and will be handled by Village personnel. This work has been held off due to the drought conditions over the past month. As discussed in past Tree Commission Meetings and during general conversation during council, trees in the Downtown Streetscape area have been reviewed. Thirty-four trees have been identified as needing to be replaced either from disease, the tree is dead, or the tree is overgrown the tree planting location and is now buckling sidewalks and pavers. Three green ash near Park National Bank have already been removed during the CSX railroad crossing repair. These trees have been marked with a pink dot on the trunk of the tree indicating it is in need of removal. Most of these trees are leprechaun ash and green ash with a few other species between Steffin St. and Second St. The Tree Commission met earlier this year and recommended for these locations to be replaced with Japanese lilac ivory silk. These are the same tree species that were used along Woodland Dr. a few years ago and have also been used for random dead tree replacements prior in the Downtown Streetscape area. These trees do not get overly tall and are well suited for tight constraints. The tree replacement cost is \$6,120 from A. Brown & Sons Nursery, Phillipsburg. Village Street Dept. personnel would work to remove the tree stumps this fall and replant with new trees over the winter months which is the best time to plant trees. A. Brown historically digs their tree orders in November and we would pick these trees up ourselves to save on freight costs. The replacement trees are all 2" caliper. Sidewalk and paver repairs would take place this winter and into the spring as a capital improvement project. The Rosecomb Estates Phase II concrete curbs were installed the week of September 16th. The project contractor, Paulus Excavating, has informed us that the streets may be paved the week of September 30th, weather

and schedule depending. The additional banner arms for Veteran banner displays have arrived. Village personnel will work to install these in October as the workload schedule allows. Street Dept. personnel have started on the first areas of sidewalk replacements in Ward Park. The first areas should be re-poured this week as weather and concrete availability with Pepcon allows. Water/wastewater treatment operator Trevor Jacobs began Ohio Operator Training Committee (OTCO) water operator training classes the week of Sept. 16th. This training is once a week for 12 weeks and will prepare someone for Ohio EPA Class I Water Treatment licensure. The second round of residential water well monitoring related to the Reed Rd. Wellfield took place the week of Sept. 9th by Eagon & Associates. A full report will be provided by Eagon likely within the next week or so. Village personnel will soon be grass seeding the privacy/security mound addition at the Municipal Services Facility along the South property line. I presented at the Versailles FFA's Weather Wise program the evening of Sept. 24th. I was contacted by Mrs. Dena Wuebker, instructor for the Versailles FFA, about presenting on Village safety procedures and practices related to weather events, especially tornados. Other presenters from the county and the state also presented. We are starting to assemble information across all departments for budgeting and the Village's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for 2025-2029.

Fiscal Officer Ording provided Council members with the August Fund Report and the Report of the Tax Department for August. She also reported that grant money has been awarded for the EMS department for training equipment.

Committee and Board reports were as follows:

- Personnel & Policies – meeting October 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission – meeting October 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
- Cemetery Board – meeting October 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
- Tree Commission – met October 4th to discuss the tree lottery bid results

Mr. Weaver announced he would be absent from the October 9th meeting.

With no further business to conduct, Ms. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Steinbrunner seconded the motion. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor Dammeyer adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Todd M. Dammeyer, Mayor

Kathy Ording, Fiscal Officer