

Special Council Minutes
Village Office, 1 South Main Street
December 5, 2024
6:30PM

Council Members:

Sterling Krout
Lynne Snider
Tony Taylor
Dale Brussee
Tasia Savage

Village Officials:

Amanda Lackey – Mayor
Abby Tolliver – Clerk of Council
Melissa Brofford – Village Adminstr.
Taylor Bennett – Fiscal Officer

Call to Order:

Mayor Lackey called to the meeting to order on December 5, 2024 at 6:30PM by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Roll Call was taken with Council President Sterling Krout, Council Member Lynne Snider, Council Member Tony Taylor, Council Member Dale Brussee, and Council Member Tasia Savage all present.

Roll Call:

Sterling Krout – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Tony Taylor – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Lynne Snider – aye

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to excuse Council Member Ashley Moore. Council Member Tony Taylor made the motion. Council President Sterling Krout questioned if Council Member Ashley Moore had made her absence known prior to the meeting, to which Mayor Lackey answered no. The motion was not seconded.

Review & Approval of Special Council Agenda for December 5th, 2024

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the Special Council Agenda for December 5th, 2024 after review. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken with all council members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Tasia Savage – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Tony Taylor – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 5-0

New Business:

i. 2025 Budget Review:

Administrator Brofford and Fiscal Officer Bennett went through the entirety of the budget with Council, going over any changes made either by Village Official from prior budgets, or made prior to the meeting by the Village Finance Committee.

\$1,200 was removed from Miscellaneous Revenue in the General Fund, due to being unable to predict incoming funds.

\$16,000 was removed from Miscellaneous Revenue in the Streets fund for the same reason.

Administrator Brofford explained to Council that without the passage of the Parks & Recreation Levy, the Parks & Recreation Fund sits at \$10,000. Mayor Lackey explained that if Council wants to raise TYRA rates, that lights at the Village Ball Parks must be replaced.

Administrator Brofford explained that lights had not been budgeted for in the Parks & Recreation Fund, and money for those would have to be pulled from the General Fund.

Administrator Brofford also suggested looking for grants to pay for light replacements.

Administrator Brofford explained that only 60% of the police budget has been used this year. The Mayor's Court Computer Fund was explained as where any collected fines go to, and where magistrate pay and fees are paid out of.

Council Member Tasia Savage asked if money if the Cemetery Bequest Fund could be used for maintenance at the small cemetery behind the elementary school, to which Administrator Brofford assured that she would reach out to Solicitor Zets for clarification before confirming or denying.

Administrator Brofford explained that the Water Operation fund was very similar, but \$25,000 would be used to clean the Water Tower Tank, and \$2,000 was taken out of Miscellaneous Revenue, due to being unable to predict incoming funds.

Administrator Brofford suggested charging Zemba slightly more to dump in the Village due to the Village's rise in rates, which would go into the Sewer Operating Fund. Administrator Brofford explained it was not in the Village's best interest to negotiate a long-term sewage dump contract with Kemba, as yearly contracts allow for the Village to change charged rates as needed. Council Member Dale Brussee brought up appropriating money for the Vorhees property purchase within the Sewer Operation Budget, to which Administrator Brofford agreed to discuss during the appropriations meeting.

Administrator Brofford confirmed that the amount in the Swimming Pool Fund matched what Council had previously thought it would be based on Leatherman donation rates.

Administrator Brofford explained that any further Capital Improvement Plan payments, Consulting payments, or public input payments could easily be budgeted into this number. Conversation quickly turned to the Capital Improvement Plan and how it will affect the water system, aged 64 years, moving forward. One-call systems locally include the PCEMA, with rates of around \$1,400 per 250,000 messages. The Buckeye Lake Regional Commission is pricing different companies in hopes of a group rate to be used individually by Villages and Townships in the region. At this point, Mayor Lackey called a Point of Order.

ii. **ORDINANCE 24-17: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2025 TAX BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE AND DIRECTING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO SUBMIT THE 2025 TAX BUDGET TO THE COUNTY AUDIOT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

1st Reading:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 24-17 and declare it an emergency. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye
Tasia Savage – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Tony Taylor – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 5-0

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 24-17 as amended. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Tasia Savage – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Tony Taylor – aye
Lynne Savage – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 5-0

iii. **Back-Up Staff Discussion:**

Mayor Lackey explained she would like to bring Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem back onto staff

part time, due to the fact that the Village's current Fiscal Officer, Taylor Bennett, is also part time. Mayor Lackey explained further that in case of any emergencies regarding either fiscal officer - sickness, family emergency, travel, etc. - this would allow for Village operations to continue unscathed. Council President made a motion to keep Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem on staff part time, and Council Member Tasia Savage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Tasia Savage – aye
Tony Taylor – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 5-0

iv. **Interim Police Chief Appointment:**

Mayor Lackey informed Council she would be appointing Officer Robert Vanderbosch to the interim police chief position so the department can continue functioning. Interim Chief Vanderbosch has begun attending the County Chiefs Meetings, and Mayor Lackey expressed interest in speaking to him about applying and interviewing for the role full-time. Mayor Lackey informed Council that 3 applications had been received already for the full-time chief position.

v. **Interim Police Chief Compensation Discussion:**

Mayor Lackey explained to Council that prior to the promotion, Interim Chief Vanderbosch made \$16/hour with the village, but with all he'd be taking on with the position, a raise is necessary. Based on performance thus far, Mayor Lackey suggested \$22/hour at a minimum rate. Council agreed, and Council President Sterling Krout made a motion to set the rate of pay for Interim Police Chief in the Village at \$22/hour. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Tasia Savage – aye
Tony Taylor – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 5-0

vi. **ORDINANCE 24-18: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW COMPENSATION AND PAY SCHEDULE WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE, REPEALING ALL PRIOR SALARY ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

1st Reading:

Administrator Brofford explained that the pay ordinance would be brought to the Personnel Committee at the beginning of the year to sort through and cut positions that don't exist in the Village anymore. Administrator Brofford explained that this process must be done by ordinance, which is why it can't be handled at this meeting, and some things can be combined, so time needs spent reading through it. The purpose of this ordinance is to change the pay rate for the new meter reader, who is also helping with general labor – LeafVac pick ups, oil filter changes, generator changes, etc., - still as a part-time employee. Rates for both General Laborer in Section 9 of the Ordinance, and Meter Reader in Section 10 of the Ordinance, have been changed from \$12.98/hour to \$14/hour. Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 24-18 and declare it an emergency. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye
Tasia Savage – aye

Tony Taylor – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 5-0

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to adoption Ordinance 24-18. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Sterling Krout – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Tony Taylor – aye
Tasia Savage – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 5-0

vii. **Christmas Decorating:**

Mayor Lackey explained that in years past, Village Council has voted on a “Best Decorated House” in the Village for the Holiday Season the past few years, and gifted the winner with a custom sign at the December Regular Council Meeting. Council agreed to continue this tradition, and suggested holding other holiday competitions in the future, like a Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest. Council Clerk Abby Tolliver was asked to prepare flyers for the competition.

Adjournment:

Mayor Lackey asked for any further comments and announcements. With no other business, Mayor Lackey asked for motion to adjourn the meeting. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

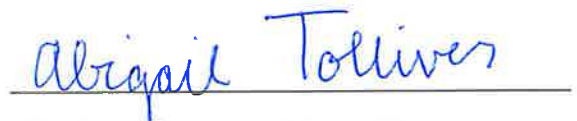
Roll Call:

Tasia Savage – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Tony Taylor – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 5-0



Mayor, Amanda Lackey



Clerk of Council, Abby Tolliver