

Village of Waldron
102 S. Main St.
Waldron, MI 49288
SPECIAL MEETING
October 20, 2022

A special meeting of the Waldron Village Council was called by the President, Russ Platt, on Monday October 17, 2022. The meeting was set for Thursday October 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Wright-Waldron Municipal Building.

President, Russ Platt, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call was taken showing Council members Shawn Barnhart, Bill Hall, Karen McNett, Phyllis Worsley, and President Russ Platt, present. Council members Darcie Salmon and Bettie Salmon were absent.

Addition and changes to agenda: Certification of Legislative Body on Sale of Spirits added.

Shawn Barnhart made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Bettie Salmon arrived. Bettie Salmon supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

Public Comment

April Platt notified the Council that the Village received the approval for the initial letter of intent for the grant from the Hillsdale County Community Foundation for the electrical park upgrade. Next she will be working on getting bids on the work to be able to write the grant. The grant deadline is November 1, 2022, with an answer expected in mid-December.

Emil Gravelle let Council know that he had had his water tested and was concerned with the chlorine level. So, he had reached out to E.G.L.E. to make a complaint. They contacted him and requested he submit his complaint again. He has submitted FOIA requests to the Village office and E.G.L.E.

Water/Sewer Operator

Jeff Gier stated to Council that he was initially approached by the Village to become the water/sewer operator. He explained that he was very busy and wouldn't be able to make daily visits and that was approved by the Council at the time of his hiring. The chlorine level is maintained at the minimum because residents had complained when he had raised it to a level he prefers. Safety and filtering varies between operators, but the chlorine is at the State minimum standard. He gave the requested information for FOIA request to Russ Platt. For several reasons, he has handed in his resignation, which, per his contract, gives the Village 30 days from notification. He strongly advised looking at the water rate study to determine rate increases for the water and sanitation. There are needed improvements to both systems.

Russ Platt is awaiting a list from E.G.L.E. for operators from Hillsdale County. The suggestion was made to look at Lenawee County as well, perhaps Jack Dillon. Discussion continued about whether those directly testing and treating the water need to be certified.

Water Rates

The Council discussed if anything had been determined from the water rate study and the different projects that need to be completed on the water and sanitation system. President Russ Platt said he would find the water rate study to address increasing the water rates at the November meeting.

Water Billing Clerk Hours

Casey Gravelle explained that there has been extra work for Dawna Popejoy because of meters not reading correctly and other unexpected issues. She was asking for permission to work an extra 4 hours each week to make sure the work was completed. Dawna explained the issues she has been dealing with regarding the meters and the software. Shawn Barnhart moved to give Dawna Popejoy an extra hour per day for 4 days a week at the same wage at a month by month basis. Phyllis Worsley supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

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Audit and Help from Beth Town

Casey Gravelle reported on her conversation with Brent Shea, her conversation with Dale at Michigan Department of Treasury, and her conversation with the IRS. She discussed her conversation with Beth and what she requested for pay and when she could come to help. Shawn Barnhart made a motion to hire Beth Town at \$15/hour for Tuesdays and Wednesdays as long as there is a report to Council on the progress. Phyllis Worsley supported and it carried by a voice vote.

Certification of Legislative Body on Sale of Spirits

Casey Gravelle reported that she had received a call from the Michigan Licensing Director that morning. They had had an audit completed recently. It was discovered that while they had given Waldron Friendly Tavern a class C license, Waldron is historically a dry town because of how the State handled the end of Prohibition. Shawn Barnhart moved that the sale of spirits and mixed spirit drink, in addition to beer and wine shall be permitted for consumption on the premises within the Village of Waldron under the provisions of the Michigan Liquor Control Code of 1998, MCL 436.2101(1). Karen McNett supported and a roll call vote was taken with the following results: Phyllis Worsley – yes, Shawn Barnhart – yes, Karen McNett – yes, Bill Hall –yes, Bettie Salmon – yes, Russ Platt – yes. The motion passes with a 6 – yes, 0 – no vote.

Bill Hall made a motion to adjourn. Shawn Barnhart supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Gravelle
Village Clerk