



Minutes of the Village of Galena Council Meeting September 23, 2024

On September 23, 2024 the Village of Galena Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Village Hall, 109 Harrison St., by Mayor Kinnell.

Roll Call

Jeff Kinnell, Mayor (Present)

Gillian Doucette, Council Member (Present)

Josh Porter, Council Member (Present)

Mike Fry, Council Member (Present)

Kathy Krupa, Council President (Present)

Michelle Dearth, Fiscal Officer (Present)

Zach Hopper, Council Member (Present)

Chris Durrence, Council Member (Present)

Also Present

Ken Molnar, Solicitor

A List of those in attendance is attached at the end of the minutes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of August 28, 2024 Council Meeting

Gillian Doucette made a motion to adopt the minutes of the August 28, 2024 Council meeting.

Chris Durrence seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously in a 6-0 voice vote.

Minutes of September 9, 2024 Special Council Meeting

Kathy Krupa made a motion to adopt the minutes of the September 9, 2024 Special Council meeting. Gillian Doucette seconded the motion, and the motion passed in a 6-0 voice vote.

Guest Participation

Jennifer Wilson from the Delaware Public Health District updated Council about the Fall Clinic tour featuring a Walk-in Mobile Clinic. The Fall Wellness Open House for the Delaware Public Health District is on October 3, 2024 from 5:30-8:00. Adventure connection a self-guided tour of outdoor recreation opportunities in Delaware County.

Jan Garlock, Lifelong Learning Institute at Ohio Wesleyan University updated Council about classes beginning on October 7 for 55 and older. Class Descriptions, registration, campus map, scholarship information and application can be found at www.owu.edu/LLI.

Crystal James, Delaware County Transit updated Council about the FLEX service which is a same day service within a geographic area. \$2.00 one way, with discounts for youth, elderly and disabled passengers. The Demand Response Service is a Call Ahead Service with a tiered fare system based on mileage. 0-10 miles: \$8.00, 11-20 miles: \$17.00, and greater than 20: \$29.00. Questions or for service call 740-363-3355 or www.delcotransit.com.

Mary Howard asked Council about the website passcode, which is being investigated to correct. She also asked about the 2-hour parking signs, which the Mayor responded that it is to be determined at a later date.

Michelle Parsons, 115 Middle St. asked Council as to why there are no e-mails or newsletters going out to the residents? When is the Village going to fill the open positions? Gillian Doucette's response was we are in a transition period and hopefully soon we will be able to get a newsletter out.

Mayor's Report

No report.

Administrator's Report

No Report

Fiscal Officer Report

Fiscal Officer, Michelle Dearth reported that Lauren Frank new Administrative Assistant is now working Wednesday-Friday from 9:00-3:00, and there was one cremation burial.

Payment of Invoices for September

Gillian Doucette made a motion to pay invoices for September. Chris Durrence seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously in a 6-0 voice vote.

Approval of Financial Statements

Gillian Doucette made a motion to approve the financial statements for September. Chris Durrence seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously in a 6-0 voice vote.

Code Compliance Report

Interim Zoning Inspector, Alison Cherubini-Hillyer reported that Blackhawk Phase-D is working through a final walk-through punch list. A sign advertising the new Miller Farm subdivision has been installed and Phase 1 construction is underway. Division 7 construction is substantially complete and awaiting grading plan approval.

Maintenance Report

Ted Roshon's report stated that the Walnut Creek bridge and deck have been power washed street light repairs have been completed as needed, striping of road stop bars and crosswalks, and mowing and trimming continues throughout the Village.

Wastewater Report

Brian Rammelsberg's report stated that there were no violations for the month and no new sewer taps.

Resolution No. 2024-17 (1st Reading, Emergency)

A Resolution Filling Vacancies On The Board Of Trustees For the New Community Authority (NCA) And Declaring An Emergency.

Mayor Kinnell read the Resolution. Kathy Krupa made a motion to suspend the second and third reading. Gillian Doucette seconded the motion and the motion failed in a 3-3 roll call vote:

Krupa-Yes Durrence-No Doucette-Yes Fry-No Hopper-Yes Porter-No

No action taken second reading will be at the October meeting.

Resolution No. 2024-18 (1st Reading, Emergency)

A Resolution Authorizing Mayor Of The Village of Galena To Prepare And Submit An Application To Participate In The Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement And/Or Local Transportation Improvement Program (s) And To Execute contracts As Required And Declaring An Emergency.

Mayor Kinnell read the Resolution. Zach Hopper made a motion to suspend the second and third reading. Gillian Doucette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously in a 6-0 roll call vote:

Krupa-Yes Durrence-Yes Doucette-Yes Fry-Yes Hopper-Yes Porter-Yes

Zach Hopper made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-18 as an emergency. Gillian Doucette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously in a 6-0 roll call vote:

Krupa-Yes Durrence-Yes Doucette-Yes Fry-Yes Hopper-Yes Porter-Yes

Resolution No. 2024-19 (1st Reading, Emergency)

A Resolution Accepting The Amounts And Rates As Determined By The Budget Commission And Authorizing The Necessary Tax Levies And Certifying Them To The County Auditor and Declaring An Emergency.

Mayor Kinnell read the Resolution. Zach Hopper made a motion to suspend the second and third reading. Kathy Krupa seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously in a 6-0 roll call vote:

Krupa-Yes Durrence-Yes Doucette-Yes Fry-Yes Hopper-Yes Porter-Yes

Mike Fry made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-19 as an emergency. Gillian Doucette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously in a 6-0 roll call vote:

Krupa-Yes Durrence-Yes Doucette-Yes Fry-Yes Hopper-Yes Porter-Yes

Ordinance No. 2024-11 (1st Reading, Emergency)

An Ordinance Setting The Costs For The Certificate Of Registration Fee And The Construction Permit Fees For The Right-Of-Way Program And Declaring An Emergency.

Mayor Kinnell read the Ordinance.

Executive Session

Mayor Kinnell asked if there is a need for an executive session?

Mike Fry said he had a statement to make. The following statement was transcribed:

“I actually have a short statement I like to make.

Before we discuss that, we began this process over two months ago.

And after a few weeks in the process changed. We had some great candidates who council was ready to approve by majority, but no appointment was made. Some good faith efforts to move forward with the job posting in order to dot the I's and cross the T's for accountability reasons were proving to be fruitless, and in my opinion, the process has been stalled as a way to drive the remaining candidates towards disinterest of the job and eventually some hoping that candidates would withdraw from consideration, which happened this last week with Jonathan Merriman. This time on this one subject I have no desire to speak in more executive sessions because I feel that these sessions are being used by some as a form to hide intentions and information from the residents, and the best way for me to let the residents know the magnitude of the concerns I have from my seat on Council is by walking out of the remainder of this meeting in protest”.

Mayor Kinnell responded which is transcribed

“And my comment on that is none of that was accurate”

Mike Fry walked out at 7:10 pm.

Chris Durrence made a statement which was transcribed:

“I agree with what Mike just did. I was going to stay and what you said that it was inaccurate. Jeff, that is not inaccurate. Based on the conversations that we've had, it's an insult for to look at me and say no, none of that is true.”

Mayor Kinnell’s response which was transcribed:

“You haven’t talked to me in two months, Chris”.

Chris Durrence walked out at 7:11 pm

Josh Porter made a statement which is transcribed:

“My statement. I'm going back to earlier when Michelle came up. In regards to what some of what, the things you said and just reflecting back what I said. On here, we have ordinance listed out here with salary which looks like it's based on the highest amount available for the person who is least qualified. To me, that's a little disturbing. I had conversations also with some of the people who were running for that position. The three that we had, which you selected. The three that you selected and brought forth. I'm pointing to all of you guys, personnel. You guys were part of personnel. I was not at that time. And so the three that we did have that you guys brought forth. Are now not here because of what I've heard from them. Was that they were being intimidated. When it came down to things like, oh, I heard you were talking to this person on council. I heard you were doing this. It was their right to do that. So, for them to be put in that situation and then I was told that. I mean.”
“What's that about”?

Gillian Doucette responded which is transcribed:

“So just real quick, I was asked by you to talk to Jonathan on Friday. We did, we had a really great conversation”.

Josh Porter responded which is transcribed:

“No, you didn't, because it was right after you talked to him he quit, dropped out of the race because of that, right after you guys talked”.

Gillian Doucette responded which is transcribed:

“Correct, and we had a really great conversation. We did, and I was one of I was the only one, and I asked him, I said, did anybody talk to you about comp? So, he was telling me a lot about how he would structure council and the mayor position with the Village how he would want to come in as administrator and then also work in the planning and zoning, which all of us have openly talked, about. So, I don't think that's a secret. So, I asked him, I just said, has anybody talked about the finance portion of this? And he told me that he just received a raise and to come in as village administrator as it was posted that he just recently, that he just applied for, he would need 110,000.

I'm sorry he would need 100,000. He would need \$1000 healthcare stipend. Four week's vacation 15 sick, 2 personal”.

Josh Porter responded which is transcribed:

“I'm aware of all that conversation and for us to get to that \$100,000 us in personnel just the previous time before that had was presented by Jeff a list of items that we could have moved over into different positions which the personnel was ready to move into those positions which would allowed us to increase his salary and we all had these and we all had these discussions and right after that though you came on the phone with him and he dropped out of the run”.

Gillian Doucette responded which is transcribed:

“You asked me to first of all. I have not been talking to the candidates outside of the zoom interview that we did together, that you, Chris and I did together. I have not talked to any other candidates. I did talk to Allison because she applied, and I invited everybody to come on that Interview with me.

You text me and said please have a one-on-one. Jonathan requested a one-on-one with you. He said to me that you suggested he talk to me one-on-one, and I said OK, great. So, we just finished our conversation. We had a great conversation, and I asked him, I said, you know, so catch me up on to where you're at.

And how I started this is where we were at. And then after that, he said. Honestly, Gillian, he goes, I think, for full transparency it would be best if any conversations with me moving forward is with a representative from Council and the mayor for full transparency. And I said I will gladly share that with everyone, and I did.

And then I also said I think we're going to be seeing you on Monday because you sent a note asking to add him to the agenda. And he said Josh mentioned it, but never actually invited me to it. And I'd like to know what it is. And he said, I've never been put on the spot, doing an interview in the public before, he goes that was the first time I ever went through that and I all I said is that I said, I know it's a little uncomfortable, right? Because you're on public record. And he said, so if

you guys want me to come, I want to know what it is. And I'd like to do it in an executive session, which I also communicated with all of you. And then he sent me the message so everyone else has been talking to him.

I'm the last person to talk to him again. It was. Again it was great.

He sent me a message saying that after he did more calculation and I shared this with all of you, that he would be taking too much of a pay cut to come here and that's why he was taking his hat out of the ring. So, I don't want it to fall on me because I'm the last person to talk to him. You asked me to, and I liked him. I liked him from day one. So that's just where I'm at with it. That's really what happened and why the candidate dropped out".

Josh Porter responded which is transcribed:

"I want to ask you a question. I may ask you questions.

You mentioned that several points that grant writing when we all were asking that the interviewees at that time, our biggest point was about grants. We went back and wrote, we wrote the job description for grants.

I would like to know if this appointee does not have any grant writing experience in municipality government. They should be unqualified because all of us sat here and said that was the main reason for us interviewing, and that was what we're going to make sure that we locked down. Is that correct"?

Josh Porter walked out at 7:16 pm.

Adjournment

Council adjourned at 7:16 due to longer having a quorum. No other action could be taken.

A recording of the meeting is available upon request and on the Village website.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on October 28, 2024 at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Galena Village Hall and by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Dearth, Fiscal Officer

Fiscal Officer

Date

Mayor

Date

Certification: I, Michelle Dearth, Fiscal Officer of the Village of Galena, Ohio hereby certify that publication of these Minutes was duly made by posting true copies thereof at five (5) of the most public places as determined by Council in Resolution 2015-18.