

VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

County of Kent, Michigan

Village Council Meeting Minutes

For Monday September 13th, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President Lindsey at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed in remembrance of 9/11.

Members present were; Neil, Schuler, Miller, Soest, Hahn, Erskine and Lindsey. Also present was Manager/Clerk Thornton, Treasurer Erdley was not in attendance.

No public comment was heard.

Communications – Written notice of a emergency purchase of a HVAC system without prior council approval was provided. President Lindsey brought to the council’s attention that even though Halloween is not a sanctioned event for the village, traditionally it is celebrated on the preceding Saturday when it falls on a Sunday. She also asked council to note several dates of importance: Saturday September 25th is the Chamber of Commerce’s Harvest Fest from 11 to 2. October 30th, there is a 5k being planned “Halloween Hustle” and this will start and finish near the Village Green from 9 to 11. Dec 4th will be Christmas in Caledonia and asked all of council to mark these important dates on their calendars and requested council participation.

No inquiry of conflicts of interest were heard.

Moved by Neil, supported by Erskine to approve the agenda and consent agenda, consisting of the minutes of the July 12th meeting, treasurers report and to pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no reports of village committees.

Reports from Engineer and Consultants were received. Jon Moxey presented a brief status of the Kinsey St. Project.

Miller and Schuler attended that last school board meeting that had been very well attended by the public with much applause and many boos. Miller also reported on some activity with the township.

President Lindsey went into more detail of upcoming events in the village with work that she and trustee Soest have already done on the Harvest Fest event and asked for council input on the trivia game. She also requested the enhancement committee of herself, Soest, Miller and Neil get together and start planning Christmas in Caledonia. There was discussion of introducing an alcohol event to the evening.

It was reported by the manager that several complaints were received by the village in regards to the noise level and it’s duration being emitted by the Caledonia Community Schools Stadium on Saturday the 11th with complaints of noise level, the start time and the consistency of music and announcements being all day. Discussion ensued that this is not uncommon and expected with several commenting the it was nice to hear the National Anthem to rise to.

The manager reported that he had made application for the \$171,238 allotment to the village under the ARPA. But he cautioned that we should not get too excited until we have the money in hand.

The manger reported that he had been contacted by an individual, who is organizing a weekend of running events for November 6th and 7th. But one of those events is an endurance run that would go all night through part of the village, all night long for 30 hours. The proposed route would traverse village right-of-way’s. The manger wanted to inform the council that he could not approve or sanction such an event on village streets, in darkness and vehicle traffic with the risk of injury being too high. He also informed the caller that he would not take any steps to stop it but requested that in the paperwork, properly inform participants that they are participating at their own risk. The caller said that they would.

The manger reported that recently the DPW air compressor had stopped working, and electrician was called and luckily the electrician happen to have a used part that would work on our very old compressor that we would see the bill next month.

Manager Thornton reported to council that several months ago the rezoning public notice for property on Kraft Avenue was received by the village and that president Lindsey attended the meeting. It was reported that the township was allowing for the rezoning after Township Supervisor Harryson attended our meeting as a proponent of preserving the village's adjacent property as open space. The township's planner was contacted and it was learned that the site plan that had been approved by the planning commission waived for the requirement of township ordinance *Chapter 3-General Provisions-Section 3.29 Driveways and Private Streets. (iv) A private street shall be extended to a neighboring parcel for connectivity to existing or future development, unless waived by the Township Planning Commission or Township Planner.* She also recommended contacting the township's engineer regarding the issue. Todd Boreman was contacted. He reviewed the draft minutes for the townships PC and could not find where that ordinance had been waived. The engineer offered that he had no recollection of this ordinance being applied on any projects that he had reviewed. After discussion of safer access and uses of the property that the village and the subject property's adjacent property owner would benefit with the provisions of the ordinances being applied. Motion by Lindsey, supported by Miller to send a letter to the township asking them to not waive ordinance's that would offer a safer access option for the users of village property including the WWTP. Roll call vote; Lindsey, Soest, Hahn, Neil, Miller, Schuler were aye's. Erskine was nay. Motion passed.

The manager reported to council that the skip patching project was complete and came in just under the \$12,000 limit authorized by council and there was discussion on how it appeared and how the passer rating may be affected. Moved by Neil, supported by Schuler to authorize the manager to spend up to an additional \$6,000 for more skip patching. Motion passed unanimously.

The manger reported that the school's student council has changed the homecoming parade route. It will come down Johnson, right on Kinsey, left on Lake, another left on Main and then up to the stadium parking lot.

It was reported that the village is researching a replacement more inclusive phone system with will actually provide phone system service to the DPW and council should expect more information next month.

The council was updated as to the lease tractor and informed that we had informed Burnip's that we were approaching our 150 hour notification and we have since surpassed 225 hours. The village's replacement is on order but due to COVID we have not seen it although the village got a bill for delivery of one for some reason.

Council was informed that staff will be attending the Snow Plow Rodeo in Wyoming on November 6th. It will be the opportunity for staff to look at a wide range of devices used for snow removal.

After some discussion, the council agreed to October 4th at 7 p.m. for a workshop giving the opportunity for a presentation and question and answers on the Kinsey Street project for council and the public.

There was a motion by Hahn, supported by Soest to authorize the manger to spend up to \$4,000 with Top Grade Aggregate for compost site improvements. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Schuler, supported by Hahn to accept the price submitted by Tony Bierens of \$1,065 for painting. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Miller, supported by Schuler to authorize the Cambers 5k run use of public streets. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Hahn, supported by Soest to accept the price submitted by Peter Przybysz of Chrouch Communications for the purchase of 6 radios and accessories for \$3,940. Motion passed unanimously.

Kim Peters spoke under public comments and questioned the village promoting others events.

Under council comments, Schuler announce that Farmers Market will be ending in the near future and for everyone to come out while you can. Hahn spoke of tree trimming on Maple and Emmons Streets in preparation for Consumers Energy doing some work on the poles.

The president called for volunteers for the Harvest Fest and that she was soliciting trivia questions for the village's booth.

The manager responded to Ms. Peters question in that the village has to give be careful not to offend or discriminate against an organization that feels that they are entitled to and the village has mostly given schools and churches special consideration on various subjects in the past.

Trustee Neil questioned the ability to sell the (Church St.) fire lane to an adjacent property owner. The manger summarized the street vacation process and no motion was offered, no action taken.

Trustee Neil asked about any standards for speed limit street signs in that vehicles are routinely exceeding the speed limit on Johnson from Duncan Lake to Kinsey St. sighting school traffic as the biggest offenders.

Trustee Neil asked about action being taken against a property owner for ordinance violations. Erskine and Neil had discussion regarding the ownership. The manager explained that enforcement is being pursued.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Jeffrey D. Thornton, Village Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J.D. Thornton', is written over the horizontal line.