

VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

County of Kent, Michigan

Village Council Meeting Minutes

For Monday September 12th, 2022 7:00 p.m.

250 S. Maple St. SE

Caledonia, MI 49316

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present were; Soest, Neil, Erskine, Schuler and Lindsey. Also present was the Manager and Treasurer. Absent were Hahn and Miller.

Mark Blaisdell communicated about lack of response on tree issues, his neighbors next door with concerns of the silver maple at 335 Pleasant St.

Communications were provided regarding a scarecrow contest and Christmas in Caledonia.

No inquiry of conflicts of interest were heard. But it was noted that there was a possibility one may arise.

Neil requested the additions of 12a. Johnson Street sidewalk and 12b. traffic lines. There was a motion by Schuller, supported by Soest; to approve the amended agenda, minutes of the Augst 8th, 2022 meeting, treasurers report and approval to pay the bills, Motion passed unanimously.

President Lindsey announced the resignation of the chair of the Tree Board and presented Gerriane Schuler as her replacement. Erskine asked if he were being replaced and Lindsey clarified that the ordinance differs from the Planning Commission and allows for two council members to serve. Moved by Soest, supported by Erskine to accept the Presidents recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

Jon Moxey gave an update on Kinsey Street and continued problems with Legacy Village. Trustee Neil took the opportunity to ask about the sidewalk on Johnson St. no longer going all of the way to Kinsey. Moxey explained that MDOT does not allow a pedestrian crossing that goes nowhere. Meaning that there is no continuation of sidewalk on any other corner. Neil express concerns of people walling off of a ledge and asked if there could be some sort of barrier installed either man made or natural.

President Lindsey reported on the most recent township board meeting and the ok to proceed with the splashpad at the Community Green. Thornton reported he had gone to the previous township meeting where the township board accepted the procedure for reviewing and evaluating liquor license applicants and the 25th anniversary of Fire Chief Scott Siler with the department.

It was reported that the enhancement committee had met and were proceeding with the planning for Christmas in Caledonia.

The manager reported that there will be a new employee starting once the physical and drug testing were completed and once they were on board he would let council know of introductions. Thornton also presented that with the mml convention coming up, so would its annual meeting and that we would need to officially appoint someone to vote at its annual meeting. Thornton said that he had not planned on attending the convention, nor did president Lindsey, due to lack of new topics although he did plan on attending the annual meeting. Moved by Schuler, supported by Soest to designate Thornton as the villages voting delegate to the mml. Motion passed unanimously. Thornton continued informing the council that the water trailer known as "The Bee" had been involve in a traffic accident and the employee driving the truck towing "The Bee" had not been harmed. He is in communications with our insurance company. While dealing with this accident, Thornton learned that the Michigan

State Police are the only police agency taking reports on M-37 causing great delays in clearing accident scenes which are cause for concern with the amount of traffic we see on M-37.

The president referenced materials provided documents provided by the attorney that contained information in regards to the village and adjacent property owners responsibility of trees in a public right-of-way and a document explaining the restrictions of the use of public funds. Upon review of the village ordinances and in that we have two trees that have been identified as causing damage to village infrastructure, the manager recommended the removal of both the silver maple located near 335 pleasant and an elm tree located near 415 E. Main St. Moved by Erskine, supported by Neil to remove both trees. Motion passed unanimously.

The manager provided several quotes for the removal and stump grinding of the trees. It was discussed as to the amounts would drain what has been budgeted and leave nothing for regular maintenance. Thornton recommended to tap into the general fund balance. West Michigan Tree Serv. \$12,909 Fish \$14,100 Woodland Tree Serv. \$11,470. Moved by Schuler, supported by Neil to have Woodland Tree Service perform the work with monies coming from the General Fund Balance. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Neil stated that he would like to hire a pavement marking company to paint the whole village to brighten things up. Thornton stated that the whole village is not currently painted, using Emmons as an example and that some of our previous markings are not consistent with common practices. Neil requested that three quotes be obtained.

Under public comment, Michael Newlin spoke of tree money being budgeted, but none for sidewalks.

Judy Swift spoke of concerns of sidewalks and asked as to how much money is in the fund balance and asked who was chair of the tree board. Mrs. Swift stated that she was still waiting for an answer as to the village property. Lindsey answered that she would meet with Mrs. Swift after the meeting.

Chuck Swift stated that he had always been told that the trees were the villages and that there is a tree in front of his house he would like to remove.

Mark Boyce spoke of concerns of broken sidewalks and sidewalks that end.

The village manger spoke and referenced the village ordinance that state that the sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner and that copies of that ordinance had been distributed to council members. He also used Glen Valley as an example, where property owners were required to install trees and sidewalks as a condition of their property development. He not only stated that both the tree and sidewalk ordinances are not only available on the village website but he would provide printed copies if needed.

Trustee Soest thanked everyone for their input on the trees.

President Lindsey also thanked everyone for their input on the trees and that now something that should have been done long ago can ease residents minds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Jeffrey D. Thornton, Village Clerk.

