

## Village of Decatur Council Regular Meeting

April 4, 2016

At 7:00 p.m. on April 4<sup>th</sup> President Carl Wickett called the meeting to order, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Wickett then read a letter of resignation by Trustee Strickler. A motion to accept Trustee Strickler's resignation was made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer, and seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion passes. President Wickett makes a motion to appoint Andrea Vaughn, based on her past experience on the council and was recommended by Trustee Strickler, seconded by Trustee Richardson, majority in favor (3-2), motion passes. Trustee Vaughn is sworn in by VC Mitchell. Roll Call is taken with Trustee Vaughn, Trustee Richardson, Trustee Mead, Trustee Stull, President Pro-Tem Elwaer and President Wickett being present, and Mike Heflin absent. Village Attorney Cooper, Chief of Police McLeese, DPW Foreman Ebeling and Village Clerk/Treasurer Mitchell are also present along with 27 guests.

### Public Comment:

John Walker (118 E. Champion) wants to bring attention to the blight in his neighborhood. He has spoken with Deputy Lieutenant Dahlquist and Village Manager Krizan in the past about blight enforcement on one neighboring property. But, there is still blight on that property and many others. He is trying to keep his house up and it seems pointless when the rest of the neighborhood is not. He recommends the council reassess how blight enforcement is done in the Village. After 3 minutes expire he plans to conclude at end of meeting.

### Consent Agenda:

With the addition of Ron Douglas on behalf of "David Walker for Van Buren County Sherriff" to Communication (c) and an Ordinance Variance request to New Business (g). Motion to accept the Agenda as presented with additions made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer and seconded by Trustee Mead. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion to accept the bills as presented in a total of \$138,557.49 made by Trustee Mead and seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion to accept the minutes as presented made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer and seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion carries.

### Communications:

(a) Don Hanson is not present.

(b) Mike McKay spoke on his current campaign for 7<sup>th</sup> District Judge Van Buren County. He explains the importance of public service in his life and career, which includes time as a State Trooper until he was injured on the job and forced him to a desk job. At that time he decided to continue his public service by attending law school and then serving as Van Buren County Assistant Prosecutor. He feels the position of a judgeship should be awarded to someone who has a long record of protecting the public.

(c) Sgt. Ron Douglas of Van Buren County Sherriff Department speaks on behalf of "David Walker for Van Buren County Sherriff". Ron Douglas would be David Walker's Undersheriff if he were elected. David Walker is running as a conservative Republican. He has a wide-ranging career; in his twenties he was the Chief of Police for Bloomingdale, until he moved to the Sherriff's Department where he is now a Lieutenant and manages a \$4.8M budget. David Walker has the experience you want as a Sherriff.

Officer Reports:

- (a) Police Chief Report- nothing to add
- (b) Financial Report- nothing to add
- (c) Village Attorney Report- nothing to add
- (d) Village Manager- VC mentions VM wanted to remind everyone that Dump Day will be on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 8-3:30

Unfinished Business:

- (a) Nelson Property- Demolition will begin to take place on Tuesday. VA mentions that the County Treasurer will push back the tax sale which will allow for the Village to apply the demolition costs to the tax bill.
- (b) Village Hall/PD Telephone System- President Pro-Tem Elwaer makes a motion to purchase the Panasonic NS700 VOIP from Haas Systems in a total of \$5,036.39, seconded by Trustee Mead. All in favor, motion carries.

New Business:

- (a) Resolution 2016-04:Approval of the Van Buren County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016 Update – Motion made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer to approve resolution, seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion carries.
- (b) Commercial Rehab District (PA 210 of 2005) – Request from Final Gravity Brewing Company- Motion made by Trustee Richardson to allow a public hearing to take place, seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion carries.
- (c) Village Employee Vacation Accumulation Table- There were no questions with the updated chart.
- (d) Village Major Streets Crack Filling Quote (Preventative Maintenance Project)- Motion made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer to accept only bid received from Pavement Restoration, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.
- (e) Village Local Streets Project Selection (Heavy Maintenance)- With uncertainty after a discussion of the 6 separate routes that are in need of repair, the council asks DPW-Foreman Ebeling to inspect all the routes and select one that is in the most need and have VM bring those findings back to the council at the next meeting.
- (g) Ordinance Variance- Mike Lietch (503 School St.) is asking for a temporary variance for chickens and sheep to be raised on his property for the Van Buren County Fair. The location of the sheep pen would be away from any other residents on his 1.5 acre lot. Fowl have been approved before but no one has asked for a variance for sheep in the past. Motion made by Trustee Mead to allow for variance, seconded by President Pro-Tem Elwaer. All in favor, motion carries.

Public Comment:

John Walker (118 E. Champion) finishes his request for blight to be dealt with in his neighborhood.

Council Comments:

President Pro-Tem Elwaer asks DPW-Foreman Ebeling what is taking so long with the lawn mower purchase. He explains that there will be someone down here with a demo as soon as weather permits, and one should be purchased by months end.

Trustee Vaughn thanks the council for the opportunity to serve, and appreciated all that Trustee Strickler did for the Village.

Motion to adjourn made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer, seconded by Trustee Mead. All in favor, Motion carries at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Mitchell  
Village Clerk/Treasurer