



MINUTES
City of Pleasant Valley

Tuesday, December 15, 2020
COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting – Posted Agenda

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Call to Order
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report
- VVFD Report

Hotel/Motel Contributions - Requests

- Fairmont Woman's Club (\$2,000)
- Three Rivers Festival (\$1,000)

Business Review

- Building Commission *(updated item)*
- Drainage, flooding, and road work
- Grant management
- Ordinance review
- Snow Plowing Bids *(updated item)*
- Year in review wrap-up
- Code enforcement report
- Council comments
- Citizen concerns
- Adjournment (motion)

Council Business Review

- Building Commission *(updated item)*
- Drainage, flooding, and road work
- Grant management
- Ordinance review
- Snow Plowing Bids *(updated item)*
- Year in review wrap-up
- Code Enforcement Report
- Council Comments
- Citizen Concerns
- Adjournment

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Due to COVID-19, next Work Session/Council Meeting is rescheduled for January 26, 2021.

DECEMBER 15, 2020 - COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

OPENING REMARKS: Mayor Emily Haddix, welcomed Council and community to the City of Pleasant Valley December Council Meeting and provided a reading (overview) and presentation of the agenda as posted.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Council.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 p.m., Mayor Haddix called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Council present - Ed Aberegg; Emily Haddix; Erin Henderson; Chuck Ledsome; Chip Phillips; and Mike Walls. City Attorney, John Funkhouser and City Clerk, Sherry Roof present. Absent: VVFD Rep; Code Enforcement Officer, John Miller. Community Attendance: Mike Butler, Salina Sherry, Leisha Elliot, Marcella Yaremchuk, Sharon Swearingen.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from November 17, 2020 Work Session and Council Meeting presented by Mayor Haddix, reviewed by all, and approved. Mayor Haddix requested motion to approve.

- ***Mike Walls motioned to approve minutes as presented; Erin Henderson seconded; all approved.***

FINANCIAL REPORT: November 2020 City of Pleasant Valley Financial Report was presented by Mayor Haddix, reviewed by all, and approved as drafted. Mayor Haddix requested motion to approve.

- ***Mike Walls motioned to approve as presented; Chip Phillips seconded; all approved.***

VVFD (VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT) REPORT: Absent/No Report.

HOTEL/MOTEL CONTRIBUTIONS – REQUESTS:

Council Chip Phillips opened discussion with a summary and reminder on a previous decision to send outside funding requests to the Marion County Visitor Bureau for review and consideration, restating that the City of Pleasant Valley wishes to do our part to support our greater community, but that we do not have the ability and do not believe it to be the wishes or best interests of our taxpayers to provide funding for all such charity organizations who come with a request. Mayor Haddix and other Council agreed with Mr. Phillips recollection of previous Council discussion and decision, and as such, current practice will be to hear requests, but ultimately, to suggest organizations focus funding attention to county-wide resources. Council agreed to revisit decision in an upcoming Work Session to recap and revisit the understanding, make any updates to policy if necessary, and re-confirm Council consensus for responding to outside (out of area) funding requests.

Citizen Marcella Yaremchuk spoke as the representative to both the Fairmont Woman's Club (asking for \$2,000) and the Three Rivers Festival (asking for \$1,000) to which Council resolved to make no decision at the time and instead revisit city policy to clarify at an upcoming meeting.

Mayor Haddix announced a new county-wide Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative for which the City of Pleasant Valley has been invited to participate. Participation in this shared initiative does directly benefit children and families of the City of Pleasant Valley. Municipal governments signing up for participation will be expected to participate in a shared funding agreement. To learn more of this initiative and how it works, Council and citizens should visit: [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#). Marion County is reporting a current deficit of approximately \$11,000 because of an unprecedented demand for the children's library program and requesting approximately \$2,300 as a future budget item from the City of Pleasant Valley for participation. This program initiative and activity will be added to the February budget review and planning discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS REVIEW:

- **Building Commission:** Council has received and reviewed three applicants to the new Building commission for which all were reviewed and unanimously approved. The latest applicant, Salina Sherry, appeared and spoke on her own behalf at meeting. City Attorney, John Funkhouser repeated that we can move forward having just a minimum of three, and

no more than five members appointed to the Building Commission. Council discussed terms and all agreed to ensure a continuity of service, to make the first appointments of the first three founding members respectively to one year, two- and three-year terms and to be based on years of current residency length within the City of Pleasant Valley.

- ***Gary Timms motioned to approve as presented; Chuck Ledsoe seconded; all approved.***

- Drainage, flooding, and road work: Laurel Lane update is that Stickley's is will work on paving when materials become available. A guardrail was suggested for a troubled curve in the Serene Drive area. Chip Phillips reported working on a few other smaller projects, making initial and current assessments on several and will report on any action taken.
- Grant management:
 - For the next MCPARC Community Grant program, Mayor Haddix suggests applying for doggie waste stations to be installed around our walking trail and possibility installing a 911 buzzer/pull station for our municipal park. Council should also investigate partnering with area university engineering departments on projects of public design.
 - Current funding for sidewalk projects is targeted to improvements/expansion with priority to the Benton's Ferry area and Chapel Hill to Morris park, with new/continuing activity not to resume until spring.
- Ordinance review: After much discussion at the December 8, Council Work Session meeting, and additional review by City Attorney, John Funkhouser and Council, current decision is to keep both Ordinance #5 – Prohibiting Distribution and Exhibition of Obscene Matter and #6 – Providing for the Election of Municipal Officers “as is.”
- Snow Plowing Bids: Mayor Haddix and other Council reported it being a struggle in trying to attract interest to a city-wide snow removal contract. Council and the Mayor have worked to itemize and prioritize plowing routes throughout the communities of the City of Pleasant Valley, with discussion as to the expectation of plowing schedule, type(s) of equipment (trucks, etc.) and de-icing/pavement application materials. Council reviewed specifics as detailed in the one bid received to date and after some discussion were satisfied with the proposal. Mayor Haddix called for a motion to approve. Motion was to approve up to \$800 for one truck per each snow event to work for up to 24 hours per event in addressing snow removal services to each street as itemized and prioritized by City Council.
- ***Chuck Ledsoe motioned to approve as presented; Ed Aberegg seconded; all approved.***
- Year in review wrap-up: See minutes from December 8, Council Work Session for a detailed discussion under the Current and new initiatives discussion, relating to the “Year in review wrap-up.”
- Code Enforcement Report – City Attorney, John Funkhouser gave the update addressing the excessive junkyard issue in the Millersville area, saying that we are working through the courts and he understands there has been some citizen frustration with delays mostly due to slowdowns because of the ongoing pandemic.
- Council Comments –
 - Ed Aberegg suggested that we move forward in thoughtful, but aggressive effort in considering options to purchase a few city owned basic maintenance tools and equipment, to include an option for having our own basic pick-up truck, large enough to attach and handle basic snow plowing and other city-wide and park maintenance.
 - Gary Timms reported that he put together an itemized list of potential electrical problem areas, fixes and potential upgrades needed specific to the city hall (municipal) building and surrounding grounds after a staff noted some potential issues. The City Clerk and Council will be working to obtain bids.
 - Chip Phillips wrapped-up with a reminder of previous Council discussions and decision to suggest organizations from outside the immediate City of Pleasant Valley boundaries focus funding solicitation efforts to county-wide resources. Council agreed to revisit issue in an upcoming Work Session.
 - Mike Walls suggested we draft we draft ideas (talking points) that our Marion County Visitor Center could use to promote expanded points of interest unique to the City of Pleasant Valley. Mayor Haddix and other Council spoke about “softer” yet often overlooked assets unique to the City of Pleasant Valley communities. For example: we enjoy very low residential and business taxes; we don't have a B&O Tax; we have top rated schools; quiet and safe city park space; recently upgraded and expanded multi-sport athletic fields; a brand new nice paved park walking

trail; restaurants (modern chain as well as local); auto services; Hot Spots; churches; easy interstate access to include a number of national hotel chains to make us a “hub” for travel as well as multiple and convenient local roadways, making most trips to/from and around our city just a short drive to expanded services, such as shopping and healthcare and well-known area tourist attractions. Mayor Haddix spoke with passion about the multi-points of above-average “livability” features within our city proper for which she would like us to work more closely with our Marion County Visitors Center in helping us to highlight both the presence of and “livability” features of our city that partner nicely with traditional travel and area tourism sites and events but go beyond that of the traditional and obvious travel and site seeing properties. The Mayor spoke about how she’d like to see us better communicate, even market and make an effort to expand our outreach to the greater surrounding area, to show how we fit and can help to provide a good base for stabilizing and growing not only our immediate, but to help serve and service the greater region.

- Mayor Haddix announced an initiative to create a local citizen volunteer committee to help gather, record, and market points of historical significance within our community that may have potential for development into traditional tourist/site-seeing spots and think about building a dedicated local museum specific to the history of our City of Pleasant Valley proper.
 - Mayor Haddix reported inquiries from several current Commission members to the Planning and Board of Zoning Commission that may wish to resign soon, including some in leadership roles. She proposed an effort to move forward to review by-laws associated with our commissions and make amendments, etc. as necessary to ensure these groups have the people and tools necessary to remain effective to the City.
 - Mayor Haddix reiterated on-going success of our new food exchange program made possible by the installation of just a small box outside the city hall (municipal) building. The Mayor again thanked community for making our “Little Food Panty” a reality and spoke of how this is not just a good way for community to share, but during these unprecedented times, it has obviously become a much-needed community resource to help address just some of the growing food insecurity issues right here in our area. The premise of our little pantry is “*take what need; leave what you can.*” Large donations may be dropped off directly to the City Clerk during open business hours (M-F; 10am-2pm). Personal care and toiletry items as well as cash donations to be used as needed to stock and re-stock are welcomed as well. We also have a new little book exchange box located outside the Kingmont Post Office & Community building, with plans to start a second little library sharing box in the immediate area of the playground next to the city hall (municipal) building.
 - Mayor Haddix provided a summary on the first-time city-wide Christmas time effort to coordinate a local letter to Santa drop-off site by temporarily offering the city hall night drop-box as a Santa letter drop site. She said miles from area children tell the rest of the story and we were proud to have been able to play just a small role in providing such a special service in the spirit of the season.
 - Chuck Ledsome reported that he will volunteer to take a lead in working to address streetlights and general citywide safety issues and be happy to work with citizens and other council concerning such matters.
- Citizen Concerns – Leisha Elliot, Executive Director of the Marion County Convention and Visitor Center was in attendance and spoke of the services and liaison efforts historically provided.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:30 pm, Mayor Haddix called for motion to adjourn.

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Watch for news and updates at: www.cityofpleasantvalley.com

~~ IMPORTANT MEETING SCHEDULE AND FORMAT CHANGE! ~~

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(Because of the ongoing pandemic, this next meeting(s) will mostly be via Zoom)