** MINUTES**

**City of Pleasant Valley**

**2340 Kingmont Road**

**Pleasant Valley, WV 26554**

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

**In attendance**: Council Members -- Erin Henderson, Matt Heston, Mike Walls, Chuck Ledsome, Gary Timms; Chip Phillips, Deputy Mayor; John Miller, Code Enforcement Officer; Kim Korcsmaros, City Clerk

**Public in Attendance:** Members of Boys Scouts of America Troop 7 and Troop 120G; John F. Pizatella, Christal Crouso, Jerry Pinson, Judy Brooks

**The council meeting was called to order by Chip Phillips, Deputy Mayor at 7:04 pm.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was led by BSA Troop 7 and BSA Troop 120G.**

**Approval of previous minutes:**

No corrections were needed to the previous minutes; Mike Walls moved that they be approved; Erin Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of financial report:**

The financial report was reviewed by City Council members. There were no corrections or revisions. Gary Timms moved that it be approved. Mike Walls seconded the motion. Motions passed unanimously. Discrepancies were noted by Gary Timms in the end of year financial report prepared by Benett and Dobbins and distributed at the last city council meeting. The wrong city name was used, items have not been submitted according to the wording of the report. He requests that Phil Nuce, the accountant from Bennett and Dobbins handling the City of Pleasant Valley account, be present for the next council meeting.

**Report from Valley Volunteer Fire Department**

Valley Volunteer Fire Department (VVFD) reported that in the month of September, they were called out for twenty-nine (29) motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) from September 1, 2023 – September 29, 2023. They also worked three structure fires that included an apartment fire in Monongah and assisting Winfield District Volunteer Fire Department on an outbuilding fire. VVFD participated in the Buckwheat Festival parade on September 29, 2023, where they were awarded “Best Appearing Engine”. They escorted the East Fairmont High School football team during their homecoming parade on September 21, 2023. On September 4, 2023, they participated in the McCutchan Family Car Show. They will again help with the Halloween and Christmas celebrations.

**Code Officer Report**

John Miller reported that he is working with two engineering firms on major projects. He will discuss more on this when he has more information. He shared that the bottom field work has been completed except for the fencing. Chip Phillips stated that Mike DeVault from American Fence is providing a new fencing estimate. Suggestions were made of ways to block off parts of the area but would still allow access to the area. They included posts and chains; fencing, double swing gate, sliding gate. John said there is a pile of leftover screened earth on the upper ballfield. Because the earth is expensive, he asked if the Council wanted to save it or have Botanica of WV dispose of it. It was decided to use the earth to fill a low spot in the lower field but tarp it so it could be removed and used elsewhere if needed. He also suggested using a vinegar and dish soap-based week killer instead of a chemical-based weed killer. Botanica could be hired to do the spraying or John could do it. Gary Timms stated that according to the city ordinance regarding the sidewalks, residents are responsible for removing weeds from the sidewalk in front of their residence. Because the vinegar and soap weed killer would have minimal environmental impact, Gary Timms suggested that it be used to kill weeds on the ballfield and the Municipal Building area. A discussion followed and there was consensus that this should be used, and John Miller would apply it.

**Funding Requests (Hotel/Motel Funding)**

Christal Crouso, East Fairmont Boys Basketball Booster member, addressed the chamber regarding funding to do a ‘mini ’makeover to the East Fairmont High School boys locker room. The makeover would include fresh paint, improved lighting, television, signs and banners, refrigerator, mirrors, whiteboards, and more. She requested $2000.00. Erin Henderson asked how much they had raised and what was the total amount needed. Ms. Crouso said they had raised $1700.00 out of the $5000.00 needed. Request is tabled until the next City Council meeting when it will be voted on by Council.

**Business Review:**

Fall clean up:

Fall cleanup will continue October 21, 2023, for Pleasant Valley and Millersville. Chip Phillips reports that this past weekend was successful. All items for curbside pickup must be placed out by midnight on October 20, 2023. The dumpsters are still available in the parking lot of the municipal building as is the trailer for tire disposal. Erin Henderson said she had noticed that the dumpsters are being well utilized.

Holiday events:

* Trunk or Treat will be held on October 28, 2023, from 6-8 at City Hall as reported by Chip Phillips. He also reminded everyone that Trick or Treat will be held on October 31, 2023, from 6-7:00.
* He also reported that the Christmas tree lighting event is being planned. Chuck Ledsome stated that his wife is working on the Christmas tree lighting and has taken supplies to Pleasant Valley Elementary School for the students to make ornaments for the Christmas tree. Plans include possible cookies and hot chocolate at the VVFD hall, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Clause.
* Chuck will contact Richard Straight who has been installing the Christmas lights on the utility poles for the past several years. The cost will be approximately $2000.00
* The budget last year for the Christmas tree lighting celebration was $2000.00. Chip Phillips suggested that the budget be raised for this year to $2500.00. Erin Henderson suggested that an events committee be created to plan events for the city. This would allow each event to be determined in advance and have a line item in the yearly budget.

Flagpole proposal from the City of Fairmont:

Robert Eddy from the City of Fairmont maintenance department contacted the City Clerk and shared, via email, an estimate from JD Signs for repair of the existing flag poles along the connector. The estimate includes the cost for twelve flag poles, but the City of Pleasant Valley only owns three of these so the cost/estimate should reflect that. The estimated cost of supplies to repair the three flagpoles is $2240.70 according to the figures supplied by Roger Eddy. Matt Heston moved that $2400.00 be approved for repairs to the flagpoles. Gary Timms seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sidewalk repair quote:

CK Services submitted a bid in the amount of $2650.00 to repair the sidewalk on Kingmont road opposite the Municipal Building parking lot that had heaved up. Chuck Ledsome said that this is a safety issue especially given that some residents using motorized wheelchairs use that sidewalk. Chuck Ledsome moved that the bid be accepted but not to exceed $2700.00 for repair of the sidewalk. Mike Walls seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Roof estimate:

Two Brothers Construction’s bid to repair the roof was approved at a prior council meeting. The bid required a deposit of half the cost before the work could be started. The check was written but not picked up. Chuck Ledsome said he would contact Two Brothers Construction.

Electronic sign:

Mike Walls has been working with Zach Eackles from the VVFD on replacing the electronic sign in front of the fire department. He talked with JD Signs who uses WatchTower about replacing the sign. The current sign has limited utility as some functions don’t work and are outdated. WatchTower will use the existing cabinet and support pole but replace all the electronics in the cabinet. Replacing the electronics, refurbishing the cabinet and supports, and a 10-year warranty would be $24,800.00. The sign would have the capability to post pictures. Gary Timms questioned the need for a ten-year warranty given how rapidly technology changes. He asked that the sign include the ability to be accessed remotely by the City of Pleasant Valley as well as the VVFD. A general discussion concluded that this is the best option for an electronic sign since the DOH restricts their placement.

Mike Walls moved that estimate for the electronic sign be approved if it was under $25,000.00 and had the ability to be accessed via internet remotely. Gary Timms seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Roundtable Council Member Updates**

Chuck Ledsome: Has reported lights that are out to Mon Power and placed yellow ribbons on those that need repaired. Mon Power is supposed to remove the ribbons after repairs are made. He asked that if a light is working but still has a ribbon, please remove the ribbon, or let him know and he will remove it. He will continue to monitor the lights that have been reported but have not been repaired.

Mike Walls: kudos to the Pleasant Valley Elementary School for placing fourth in the state on standardized test scores out of 368 elementary schools (as reported in the fall City of Pleasant Valley newsletter).

Chip Phillips: has been in communication with the WV Department of Highways (DOH) about painting the crosswalk and lights near Pleasant Valley Elementary School. The DOH will also make recommendations regarding drainage issues.

Gary Timms: no report

Matt Heston: no report

Erin Henderson: no report

**Citizen Concerns:**

Boy Scout Troop 7 and 120G were present and shared that this was in a requirement of their Citizenship in the Community badge.

Gary Timms moved that the meeting be adjourned. Erin Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chip Phillips adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Corrected 12.06.23 kk