** MINUTES**

**Council Meeting**

**March 19, 2024**

**Corrected**

**In Attendance:** Emily Hadix, Mayor; Council Members --Chuck Ledsome, Erin Henderson, Mike Walls, Chip Phillips, Gary Timms; Kim Korcsmaros, City Clerk

**Residents in attendance:** Judy Brooks, Debra Hochenberry, Paul Phillips, Draga Lindsey, Dana Gray, members of Valley Volunteer Fire Department

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Haddix at 7:12pm.

The Mayor and Council Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the previous meeting were unavailable. They will be read at the next meeting.

**I. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The financial report was read, and Erin Henderson moved that it be accepted; Mike Walls seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously**.**

**II.VVFD Report**

Zach Eakles reported that VVFD responded to multiple motor vehicle accidents and three structure fires. VVFD recently purchased a 2004 Pierce Rescue truck to be used on I-79. It is 36 feet long and seats seven. The purchase price was $144,000. It is equipped for MVAs only and will be housed at the main fire station. The old truck, Rescue 121, will be sold to offset the cost of the new truck. However, VVFD is requesting financial assistance from the City of Pleasant Valley. Mayor Haddix led a discussion on paying half of th cost of the truck, or $72,500. This would eliminate 65 monthly payments giving VVFD time to fund raise. Erin Henderson moved that $72,500 from the rainy-day fund be given to VVFD to cover payments on the new truck. Mike Walls seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**III.CODE OFFICER REPORT**

John Miller presented quotes for three projects: 1) playground cleaning and repair from Botanica; 2) Turf Program from WV Green; 3) Lining, Striping, and Sealing of Parking lots and walking trails from CK Services LLC and Polce Seal Coating. Mr. Miller is also reviewing quotes for a new net and installation on the baseball field. Gary Timms suggested that Mr. Miller look into a pulley system to raise and lower the net similar to the one used by East Fairmont Middle School.

**IV.HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDING REQUESTS**

**Busy Bee Band and Honeybees** from East Fairmont High School requested $37,660. Draga Lindsey explained that the money would be used to cover travel expenses for the band, assist with the purchase of new uniforms, help with maintenance and purchase of band owned instruments, provide support to band members. Mayor Haddix stated that the band was representative for the City of Pleasant Valley and stated that it has been ten years since the prior request by the band for funding. Mike Walls moved that the request be approved in the amount of $37,660.00 and come from either the general or rainy-day fund. Gary Timms seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**The Honor Flight Huntington/Clarksburg Flight** requested $1000.00 and sponsorship of two veterans at $35.000 each for a total of $1700.00. Paul Phillips, who provides medical support on the flight, explained the need for funding. He explained the benefits to the veterans of the Honor Flight. The Honor Flight is free to veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War as space allowed. The request will be reviewed and was tabled until the next council meeting.

**Marion County Beekeepers**

Debra Hochenberry spoke on behalf of the Marion County Beekeepers Association. The West Virginia Beekeepers Association state beekeeper’s convention will be held at the Middletown Commons in spring 2025. More than 300 people will attend the conference. Ms. Hochenberry is requesting $250-500.00 to support the convention. The request will be reviewed and tabled until the next council meeting.

**V.BUSINESS REVIEW**

**Ballot drawing**

The names of the candidates for the office of Council Representative at Large for Pleasant Valley and Millersville were placed in a container and were drawn by Zach Eakle. The drawing was for their position on the ballot. Justin Dale Boggs was the first name drawn. Barbara Jean Metcalfe was the second name drawn. Mr. Boggs will be first on the ballot followed by Ms. Metcalfe.

**Resurfacing Quote**

John Miller presented quotes from two companies for seal coating the parking lots and the walking trail, CK Services LLC and Polce Seal Coating LLC. Chuck Ledsome moved that the quote from CK Services LLC be accepted. Mike Walls seconded it; passed unanimously.

**Playground Quote**

John Miller presented a quote from Botanica WV for cleaning and checking playground equipment. This will take place prior to the insurance inspection of the playground. It includes new mulch. Erin Henderson moved to accept the quote from BotanicaWV; Gary Timms seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

**Fertilizer Quote**

John Miller presented a quote from WV Green for a year-round turf maintenance program for the ballfield and the soccer field. There was a separate quote for seeding and aerating at the end of the season. Mr. Miller checked multiple references, all of which were positive. Mike Walls moved to allow up to $10,000 for the work by WV Green including the purchase of mulch; Erin Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. ROUNDTABLE MEMBER UPDATES:**

Chip Phillips presented mockups of the ideas for refurbishing the City of Pleasant Valley sign from JD Signs. They included white background with blue lettering or blue background with white lettering. The existing posts would remain and be painted. The sign face would be resurfaced with a thick plastic that contains the lettering. Chip also presented pricing for the fencing around the basketball court. It was for galvanized fencing: 8’ -- $13,836; 10’ -- $17,389; for black vinyl coated fencing: 8’ -- $15,862.

10’ – $18,353. The council will review the information and pricing. A vote on this was tabled until the next council meeting. Chip reported that American Fence was completing work on extending the fencing behind the backstop.

Gary Timms stated that the City of Pleasant Valley needs to investigate further the boundary lines for Kovach Lane. Gary has reviewed maps, tax, and deed information and there is a discrepancy regarding ownership and length of Kovach Lane. Gary reminded Council that the WV DOH has not acted on the City’s sign request nor have they cashed the checks that were included in the application.

Chuck Ledsome reported that he has been working with Monongalia Power to fix lights that are not working.

Erin Henderson thanked Chip Phillips for his work on the new backstop.

Mike Walls is looking at pothole patching especially on some of the roads/streets with the most damage and heavily traveled.

Emily Haddix stated that the spring curbside cleanup will be scheduled after she talks with Smallwood Sanitation for dates when they are available. Will share at the next council meeting.

She also reminded everyone that the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2024 from 12:00 -2:00 at the Municipal Building. She also said that there will be approximately 28 high school students earning community service hours on Friday, March 29, 2024 by filling 8,000 eggs from 10-3:00 at the Municipal Building.

**VII.CITIZEN CONCERNS**

George Ebbert spoke to the Council expressing his concern that a business, specifically an auto repair shop, was operating in an area zoned residential, 1834 Pleasant Valley Road. Mr. Ebbert has had prior contact with John Miller, Code Enforcement officer for the City of Pleasant Valley. Mr. Ebbert would like an update on the investigation into this. Mr. Miller explained that there was no business license on file with the Secretary of State; he needs firsthand testimony. He has received pictures but that is secondhand information. Statements have been made that the homeowner has received deliveries of automotive parts. It was suggested that a summons be issued to the auto parts supplier to prove the deliveries. John Funkhouser, attorney for the City of Pleasant Valley, stated that for a summons to be issued there would need to be a filing number from a civil suit. Mr. Miller again expressed the need for testimony from eyewitnesses. Mr. Ebbert shared that the homeowner at 1834 Pleasant Valley Road shared a driveway with the neighbor. The driveway is often blocked by vehicles that are being repaired. Mr. Ebbert stated that he is willing to share pictures, if needed, and to testify. Mayor Haddix expressed concern that there should be a subpoena issued but neighbors and witnesses need to come forward. Joh Miller stated that he must be able to prove and support that it is a business. Mayor Haddix and John Funkhouser concluded that more proof is needed before the city can move forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chuck Ledsome moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chip Phillips seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Emily Haddix gaveled the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.