**MINUTES**

**City of Pleasant Valley**

**2340 Pleasant Valley Road**

**Pleasant Valley, WV 26554**

**November 21, 2023**

**Corrected version**

**In Attendance:** Mayor – Emily Haddix; Council Members – Erin Henderson, Matt Heston, Mike Walls,

Chip Phillips; John Miller,Code Enforcment Officer; Kim Korcsmaros, City Clerk

**Public in Attendance:** Donna Tucker, Donna Swisher

**The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Haddix at 6:45 pm.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Haddix.**

**Approval of previous minutes:** Matt Heston was omitted from attendance at the last meeting. Mike Walls moved that the minutes from the previous meeting be approved pending the correction. Matt Heston seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of financial report:**

The financial report was reviewed by City Council members. There were no corrections or revisions. Erin Henderson moved to approve the report. Motions was seconded by Mike Walls. Motion carried.

**Report from Valley Volunteer Fire Department (VVFD):**

Brent Yost, Chief of the Valley Volumteer Fire Department, presented the monthly report. VVFD had ten motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) and one house fire. Additonally they assisted with a fuel spill from a tour bus on I-79, twenty odor of gas calls, thirty-three MVAs (Whitehall and City of Pleasant Valley), mutual aid in two house fires and twenty accidents on I-79.

**Code Officer Report:**

John Miller, Code Enforcement Officer, reported that the lower ball field has been seeded and mulched. They are watching an area nead the basketball court that might need re-seeded. Bontnica will monitor this and will move the dirt pile on the ballfield infield. The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) met and held a public hearing on construction of a car port that did not meet the four foot requirement. A variance was approved. There was one application for limited video lottery in the former Copper House location. It was completed and referred to the state.

**Funding Requests:**

There was a second review of the funding request from Christal Crouso for funds to refresh the East Fairmont High School boys basketball locker room. Ms. Crouso, via email, presented an update on the project stating that the projected cost is now $7350.00. The previous projected cost was $5000.00. Chip Phillips moved that the city provided $2000.00; Erin Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried unaimously. City Clerk will notify Ms. Crouso of the decision. There was a general discussion about the amount of money donated to areas schools. The question was raised if the city was donating too much money making the Board of Education dependent on the City of Pleasant Valley donations.

**Business Review:**

**City Park and Lower Field:**

The Kingmont United Methodist Church provided a copy of a right to use document that gave permission for the City of Pleasant Valley to use the church parking lot. The document was reviewed by John Funkhouser, City Attorney, who advised that it was a license and could be continued as is without any action pending the approval of the City Council. Chip Phillips moved to continued the agreement as is; Matt Heston seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

**Opiod Settlement Bank Account**:

The West Virginia State Auditor’s Office shared an email with the city that stated the city is required to open a new bank account for the revenues expected from the opoid lawsuits through the WV Attony General’s office. The creation of the fund and the opening of the bank account must be approved by the Council in a public meeting. Mike Walls moved that the new bank account be opened according to the guidelines presented by the West Virginia State Auditor’s office. Chip Phillips seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Snow removal:**

Mayor Haddix has been in touch with Connor Trucking who has provided snow removal for the city in the past. They agreed to continue to do so at the same rate as last year. However, they will only do all the roads or none at all. They cannot determine which are public/state roads and private roads. Chip Phillips said it did not make sense to plow some and not all. Erin Henderson stated that all roads should be plowed. She also stated that there have been no complaints about snow removal, and given that it did not do any permanent damage to the roads, therefore causing no harm, it should be continued. Mike Walls also stated that he is in favor of plowing all roads. Matt Heson moved that Connor Trucking be contracted to perform snow removal as in the prior contract; Chip Phillips seconded the motion. Motion carried unaimously.

**Fall Clean Up Update:**

Mayor Haddix reported that the tire collection was very popular. The curbside pickup is much less in fall than in spring and it may be discontinued. The dumpster use was high as was the used tire drop off. There will be another clean up in spring 2024 with the dates to be determined.

**Holiday Events:**

The Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at the Valley Volunteer Fire Department Heritage Room. Set up will begin at 1:00; the event will run from 4-5:30 with the tree lighting with Santa and Mrs. Claus at 5:45 at the Kingmont exit BP gas station. The event will be catered by Wolf Catering and the menu will include smoked pork sandwiches, Mexican street corn, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, and hot dogs. The city will provide hot chocolate, cookies, cupcakes,and drinks. There will be games, including Bingo. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for photographs. Miss Pockets will provide Santa and Mrs. Claus. Photography will be provided by Amy Herron. The VVFD will transport Santa and Mrs. Claus from the fire hall to the Kingmont exit BP gas station.

Mayor Haddix met with Vicki Timms who is working with Pleasant Valley School for the event.

She has the ornaments from the PVS ready to be hung on the Christmas tree. She has also completed the tree topper but suggested that the city investigate purchasing a commercial tree topper as it may be cheaper and more durable.

Mayor Haddix stated that Santa Letters would start on December 1, 2023 and run until December 15, 2023. Letter would be placed in the drop box at the Muncipal Building.

**Roundtable Council Member Updates:**

Matt Heston stated that he and other members of the community, will be putting up the Christmas tree in the next week. VVFD volunteered the use of their bucket truck.

Erin Henderson expressed concern over the security of the Municipal Building. She stated that the front door cannot be locked from the inside. She has been in contact with QSI Security regarding an estimate for additonal security and an upgrade to the exisitng system. She asked them to include a card access system on the front, side, and back doors; add additional cameras; add a bank teller style window to replace the current sliding window, and that it include key fobs and a punch code system. She stated that the crash bar on the left hand side of the front door (facing the parking lot from inside) needs repaired and a locksmith would have to be called. She will met with a representative from QSI at the Municipal Building on November 10, 2023. They will formulate an estimate and forward it to the city.

Mike Walls stated his concern regarding a deep, four foot ditch on Brick Hill Road. He asked if Keiffer could be contacted regarding a repair.

Chip Phillips stated that he will be in contact with the WV Department of Highways regarding the ditch on Brick Hill Road.

**Citizen Concerns:**

David Tucker from the Marion County Historical Society addressed the Council asking that they issue a proclamation related to the 60th anniversary of the assination of John F. Kennedy (JFK). He stated that Senator Kennedy spoke in downtown Fairmont and that became a catalyst for his Presidential campaign.

Donna Swisher gave kudos to John Miller for his mowing the area around the Municipal Building.

Mike Walls made a motion to adjourn; motioned was seconded by Matt Heston. Motion carried.