

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
Minutes of Village of South Amherst  
**REGULAR COUNCIL**  
May 28, 2024

**Call to order:**

7:00 p.m. – The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Scott Jones and opened with the Lord's Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**The roll was called:**

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Councilmember Michele Jeffers         | P  |
| Councilmember Robb Koscho             | P  |
| Councilmember Michael Sangiacomo      | P  |
| Councilmember Becky Siesky            | EA |
| Councilmember David Troike            | P  |
| President Pro Tempore Jeanne Maschari | P  |

**Ex officio members:**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke  | P |
| Records Clerk Laurie Beran     | P |
| Law Director Matthew Mishak    | P |
| Utility Admin. David Valentine | P |
| <i>(EA – excused absences)</i> |   |

Councilmember Maschari moved to approve Councilmember Siesky' s absence due to family matters. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky **AB** Troike **x** Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** May 28, 2024

Councilmember Jeffers moved to approve the agenda as presented/amended. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky **EX** Troike x Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** May 13, 2024

Councilmember Troike moved to approve the minutes as presented/amended. Councilmember Jeffers seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky **EX** Troike x Motion carried.

**VISITORS**

Republic Services Rep

Dan Givens and Darrel McCartney

- Currently an open market, pricing is done at the corporate level not local.
- Republic can set up a package for the community. Items to consider:
  - Trash weekly 96 gal. or 64 gal. (for seniors & singles)
  - Recycle weekly
  - Bulk weekly, limit number of items allowed
  - Yard waste, how often
  - Fuel charge – ask for it not to be included
  - Dumpster Days
  - A municipal agreement will give the residents a better price value

Mayor Jones will be the point person in contact with Republic Services.

Chris Gallagher Cemetery Board  
Fire Chief John Crawford

David Leshinski 5797 Russia Rd. represented the South Amherst Historical Society at the Lorain County Bicentennial ceremonies on May 24<sup>th</sup> and presented the Village with a commemorative medallion.

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Laurie Beran 374 Annis Rd. stated her concerns against a proposed increase in the cost of resident lots at Evergreen Cemetery.

**MAYOR**

Emails

There has been an issue with draft emails not saving. If anyone is experiencing this issue, send screen shots to the mayor.

**FISCAL OFFICER**

Payment Listing 5/9-5/28/24

Presented to council.

Financial Reports

The May Fund, Revenue and Appropriation Summaries were presented to council.

RITA – Income Tax Collections

Currently, there are 22 accounts, totaling \$24,103.00 in outstanding balances of income tax. RITA's Collections Department has exhausted their efforts in attempting to resolve the accounts. Discussion of the three options was held. The mayor suggested having further information for the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting prior to council making a decision.

**RECORDS CLERK**

NOPEC Grant

Total monies available \$3790.03

Service Shed Electric \$1840.00

Christmas Lights \$ 559.72

Remaining Balance \$1390.31

Suggested to use remaining funds for Tree Canopy Restoration at Evergreen Cemetery &/or Main St. Councilmember Troike will discuss Tree Canopy Restoration at the Building and Grounds meeting with the Cemetery Board.

**COMMITTEES**

**Bldg. & Grounds** (Councilmember Troike presented.)

Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. to discuss the trees at Evergreen Cemetery and electric power, former water plant title search.

Park parking lot

Project to start week of June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Street-Sidewalk-Service**

Part-time Service Worker

Rocco Iafolla will work until he starts his apprenticeship in the fall.

Mayor Jones commended David Valentine for his solution to correct the flags along Main St. from wrapping around their poles.

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**Finance** (Fiscal Officer presented.)

The committee decided to put a hold on capital purchases for all departments until next year's permanent appropriations in order to verify the carryover balances in the funds.

The committee recommended having a discussion with full council regarding the possibility of increasing the Village's contribution to health insurance. Three full-time employees are enrolled and the last adjustment to the contribution was in May of 2008 to \$515.00. Further discussion will be held at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with general figures provided on the overall increase in healthcare costs.

**Ordinance**

Property Maintenance Proposal

Councilmember Koscho moved to reallocate \$3000.00 from account 1000-800-590 (Other-Capital Outlay) to 1000-710-349 (Other-Professional & Technical Services) for Aislinn Consulting to develop a Property Maintenance Code. Councilmember Maschari seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky **EX** Troike **No** Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE**

Ordinance No.1803-24 (Third Reading) An ordinance adopting the Revised Cemetery Trustees Bylaws and Regulations as it pertains to the Cemetery Fee Schedule.

Councilmember Maschari moved to not approve Ordinance No. 1803-24. Councilmember Jeffers seconded the motion.

*Discussion: Councilmember Sangiacomo asked, "why we are not approving it?"*

*Councilmember Troike stated that the prices continually increase, projects are not completed, reviewing the spreadsheet, the board needs to revisit their budget. Councilmember Maschari cited O.R.C. 759.13 Price of lots and terms of payment – no more shall be charged for lots than is necessary to reimburse the city for the expense of lands purchased or appropriated for cemetery purposes, and to keep in order and embellish the grounds. Ms. Maschari interpreted that (759.13) to mean that the Village should not be overcharging for lots and that we should stay at market cost and look at the cost of comparable cemeteries. It is true that a percentage of property tax goes to the cemetery. Councilmember Sangiacomo stated that currently the price for a resident is \$575.00 and next year it would be \$860.00, that seems like a huge increase. Was there justification given why they need such a large increase in one year? Mayor Jones stated that the questions need to go back to the Board. Councilmember Maschari added that no lots have been sold this year and felt that the Board is pricing themselves out of sales.*

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky **EX** Troike x Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION**

Resolution No. 733-34 Rate of Compensation for Part-time Service Worker

Councilmember Troike moved to approve Resolution No. 733-24, to suspend the rules and pass as an emergency. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky **EX** Troike x Motion carried.

Resolution No. 734-24 Amend Resolution No. 718-23 Agreement to provide Emergency Medical/Rescue and Fire Service to New Russia Twp. 1/1/24-12/31/26 with Equipment Addendum and declaring an emergency.

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Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky EX Troike x Motion carried.

### APPROPRIATION

After further review of financials an appropriation ordinance was not required.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Councilmember Troike and Mayor Jones commended the Cemetery Board, Community Economic & Development Committee and the volunteers who helped make the Memorial Day Ceremony a huge success.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### Personnel Reviews

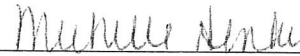
Councilmember Jeffers moved to enter executive session at 8:17 p.m. Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky EX Troike x Motion carried.

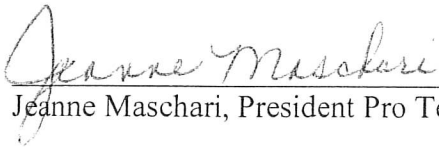
Return to regular session at 8:32 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT** Time 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke



Jeanne Maschari, President Pro Tempore