

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

REGULAR COUNCIL

October 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	EA
Councilmember Robb Koscho	P
Councilmember Michael Sangiacomo	P
Councilmember Becky Siesky	P
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

(EA – excused absences)

Councilmember Maschari moved to excuse Councilmember Jeffers for personal reasons.

Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA October 28, 2024

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 7, 2024

Councilmember Siesky moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

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

VISITORS

SA CED Chair Jeri Leigh Siss – see Exhibit A for full report

Cemetery Board Member Chris Gallagher

SAFD Fire Chief Aaron Grimm

MAYOR

Summit 2025

Council and departments will be notified if the event will still take place on the 11/4, depends on construction work in Council Chambers. Please email information by October 30th.

FISCAL OFFICER

Payment Listing

Presented to Council.

Financial Reports

Fund Summary, Appropriation Summary and Revenue Summary as of 10/23/24 were presented to council.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Councilmember Maschari asked for clarification on three items:

- Tax Exempt Leasing Corp. payment of \$39,719.46 was the annual water meter payment.
- Cuyahoga Fence invoice was for the guardrail at the end of Annis on Russia.
- -\$12,527.81 FEMA is listed as a negative until we receive the last disbursement for the SCBA's (air tanks). The disbursement was actually received after the Fund Summary was sent, so it will be reversed for the next report.

Councilmember Maschari acknowledged the fiscal officer's forethought of enrolling in a "sweep account" so that more interest can be gained on daily basis.

September Bank Reconciliation

Completed and ready for signatures.

September Mayor's Court

<u>Gross Receipts</u>	<u>Ohio Reparations</u>	<u>City of Oberlin</u>	<u>Total net Receipts to SA</u>	<u>Computer Fund Clerk</u>	<u>Computer Fund Court</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
\$9,605.00	\$1,844.00	\$69.00	\$7,692.00	\$569.00	\$169.00	\$6,954.00

Joint Self-Insurance Health Care Benefits Program Agreement with Lorain County

A three-year agreement so that our employees can participate in the health insurance program.

Fire Department Compensation

Fire Chief and Assistant met with the finance committee and reviewed different scenarios for compensation so that they would be able to recruit more effectively and maintain the firefighters that they currently have. The committee settled on increasing the annual salary for the chief and assistant chief. The officers and certified members will be paid at a higher rate for their calls and training. In order to stay competitive with surrounding departments, auxiliary members will be paid per call, training, and for time in class in order to gain certification. The rate increase is effective 1 January 2025.

Fire Department Command Vehicle

During the finance meeting the opportunity arose that there is a retired Amherst Police Vehicle (2015 Chevy Tahoe) that could be purchased for \$12,500.00. The vehicle is equipped with some lighting and the committee discussed to not exceed a total of \$20,000.00 for the purchase and further enhancements.

Councilmember Maschari moved to purchase the 2015 Chevy Tahoe not to exceed a total of \$20,000.00 to include the purchase price and additional enhancements. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Maschari stated that she had the opportunity to personally view the vehicle and received clarification that the Tahoe was built as a "command" vehicle, so it does have two batteries (1 for the car and 1 for the additional lights). It does have new brakes and struts, plus the service maintenance was done routinely at a certified dealer.

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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

RECORDS CLERK

Public Hearing Planning & Zoning

November 12th @ 6:30:

Revised Ordinance 1145.05 (d) (1)(3)

Last week an issue was raised regarding 1145.05 (d)(1)(3) Parking Regulations for Residential Districts. Currently there would be no violations in the village, however if the proposed ordinance is approved there would be numerous violations. Going around the village last Wednesday, there were just over 60 violations. A recommendation to council is being made to strikeout the wording that is in red from the proposed ordinance:

(d) Parking of Recreational Vehicles in residential districts shall conform to the following:

- (1) ~~Within any residential district no boats or recreational vehicles may be parked in a driveway of a residence in front of the main structure for more than three (3) consecutive days.~~
- (3) When not stored in a completely enclosed structure, no more than two recreational vehicles shall be parked or stored on the premises. Recreational vehicles shall be parked ~~behind the front of the building~~ no closer than eight (8) feet from the side and rear property lines. On corner lots, each side of a building facing a street is considered a front. The use of tarpaulins and/or a location within an open-sided carport does not qualify as being within a structure.

Councilmember Maschari moved to approve the revisions to proposed 1145.05 (d)(1)(3).

Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion. *(Struck-out words in red will be deleted.)*

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

Posting Notices

Reminder that if there is an event with considerable information and you have a flyer/pamphlet, you need to forward it to the records clerk for the village website and to the mayor for the village FB page.

UTILITY ADMINISTRATOR

Update Rural Water

RLCWA repaired their 24" main that caused water pressure issues on the east and north side of the Village in September. While attempting to fill the water tower, it was discovered that the main shutoff valve's solenoid needed to be replaced.

Grading/Drainage

Councilmember Maschari stated that she has been made aware that a few structures have recently been built without grading permits and there could be issues with drainage going towards other properties. Ms. Maschari realizes that due to no houses being built for a lengthy amount of time it has been overlooked on who is responsible for telling the property owner that a grading/drainage permit may be required. The Mayor, Zoning Inspector and Records Clerk will meet to discuss the administrative process and report at the November 12th meeting.

Ludwig Ditch plans have been reviewed by council and the County will be moving forward with the project. The Village portion of the project has not been determined to date. Councilmember

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Maschari stated that council is still awaiting the Cemetery Boards plans for their own drainage project. Cemetery Board member Ms. Gallagher will have the issue discussed at a board meeting.

Outstanding Balance

The administrator recommended to the council to clear the three outstanding balances that are currently on the books which includes 305 E. Main, which would cost more in legal fees than the actual amounts due.

Councilmember Maschari moved to clear all three accounts. Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

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

Recycle Grant

An EPA Grant can be applied for in order to purchase recyclable products such as new trash cans for the park. The Village would need to match 25% of the grant. Stephanie Koscho will be contacted for help with grant writing.

DEPARTMENTS

Fire

Resignation of Firefighter Jason Deptula

Councilmember Siesky moved to approve the resignation of Firefighter Jason Deptula.

Councilmember Maschari seconded the motion.

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

Approve EMTs Crystal Poe and Brayden Priebe

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve the EMT's Crystal Poe and Brayden Priebe

Councilmember Maschari seconded the motion.

Ex Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

The air fill station will be delivered and installed on November 13th. The department will be applying for the following grants: BWC - \$15,000.00 for turnout gear (4 sets); AFG (Assistance to Firefighter's Grant) Micro Grant to purchase replacement hose; AFG Large Grant for a new rescue truck.

Chief Grimm thanked the Halloween Committee for the tremendous efforts they made for a successful event. A request was made to the Street Department to have flip down stop signs for the main intersection if power goes out, as it did during the storm in August. Chief Grimm requested that information be forwarded to Assistant Chief Zaleha regarding an order to be placed for caps over the drains to the holding tanks.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

COMMITTEES

Street-Sidewalk-Service

Street Sign

Councilmember Siesky inquired if it is possible to have additional signs placed at Thompson & Maroy which read NO Outlet. Seeing that there is already a sign at the entrance of Maroy the Mayor suggested that the Village Administrator work with the concerned resident for alternative ways to stop people turning around in his driveway.

Audit/ Finance

There is an opportunity for a resident to join the Finance Committee. Contact Mayor Jones if interested.

ORDINANCE

Ordinance No. 1814-24 (Final Reading) An ordinance repealing existing South Amherst Codified Ordinance Chapter 147 Planning Commission and enacting new South Amherst Codified Ordinance Chapter 147 Planning Commission

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve Ordinance No. 1814-24. Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

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

Ordinance No. 1815-24 (Final Reading) An ordinance enacting new South Amherst Codified Ordinance Chapter 146 Board of Zoning Appeals

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve Ordinance No. 1815-24. Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

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

Ordinance No. 1817-24 (Second Reading) An ordinance levying a \$5.00 Motor Vehicle License Tax as authorized by Section 4504.173 of the Ohio Revised Code

Ordinance No. 1818-24 (Second Reading) An ordinance repealing existing South Amherst Codified Ordinance Part Eleven – Planning and Zoning Code and enacting new South Amherst Codified Ordinance Part Eleven – Planning and Zoning Code

Ordinance No. 1819-24 (Second Reading) An ordinance fixing rate of compensation for elected and certain appointed officials and declaring an emergency

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 746-24 (Second Reading) Memorandum of Understanding and Contract Extension WENS Emergency notification System October 1, 2023-March 30-2025

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Resolution No. 747-24 (Emergency) Donation of 25 SCBA Packs and 40 Bottles on behalf of the South Amherst Fire Department.

Councilmember Troike moved to suspend the rules and approve Resolution No. 747-24 as an emergency. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

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

Resolution No. 748-24 (Emergency) EHOVE Career Center Tuition Voucher Volunteer Firefighter Training

Councilmember Troike moved to suspend the rules and approve Resolution No. 748-24 as an emergency. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

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

Resolution No. 749-24 (Emergency) Joint Self-Insurance Health Care Benefits Program Agreement between the County of Lorain, Ohio and Village of South Amherst

Councilmember Troike moved to suspend the rules and approve Resolution No. 749-24 as an emergency. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

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

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Appropriation No. 317

Councilmember Siesky moved to approve Appropriation No. 317. Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Sound System

Councilmember Maschari researched different options for having a better sound system at events. Ms. Maschari met with Chris Bednar and is recommending Option 3 which would be \$500.00 per event for the first time. The cost would include the rental of the equipment, the operator, setup and take-down.

Councilmember Maschari moved to approve Option 3 for a Sound System rental.

Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Discussion: Clarification was made that Chirs Bednar would operate the equipment and the village would provide the generator for Memorial Day.

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

Newsletter

Deadline for the winter edition of the newsletter is November 18th. Please email articles to Mayor Jones.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Village of South Amherst

Christmas Lights/Decorations

Ordering of the lights/decorations will be completed by the end of this week and receipts turned in for the NOPEC Grant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ORC 121.22 (G)(3) Litigation

Councilmember Koscho moved to enter executive session to discuss pending litigation in accordance with ORC 121.22 (G) (3) at 8:12 p.m. Councilmember Maschari seconded the motion.

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

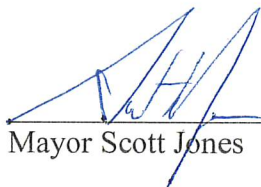
Reentered regular session at 8:46 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT Time: 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke



Mayor Scott Jones

Good Evening, my name is Jeri Leigh Siss, and for those of you in youtube land that don't know me, I am the Director of the Village of South Amherst Community and Economic Development Committee.

You may or may not know, but that is a volunteer, unpaid position that was graciously created and agreed upon by council and mayor earlier this year from a desire to bring the community together and look to the future of growth.

However, we know that in order to achieve such things, it takes a village to bring a village together! Our committee also has community members who don't even get a fancy title like I do, but they show up and volunteer nonetheless.

If you did not have an opportunity to witness the spectacular coming together of our small town big heart community, you missed something pretty special. What was co-created was more than anyone could have imagined and almost everything they could have dreamed of. And there are many people to acknowledge for what will hopefully become an annual event and will certainly be an example for others to follow.

First and foremost, deep appreciation to the members of council, Mayor Jones and the administrative staff for their support of the addition of the "2024 inclusive, family friendly fall fun festival"

Thank you to the following

1. **SAFD and Fire Association** – for going along with and assisting in the addition of the festival to the parade that the Fire Association has hosted for so many years. You were a great partner. Every year the community looks forward to the parade, cider and donuts, and this year was no different. Thank you for leading the parade, for bringing out the trucks, for the cider and donuts, for the cash prize donation for the costume contest, judging the costume contest, tables and chairs for the event and for always being so visible in our community! We could not have done this without you.
2. **SAPD** – for providing traffic support, trunk-or-treat, judging the costume contest, opening the vehicle for trunk or treat with the kids and of course for keeping things safe during the event and trick or treat.
3. **IRG, The Firelands Board of Education and Superintendent** – location, bathroom access, parking lot, fields. You showed what community is all about!
4. **Fireland's High School Marching band** — A parade in South Amherst is not a parade without the mighty marching falcons! Not only did you do an amazing job with musical entertainment in the parade, but your costumes were fun and creative!
5. **Village Administrator, David Valentine** — Your support with the event in your "non working hours" dropping off, picking up, running around tables, chairs, games. Thank you. And your pregnant wife for sharing you with us.
6. **SA Historical Society** — canopy and decoration donations, volunteers for set up and tear down and the event, Crumbl Cookies fundraiser organization & the scary scarecrow guy (he was a hit!)
7. **Hayden Matus** – straw bales
8. **LCSWD** — garbage bins & bags
9. **Mark Kinser** — DJ services
10. **Card Your Yard (Monica Dietz)** — Halloween yard card display
11. **Leanne Wright** — photo op pumpkin sign
12. **To our vendors** – Floral fox, Your Last Chance BBQ, Firelands PTG, Elle Pycraft, Lorain County Ghostbusters Cars, Firelands Local School District Superintendent VonGunten
13. **To our local businesses that supported with donations for prizes** – Piggy's, Jaimie's Flea Market, Kelly's Kettle Corn, Doc Watson's Market
14. **To our volunteers** – Kathy hunter and family, Chris Gallagher and family, Scott Dolan, the Vioc's, the Koscho's, and Mark (the Koscho's neighbor) and any other volunteers we missed.

This past weekend, showed the impact of what can happen when, in a world full of people pointing fingers and telling others "you should do this or that", people speak up, step up and say "I will do this and that" and "tell me how I can help"

In our case, it was 2 people that set this all in motion.

15. **Stephanie Koscho and Erin Viock** – you played the biggest role of all in this. Without you, an event of this scale and magnitude would have not happened. The countless hours of creating and planning, ordering and organizing did not go unnoticed or unappreciated. This event will be one that is talked about for years to come and that will set the bar for future gatherings of its kind. You are the example of people that have a desire and a vision, step up and work together to make it happen. You are what the community and economic development committee as it looks today and into the future strives to build for the village of South Amherst.

For those that may be a little nay-saying about the events of Saturday, please know that everything that was co-created was done from the heart with the village in mind. People talk about days of old and how people used to do things and we did our best to recreate some of that and add a fresh twist to it.

When we polled the village residents about the events, we knew we couldn't please everyone, but we did our best to INCLUDE everyone and create a day that was special for kids (and adults) of all ages based on what people asked for. And we feel we accomplished what we set out to do.

Sometimes change can be difficult and uncomfortable, because it's not what we are used to.

The way we see it, south Amherst is the talk of the area. People are talking about how incredible the event was and what a great day it was for everyone! People WANT to come to South Amherst. WANT to be a part of our community. They WANT to have their friends and families come here and experience what we already know is so wonderful. What we get to live in each day.

So, if there were a few extra kids knocking on your door for trick or treat, maybe it means that the new families in town came out with their children. Or that grandparents got to see their grandchildren in their costumes because it was on a Saturday and not on Halloween night. Or maybe aunts and uncles had their nieces and nephews over for a Saturday sleepover after the fun festival and trick or treat. Or maybe yes, people from other communities came because they think South Amherst is a safe community. And I think all of those things are what the South Amherst Community and Economic Development Committee wants people to do and think when we have an event.

Thank you to everyone involved in this event. The committee is in the planning stages for our Holiday event. Our next meeting is on Tuesday November 5 at 530 P and village town hall. It is open to the public and we would love to have "I will" people to join us in co-creating another great event for our community.