

**The Village of Weston
Council Meeting Minutes
January 04, 2021**

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor, Jeremy Schroeder at 6:00PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call of the present council members was then taken: Mr. Dean Babcock, Mr. Dave Dewitt, Mr. Shad Kendall, Ms. Diane Hillier, and Mr. Rick Easterwood. *A motion to approve the December 21, 2020 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

Miscellaneous Business

Nominations for President of Council were opened, Mr. Easterwood nominated Mr. Kendall. A motion was made by Mr. Easterwood to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Dewitt; Approved unanimously. *A roll call vote for President of Council was made: Mr. Babcock - Mr. Kendall, Mr. Dewitt - Mr. Kendall, Mr. Kendall - Mr. Kendall, Ms. Hillier - Mr. Kendall, Mr. Easterwood- Mr. Kendall.*

2021 Committees were assigned:

Cemetery: Open, Dean Babcock, Diane Hillier

Finance & Personnel: Diane Hillier, Shad Kendall, Dave Dewitt

Recreation, Arts & Events: Dean Babcock, Open, Rick Easterwood

Safety: Rick Easterwood, Dean Babcock, Diane Hillier

Business/Economic Development/Strategic Plan: Shad Kendall, Dave Dewitt, Open

Streets/Lands/Buildings: Dave Dewitt, Rick Easterwood, Shad Kendall

A motion was made by Mr. Kendall to appoint Mr. Dewitt as the council member on the Planning Commission, seconded by Ms. Hillier; Approved unanimously.

2021 Council Rules were reviewed with a few changes to be noted, including: changing the council meeting time to 6PM and ending by 8PM, and adding including “or clerk” in section to have items added to agenda. *A motion to approve council rules with noted changes was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

Old Business

Ordinance 2021-1 to vacate an alley received a second reading.

Reports

Mayor: *“January 4th, 2021. Mid-pandemic. Rural Weston, Ohio. If there’s one thing we can all agree on, it should be that socially distancing has taken a toll on our lives. In our community, involvement has been decreasing for many years — we have seen the effects in the form of dwindling social clubs, events, and a general lack of volunteerism. There is a lot of room for speculation on reasons why, and certainly pandemics don’t help, but my bets are on 2021 being the year of the community rallying behind a comeback of epic proportions. The return of community involvement. We’re due.*

For the past 9 months, the public rhetoric to stay healthy has temporarily taken away many opportunities to meet, greet, and work together. Not for the normal reasons, like — we’re too busy, or — maybe next time, no — this time we didn’t have a choice. A Governor’s mandate. While we likely have many more months of something similar ahead, things will slowly get back to ‘normal’. I’m suggesting we don’t settle for normal. Now is the time for the Village to capitalize on the one positive thing that can come from this, a cognisance that coming together should not be taken for granted. The community must come together, work together, and play together, and we as council have an opportunity to stimulate the Village in more ways than one to promote this effort.

While in years past I have reflected on the accomplishments that we have achieved, this time the emphasis is on what we have in store for this year to come. We’ve set up ourselves for a spectacular payoff.

Parks & Rec — to be now known as Village of Weston Arts & Rec Council — not to take away from our parks which are generously taken care of by our village staff and volunteers, but instead to realign the emphasis on the arts and recreation that take advantage of the parks that Weston has put into place. Let us prop up this board of volunteers, work together to strengthen and grow it, and watch it payoff in the form of little league, community softball games, basketball tournaments, disc golf, halloween parties, fishing derbies, a winter community festival, and much more. Let’s commit to 5 new members to this board, something that will be achieved by our leadership and calls to action.

Reservoir— last year, we saw a generous effort to make our reservoir safe to open. This year, thanks to \$30,000 in state funding, we get to double-down and continue to turn this 1920’s treasure into a real area for recreation. Let’s dedicate the reservoir as an official park for our

citizens to enjoy, something that will be achieved by our dedication to the property we maintain and improve for public consumption.

Village Services — we've seen what a good working maintenance crew can provide to the satisfaction of our community members. We've seen the creation of a real tree program, monitoring the status of trees, some that are older than us, as well as replanting to make sure that future generations also get to enjoy the shaded walkways and boulevards. We have also embraced a recycling program, provided more brush and leaf pickups than ever before, and even recycle leftover Christmas trees. Let's provide more services to our community members, things to help keep our village looking great.

Medical Services — an asset to the village and our surrounding communities that is often taken for granted. We're lucky to have some dedicated volunteers to keep this service top-notch. Let's provide this crew with a road map that will set up this service to remain viable for decades to come.

Economic Development — it's time to realize the potential of our proximity to other communities, and providing the area with opportunities within the village will add to the growth of the village. We've seen some opportunities fall in our lap, but this year let's be proactive in showing the world what we have to offer.

Community Identity — what is Weston? We're a place to call home. Never has this been more clear to me, and I hope I can convince you all to embrace this montra in order to unify the needs and priorities of the community. While we were once a booming railroad town, and even a county seat contender, let's be content in being a great place to live, raise families, and prosper while focusing our offerings for our village members.

Village History — The Village of Weston has a rich and extensive history that is a great example of the midwest expansion, growth, and embracement of rural communities. Weston has proved useful as a railroad community, still servicing various industries with its tracks, and also provides insight on the demands and struggles of a small community's relevance in today's world. I think there is much to offer the community, and an even a wider audience, in educating them on the historical feats that our community has accomplished and held on to. Let's put together a committee of historians and village members to expose our history to the world.

Looking forward to working on Weston in 2021 with you all."

Fiscal Officer/Administrative: Clerk shared that Gary Wackler with the Weston Church of Christ is looking into opening up a food pantry in Weston.

Administrator/Maintenance: Swept up glass at recycle dumpsters, cleared snow from sidewalks, cleaned up a downed tree behind reservoir, emptied trash cans on Main Street and parks, worked on putting together picnic tables, sharpened chainsaw blades, repaired snow plow mount on GMC 1 ton truck, took radar down from Center Street for battery change and stat download, moved radar to Main Street location, Christmas Tree recycling is this week, cleaned and organized shop, removed leaves and debris from storm drain in front of beauty shop, made 3 trips to county garage to pick up salt approximately 15 ton and dumped salt in storage building, rinsed out bed and washed F550 truck.

Mr. Dewitt wanted to thank maintenance for putting the flags back up.

Zoning Inspector: There are a few houses with furniture in the boulevard and anticipates they are waiting for trash pickup and will wait to send letters. There are a couple of inoperable vehicles, waiting to send letters to those with expired tags.

More information regarding the interest to build a house on Weston Road regarding water and sewer was discussed. Tom Statler with NWWSD emailed Mr. Taylor and shared that they do not have a policy requiring connection to water and sewer when it is available to a property. The Wood County Health Department has a policy that requires that developed parcels connect to a sanitary sewer when it is "available". It is believed that the definition of availability in the county is that the sewer is within 400 feet of the foundation of the building. The plans to extend water and sewer on Weston Road where this area is located is unlikely anytime soon. A letter will be written to allow septic and well but must tie into main lines when within 400 feet of property. Mr. Taylor had questioned who should sign this letter and if it needs to be recorded. Paul Skaff suggested the owner deed the property to himself with a deed restriction so it is recorded.

Upcoming Meetings:

Cemetery 1/7 at 6PM, Finance 1/11 at 5PM, Arts & Rec 1/13 at 6:30PM, Council Meeting 1/19 at 6PM (Tuesday, due to MLK Day), Safety 1/28 at 5:30PM

It is noted that the Business committee will start to meet regularly beginning in February every other month on the 3rd Wednesday at 6PM and Streets committee will begin meeting in February on the 1st Tuesdays at 6PM. Arts & Rec meetings are held virtually January, February and March.

Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed bills to be paid and warrants to be issued for December 2020 at a total of \$86,764.92. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved - 4, Opposed - 0, Abstained - 1, Mr. Kendall.

Citizens and Visitors

Ashley Patel, Rob Myerholtz (virtual), Paul Skaff - Legal Counsel (virtual)

Ashley Patel expressed her interest in the open council seat: has been a resident here for 6 years and owns a business (Weston Market). Rob Myerholtz asked who else was interested in the council seat: Sue Clanton, James Cousino.

Executive Session

Executive session for discussing open council seat was called at 6:30PM; Roll Call Vote, Yes: Mr. Babcock, Mr. Dewitt, Mr. Kendall, Ms. Hillier, Mr. Easterwood. Moved back into regular session at 6:52PM with a motion made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously. No action was taken.

Council will be accepting interests for the council seat until January 15th, all interests should email the Clerk or Council/Mayor with their interest and information about themselves to be considered.

Mr. Easterwood had asked if there is any more information on the capital budget projects, still waiting for the next step. It was shared that entities are to work with agencies partnered with the projects, a “nexus”. Mayor shared his idea with the history project and the plan is to partner with the library and Wood County museum and have representatives that include Mayor, 1 from Library, 1 from BGSU, 1 from museum and 4 community members. It was suggested to reach out to Joe Schroeder, Dr. Nelson (who lives next to Mr. Dewitt), and Sue Clanton to be involved with the history project.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57PM.

Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor

Stephanie Monts, Clerk