

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

April 15, 2024

00Meeting called to order by Mayor Chiacchiero.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Moment of Silence:

Opening Prayer: Jeff Priestap St. Paul's Luther Church

Roll call of Council Dreier, Febel, Martuccio, Roderick, Sekanina, Orvos-Absent

Corrections or Additions to the Agenda:

Councilperson Martuccio ask to have some additions/corrections to the agenda for the next council meeting on Monday, April 15th, 2024.

- 1) On page 4 of the Buildings and Lands minutes from April 1st, 2024, the last sentence reads: "Martuccio sees this as a way to keep the rent lower on his units". This statement is not correct as I never made such statement. This represents a wrong understanding of the writer. The implementation of a CRA across the board for all village properties does not provide any direct benefit to my existing apartments as they are all up to date and are not needing rehabbed for the foreseeable future. Standard building maintenance and upkeep are not sufficient to trigger a CRA benefit. The reference I made about the multifamily units was to explain the current market conditions and how most seniors are having a hard time keeping up with housing costs and how property owners are having difficulties absorbing substantial real estate tax increases. Again, this was merely an example to explain market conditions and I find it deceiving for the writer to infer that I would be benefitting directly from this. Besides, any of the 6-unit buildings I own, are located outside the village limits. If the CRA gets passed, it will benefit all properties in the village, not just my properties. I would like this point to be added to the minutes before approval.

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- 2) On the issue of Ordinance No. 24-O-3334, An ordinance prohibiting Adult use of Cannabis Operators in the Village of Jefferson, Ohio.

I would like to add the following motion:

Motion to table Ordinance No. 24-O-3334.

I believe that because of the sensitive nature of this issue, we should ask our residents for input. I believe we should completely understand the legislation first, then explain to the public the content and maybe have a village-wide survey where people can express their preferences. I feel that if we follow this line, we can come up with a solution that is acceptable to a majority of residents.

- 3) I would like to thank Mayor Chiacchiero and Councilman Sekanina for the Motion under New Business to implement the video and audio recordings of Village Council meetings.

However, I would like to ask some questions regarding the way the legislation is presented.

- a) Why does council need to “preview” the video of the previous council meeting at the next meeting?
- b) Why does council need to “approve” the videos?
- c) Why are the videos only made available “upon request”?
- d) Why can’t we post the videos on our website the very next day?
- e) I would like to ask the solicitor for his opinion on this matter.

Mayor Jim Chiacchiero Told Council that he was not part of the motion to implement video and audio recordings.

Minutes: Approval/Addition/Correction

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2024.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

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Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to accept the Jefferson Emergency Rescue District Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2024.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to eliminate the last sentence on page four of the Building Lands Committee Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2024.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to approve the Building Lands Committee Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2024, as corrected.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Visitor's Comments (five-minute limit per council rule #13)

Stan Zawick of 259 East Jefferson Street spoke to Council again about the Dog Park and the noise ratio. He said that the Village should move the Dog Park, or he is going to start calling the police. He told Council he was going to come again and again until Council does something about it. He said that he was told the past administration had asked the resident around the dog park being before it was built. He said know one came and talked to the residents.

John McMannes of 29 East Ashtabula Street spoke to Council about the video and audio recording. He asked Council, how did you get here, who put you here, and why is that is important. He said the people who put you here should know what you are doing because that is the principal of government.

Two weeks ago, it was brought to my attention that the Village Council had voted against recording and broadcasting of its public meetings. While I understand that these meetings are open to the public, I am also very aware that a majority of the public does not attend. I feel that transparency and accountability are very important matters to constituents. Having realized that this motion did not pass and reading people's opinions (people that you as council members represent) about it on social media that there was a rift between what the people want, and what is

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actually being done. Furthermore, and to keep unbiased I then posted an anonymous poll on the Jefferson Chatter Facebook page. The results speak for themselves 151 votes for the recording/ broadcasting of meetings to 3 votes opposed. Upon these findings I planned to bring them to council but not before I read comments from my council members in the newspaper on why it is not a feasible request at this time. To say I was disappointed is an understatement. I feel that the people are entitled to know what is going on and I understand that the argument behind that is well they can show up to a meeting, or they can read the minutes posted on the village website. To believe that everyone can attend meetings is a very ableist thought, we live in town that has a very diverse population in terms of age. Older residents may not be able to get out to get to a meeting, younger residents may have kids that are involved in sports, church or other social activities, most households have two working parents. All of these things can make it tough for people to prioritize attending a public meeting. As for the reading of the minutes, to read something and to witness it are two very different experiences. It takes out the passion, tension and other valuable insights that can only be inferred by actions and not words. This past year I attended all three meet the candidate events hosted by the Jefferson Rotary for the mayoral race. Each of those videos was posted on social media. In person attendance average about 30-40 people I would say, online those videos have around 1700 total views. Mr. Mayor, yours alone has 1,300. If numbers mean anything I would assume that video had a lot to do with getting you elected. Why not let the people who saw that video and voted for you see what you are doing to make the community a better place to live. It's not that people in this town don't want to participate in local government (which is what all of us in this room should strive for) they are just doing it in a different way. We are now in the 21st century where everything is recorded or live streamed and I feel it is important to keep up with the times. Be a progressive body that encourages its residents to be informed and have a voice instead of being a body that prefers to meet in front of a dozen people twice a month.

Roland Ferguson of 278 East Jefferson Street asked Council what was being done at Memorial Field. He also told Council that he agrees the Dog Park should be moved.

Frank Snyder of 116 West Jefferson Street spoke to Council video and audio recordings He stated that when he was on Council he brought this up. The

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Residents of the Village have the right to know what happened at the Council meeting that night instead of two weeks later.. He stated that seeing it in person is better than reading the minutes. You can see the person reactions and responses.

Frank Snyder also told Council that the ordinance prohibiting Adult use of Cannabis Operators in the Village of Jefferson, Ohio should be tabled. We do not have a lot of information on the regulations and if it would be beneficial for the Village of Jefferson. He also stated that it should go on the ballot and let the residents of the Village of Jefferson decide.

Hendrick Wolfert of 35 North Elm Street Spoke to Council in regards to the video and audio recording. He feels that transparency and accountability are very important matters to the residents of the Village and this is best for the residents of the Village.

Miss Red of Am Ford stood up and spoke to council telling them that they have just purchased the old Victory car dealership and they are bringing AM Ford to replace them. It is a family owned business and we want to be part of the Village of Jefferson and be involved.

Also present:

Deputy Chief Joseph Schor, John Szewczyk, Devin Chiacchiero, Warren Dillaway of The Star Beacon, Stephanie Wessell of the Gazette, Chip Ashcraft, Stan Zawick, Roland Ferguson, Jeff Priestap St. Paul's Luther Church, Ryan Bort, Sally Bort, Mary Howe, Brittaney Bryson, Shane Bryson, Lon Damon, Tina Fuller, Emily Fuller, Frank Snyder, Harold Specht, Christina Edison, Joe Edison, Judy Maloney, Pat Bradek, John Perrotti, Jon McMannes, Connor Schor, Akshat Mattenjawa, Hendrick Wolfert and Autumn Snyder.

DEPARTMENTS

Administrator Mackensen

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Village Administrator's report for the period ending April 12, 2024.

Projects update:

Project		Status	Vendor	Grant/Loan		Total Cost
ACTIVE PROJECTS	Project #					
WWTP Renovations	OPWC – R37	Submitted to DOD/EPA Resubmitting to OPWC – R37	CT Consulting	Engineering grant \$90,000		\$1,250,000
WWTP Clarifier Improvement	OPWC – R38	Starting Engineering 01/01/2024	CT Consulting	\$207,500 Grant \$50,000 Loan		\$515,000
Street Paving 2024		Started Engineering	CT Consulting	drainage on E Walnut - possible grant		Up to 270.000

In the Village

The Jefferson Nazarene Church Service Event April 20th. the church will have 25 volunteers. During that time, the community will see these people and their families at the rec center working on flower beds and Memorial Field working on landscaping on the front entrance facing the road.

Street Dept.

- Regarding the old trees in front of the old courthouse the village is working with the county on having new smaller colorful trees planted in their place.
- On Thursday the illuminating company will be repairing a drainage line on Walnut St at McDonald's. Also, all the utility service flags around the village are from Bright Speed who have been around boring new fiber internet.

Recreation Department:

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- I would like to thank all village departments along with the community for the wonderful job everyone did to make the Solar event in conjunction with Jefferson Library and Boy Scouts go off without a hitch. It was a great event and many people from all over Ohio and beyond attended. I received several positive comments on how nice the village was and that they would be making plans to attend future events we will have.

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Plant operations are running at acceptable levels.

Police:

Fire:

Other Items:

Address	Violation Type	Status	Comments

Administrator Mackensen updated the council on Memorial Field. He said that the Village has applied for grants, and he will update the Council when he receives more information. We are hoping to have a splash pad along with a playground for kids. The park will be for all ages and the Village hopes to make it a destination, park.

Clerk /Treasurer Fisher

Payroll Report/Special Pay Report

February Month End

End of Month Summary	February	
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Total Cash on Hand	\$1,000.00	
Andover Bank CD	\$146,103.43	
Huntington Bank 2257	\$45,498.38	
Star Ohio 26065	\$67,353.03	
Payroll Checking	\$0.00	
Andover/ First Common Bank Checking	\$3,510,605.84	
Ending Balance	\$3,770,560.68	Up 10.7.%
YTD Revenue	\$832,975.63	
YTD Expenses	\$743,699.48	
Outstanding Encumbrance	\$218,641.22	
Recreation Revenue YTD	\$24,074.23	Up 10.3 %
Senior Revenue YTD	\$3,635.46	Up 31.0 %
Income Tax Revenue YTD	\$345,522.10	Up 54.4 %
Sewer Fee Collections YTD	\$145,926.87	Up 7.7 %

Motion by Councilperson Orvos to accept the **List of Checks paid for February 2024** February 1, 2024 – February 28, 2024
2nd

Roll: All ye, motion carried

FYI: Public Records Retention Policy

Deputy Chief Schor

FYI: March Monthly Reports

Deputy Chief Schor told Council the Police Department received the Flock Camera's. The cameras will help in investigations.

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Also told Council that he will get the Village's K-9 to the dog park and take readings of how loud the dogs are per the Villages Ordinance.

Chief Lachey

No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Lands

Committee Report: None

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to table Second Reading of Ordinance No. 24-O- 3334

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Tabled

Ordinance No. 24-O- 3334

An ordinance prohibiting Adult use Cannabis Operators in the Village of Jefferson, Ohio.

Forestry

Committee Report: None

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Finance

Committee Report: None

Recreation

Committee Report: None

Safety

Committee Report: None

Utilities/Wastewater Treatment/ Service

Committee Report:

Motion by Councilperson Roderick to accept the resignation of Felipe Pacheco Santos Jr. from the Jefferson Wastewater Treatment Department effective April 15, 2024

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Mayor

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to accept Mayor Chiacchiero's recommendation to move Chief Mackensen who has completed his six-month step increase at the Administrator position and receive his pay increase per the contract effective April 15, 2024.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Mayor Chiacchiero told Council that Administrator Mackensen has gone above and beyond in his position and has shown great leadership.

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Councilperson Martuccio told council he is a better successor than he was.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Council discussed the implement video and audio recordings of Village Council Meetings at great length and all agreed that the next Council meeting have the Solicitor draft up a motion for the implement video and audio recordings of Village Council meetings

Motion to implement video and audio recordings of Village Council meetings. Video and audio recordings of the previous regularly scheduled council meeting shall be made available for council to preview when council packets of the next regular scheduled meetings are distributed. The video and audio recording of the previous regularly scheduled council meeting shall then be approved by council at the next regularly scheduled council meeting. Once approved, the recording shall be placed on the village website or be made available upon request. The Village shall retain video and audio recordings for a minimum of one year. This motion to be implemented as soon as possible once equipment and storage requirements can be put in place.

2nd

Roll: All nea, motion failed

Visitor's Comments (five-minute limit per council rule #13)

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

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MEETINGS

None

ADJOURN

Motion by Councilperson Febel to adjourn the Council Meeting.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Submitted by,

Patricia A Fisher, Clerk of Council