

VILLAGE OF WILSON

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Arthur Lawson, Mayor
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Village of Wilson Board of Trustees Minutes – June 20, 2024

PRESENT

Mayor Arthur Lawson, Trustee Greg Martin, Trustee Ellen Hibbard, Trustee Gary Darnell, Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor, Superintendent Shawn Galyen, Code Enforcement Officer Travis Evans, Attorney Andy Vona

ABSENT

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Nicole Martin, Engineer Mike Marino

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawson called the Village board meeting to order at 7:00pm. We then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

Local Law #2-2024, Modifying Existing Language of §48-4 Building Permit: Mayor Lawson asked the public if they have any input on Local Law #2. No comments from the public. Mayor Lawson asked the board members if they have any questions. No comments or questions. Mayor Lawson stated that they can find a copy of this law at the back of the room or in the Clerk's office. He then asked for a motion to approve local law #2-2024. Trustee Gary Darnell made the motion to approve local law #2-2024, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. All in favor, motion to approve local law #2-2024 has passed unanimously.

Local Law #3-2024, Establishing Guidelines for Fencing: Mayor Lawson asked CEO Travis Evans to explain this law. CEO Evans explained that the Village did not have a current law on fencing to give guidelines on making sure the fence is installed properly. Trustee Darnell stated that this would prevent fencing from being placed incorrectly and placed on the owners property as per their property survey. Mayor Lawson asked if there are any additional comments and stated that they can find a copy of this law at the back of the room or in the Clerk's office. Mayor Lawson then asked for a motion to approve Local Law #3-2024. Trustee Greg Martin made the motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. All in favor, motion to approve local law #3-2024 has passed unanimously.

CDBG Grant, to discuss community development needs and priorities, and to provide residents with information about the 2024 Community Development Block Grant Program and other funding opportunities available through the Consolidated Funding Application programs: Mayor Lawson asked the Trustee handling this grant to explain the needs for the Village. Trustee Greg Martin explained that the intent for this is to get a Water Asset Management Plan, which is a strategic plan that determines best practices for operating, maintaining, and replacing water lines and the cost of doing so. It's a risk-based approach to planning the maintenance and replacement of existing water lines. The approach considers the criticality and the condition of each line and prioritizes the maintenance or replacement of them in order to make sure services continue uninterrupted. It will also identify sources of funding for repair and replacement. Trustee Martin continues and states that the NYS guidelines for lead services are changing and there is going to be a large amount of money available. This grant is a building block for us in the Village to be able to apply for that funding when it comes time. This is a grant that has no match. This is Step One for helping our water infrastructure. Here is a

quick overview of our water infrastructure. Our original water lines were built between 1917 and 1919. The water lines were made out of cast iron which are now, not compatible with today's standard fittings. In 1968, we transitioned to County water and put in meter pits. In the 70's, there was new development in the Galewood area. In 1988, we put in the 10 inch main in various areas to enhance the water system. Our inventory scope is going to cover a few different things. It covers the inoperable fire hydrants, we have 164 fire hydrants in the village, with 27 fire hydrants not currently working. The main reason why they're not working is because the water lines are too small. The fire trucks take 6 inch lines, however a lot of our lines are only 4 inch lines. We also have some water dead end issues. One project we already have shovel ready, is the Washington Street Project. This will go down Washington and connect to Wood Street and put in two more hydrants. We have about 12 dead ends in the Village. Another issues are shut off valves. Over the years, they've been paved over, seized, broken off, and they're unidentified. At this point, when we have water breaks, we are unable to shut off the water to make repairs. This makes it difficult for our DPW to repair the breaks. Lead repairs, a lot of them are the lines from the main to the homes. Our main concern is that because of how old these lines are, that when we have to replace the lead lines and go to tap into the main line, that they will crack and cause more problems. With all these issues that we face as a Village, starting with this will hopefully set us up to find all the sources of funding when the funding becomes available. In order to do this, we are applying for a Community Development Block Grant through NYS Homes and Community Renewal. The application is submitted as part of the Consolidated Funding Application process through NYS and is due on July 31st. There is no match on behalf of the Village. Trustee Greg Martin asked if anyone has any questions. Resident Joe Holewinski asked a question regarding the grant, are there any restrictions on what this grant can pay for? Trustee Martin stated that this is just for planning. Trustee Darnell stated it for us to figure out where our problem areas are so when the time comes to apply for the funds, we have a plan. Resident Joe Holewinski then asked if there has been any thought on getting a Homeland Security or Fire Protection grant, being that we have 27 hydrants that are not working? Is there something out there for our community to protect our Village? Trustee Darnell stated that grants for fire protection are "Safer Grants" which came about after 9-11 and what it does, it gives them money to purchase equipment, but it does not cover the infrastructure. Mayor Lawson asked if we have any more comments or questions. Trustee Martin stated that we are not at risk with our inoperable hydrants. There are hydrants close enough to connect to that will reach every area within the Village. Mayor Lawson asked if we have anymore comments or questions. Mayor Lawson stated that he would like to strongly encourage the public to submit comments to the Village Clerk's office until 4:00pm on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

Water/Sewer rate increases: Mayor Lawson asked the Trustee who lead this to explain the increases. Trustee Greg Martin explained that in 2023 we raised rates since 2014. We went from \$11.70 to \$13.45. Unfortunately, this increase has not helped the costs for doing business in our water and sewer funds. We are now imposing an increase for water at \$0.15 per 1,000 to \$4.25. Sewer increase of \$2.30 per 1,000 to \$11.65. We are proposing this will increase the revenue of \$6,000 in the water fund and \$49,000 increase in the sewer fund. These funds are critical. In our budget, you cannot replace a water line with property tax revenue. You cannot replace a sewer line with water fund money. In order to save for fixing our infrastructure, we will need to start saving and unfortunately, or system is user based. We need to increase our rates to make this happen. Discussion ensued amongst the board. No decision was made at this time.

Mayor Lawson closed the public hearings.

MINUTES

Mayor Lawson reminded everyone that you can find a copy of our previous minutes on our Village website and in the Village office. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from May 16, 2024. Motion was made by Trustee Greg Martin seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve payment of all vouchers, on all abstracts, located with the agenda at the back of the room (attached). Trustee Gary Darnell made the motion to approve payments, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. All in favor, motion passed.

General: \$89,858.87 Water: \$179.05 Sewer: \$21,769.43 Key2Business \$30,776.00 Hometown Hero \$185.00

BUSINESS

Mayor Lawson opened the business portion of the meeting.

Resolution to Submit a New York Main Street Grant Application: Mayor Lawson read resolution #15-2024 (attached). Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to accept the resolution. Trustee Gary Darnell made the motion to accept, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, Mayor Lawson asked the Clerk to take roll call. Clerk O'Connor took roll call. Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes. The resolution unanimously passed. Clerk O'Connor thanked the Board.

Resolution to Support the Submission of a Smart Growth Planning Grant Application By the Village of Wilson: Mayor Lawson read resolution #16-2024 (attached). Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to accept the resolution. Trustee Greg Martin made the motion to accept, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, Mayor Lawson asked the Clerk to take roll call. Clerk Carey O'Connor took roll call. Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes. The resolution unanimously passed. Clerk O'Connor thanked the Board.

Resolution to Support the Submission of a Community Development Block Grant Community Planning Consolidated Funding Application: Mayor Lawson read resolution #17-2024 (attached). Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to accept the resolution. Trustee Gary Darnell made the motion to accept, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, Mayor Lawson asked the Clerk to take roll call. Clerk Carey O'Connor took roll call. Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes. The resolution unanimously passed. Clerk O'Connor thanked the Board.

Resolution for the Wilson Municipal Water Infrastructure Planning Grant NYS Environmental Quality Review Act Determination: Mayor Lawson read resolution #18-2024 (attached). Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to accept the resolution. Trustee Ellen Hibbard made the motion to accept, seconded by Trustee Greg Martin. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, Mayor Lawson asked the Clerk to take roll call. Clerk Carey O'Connor took roll call. Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes. The resolution unanimously passed. Clerk O'Connor thanked the Board.

Kyle Sharkey submitted a letter of intent (attached) to open an automotive repair shop called Sharkey Repair, LLC and Sharkey Rental Equipment, LLC. Mayor Lawson read the letter of intent. CEO Travis Evans stated that he handed everyone an overhead picture of the property. He explained the options the Village has for this property. He recommends having him apply for a special use permit to allow that if any issues arise, the board could pull the permit. Attorney Vona asked who owns the property. It was announced Barone owns the property. Attorney Vona recommended to have the current owner submit a letter to allow Kyle Sharkey to proceed at applying for the special use permit to present to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Celebrate Wilson!'s donation request: Mayor Lawson asked if there's a consensus to what the Board is willing to donate since we have multiple donation requests. Trustee Ellen Hibbard stated that since we only have \$1,000.00 and its the beginning of the year, we should be frugal in the amount. Trustee Darnell stated they are

requesting \$250.00 for offsetting the cost of the yearly events calendar. He is not opposed to donating \$100.00. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to donate \$100.00 to Celebrate Wilson!. Trustee Greg Martin made the motion, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. Mayor Lawson asked if there are any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

Celebrate Wilson!'s event request for Music in Martin Park starting 7/11/24 through 8/15/24 on Thursday's from 7 - 9pm: Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to accept the event request. Trustee Gary Darnell made the motion, seconded by Joanne Seefeldt. Trustee Hibbard had a question regarding their request for an extra garbage can. Clerk O'Connor stated that she will notify the DPW via email. The Village attorney, Andy Vona has reviewed the insurance and everything is in place. Mayor Lawson asked if all are in favor, all in favor, event request passed.

Niagara Hospice Gran Fondo event on August 10th sponsorship request: Mayor Lawson asked how much the board would may consider to this event. Trustee Hibbard stated that \$100.00 sufficient. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. Trustee Joanne Seefeldt made a motion to donate \$100.00, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

Wilson Area Business Association (WABA) request for consideration and support of WABA: Mayor Lawson asked if they have a consensus on how much they would like to donate. Trustee Hibbard stated \$100.00. Trustee Darnell stated that he would support this new organization by donating \$100.00. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. Trustee Gary Darnell made the motion, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

WFC #1 Iron Fireman Bike Night sponsorship request: Mayor Lawson asked if they have a consensus on how much they would like to donate. Trustee Hibbard stated \$100.00. Trustee Darnell agreed to that. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. Trustee Greg Martin made the motion, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

Appointment of Zoning Board of Appeals: Mayor Lawson asked if Erik Sherman was present. Clerk O'Connor stated he is not, however he came in today to take his Oath of Office. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve Erik Sherman for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Gary Darnell made the motion, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

Trustee Ellen Hibbard asked why they could not discuss and vote on the water and sewer increases. The Mayor stated that we need to have a public hearing. Trustee Hibbard stated that we had it today. Attorney Vona inquired and Clerk O'Connor stated that we announced the public hearing at the last board meeting and it was posted and put in the newspaper. It was also sent out in our newsletter and on our June water bills. All we need is a motion. Attorney Vona stated that it's a good idea to move on this now, it cannot wait. Trustee Ellen Hibbard made a motion to approve the water and sewer increases as proposed during the public hearing, seconded by Gary Darnell. Mayor Lawson asked if there are any additional questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with in favor and one opposed. Clerk O'Connor took roll call. Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, no. Clerk O'Connor thanked the Board.

Mayor Lawson closed the business portion of the meeting.

REPORTS

Mayor Lawson opened the reports portion of the meeting.

CEO Travis Evans reported that he had eight permits, closed roughly seven permits, everything seems to be updated. He has done sixteen fire inspections on local businesses. Out of the sixteen, eight have failed on the first inspection. He has conducted thirty eight inspections with the building permits, fire inspections and short term rentals. This does not include the fire hall. He has received 10 complaints which seem to be the same two people. One of the complaints started with the previous inspector. He has tried to assist this resident and he has been there multiple evenings. No one around him or his wife hears the noise he does. He stated that he told him that until someone other than him hears it, to have them reach out to him with what the noise is. Attorney Vona told Travis to keep us posted.

DPW/WWTP Superintendent Shawn Galyen: Shawn introduced himself. He stated he has been a lifelong resident of Wilson and lives in the Village with his wife and dog. He stated that he worked for the Village for 13 years and left in 2015 to work for CSX Railroad. He was approached by the Board and is happy to be back in the Village and working with the great group of guys we have, Merle Wiltse, Joe Zastrow and Rob Siegmann. The first week, he familiarized himself with the plant and coming up with a list of needs. It's been a good week and is looking at areas that will need addressed within the Village this summer. The Board welcomed Shawn back to the Village,

Trustee Joanne Seefeldt wanted to welcome Shawn and that she looks forward to working with him. She would also like to commend Greg and Carey for the Leon Festival this past Saturday. Greg and Carey thanked Joanne for her assisting on Saturday as they couldn't have done it without her.

Trustee Ellen Hibbard would also like to welcome Shawn back to the Village as not only our WWTP operator but as our DPW Superintendent.

Attorney Andy Vona has nothing to report.

Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor has nothing to report.

Trustee Gary Darnell reported that he has met with Father Andrew of St. Brendan on the Lake in regards to the potential closing of the Catholic Church. He is working on a letter endorsing the Church and would like the Board to review it to send out. He has been working with Shawn and discussing his ideas on his possible needs moving forward. Kudos to Greg and Carey on the Leon Festival, we need more events like this to bring people to our community.

Trustee Greg Martin reported that he and the other Trustees have been working on getting letters of support from our businesses for our grants. He has been actively working on all the grants with LaBella and getting things ready to submit. Leon Festival was a success and working closely with the Wilson Area Business Association. He has been researching language on updating our village code on trailers. Working with Travis on round 2 of the vacant building letters.

Mayor Arthur Lawson has nothing to report.

Mayor Lawson closed the reports portion of the meeting.

RECESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Lawson opened the recess for public input.

Ed Bell, lives on Young street and he has a grate in front of his home that floods and eventually ends up in his basement. He wanted to know if there are any plans on working on the drainage by him? Trustee Darnell stated that we were awarded a grant to put together a plan for our sewer infrastructure. Superintendent Galyen asked Ed to leave his number with him so they can meet next week to look at the storm sewer and go from there to see what needs to be done.

Mayor Lawson closed the recess for public input.

CLOSING

Mayor Lawson stated that our next employee meeting will be on Thursday, July 18, 2024 here at the town hall at 2:30pm and our Board meeting at 7:00pm. Mayor Lawson requested a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:20pm. Trustee Joanne Seefeldt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey L. O'Connor

Carey L. O'Connor
Village Clerk-Treasurer