

Village of Lowellville Council Meeting 5/14/25

Pledge of Allegiance

Called to order at 6:45 by Mayor Iudiciani

Roll Call – Ryan McNicholas, Ron Rotunno, Bob Coppola, Don D’Onofrio, Joe Donatelli, Keith McCaughtry

Mayor request Council to go out of regular order of business to hear from Tom Reeveley from Team Office located at 118 N. Canfield-Niles Rd., Austintown, OH 44515 and Zach from MS Consultants

Moved by Donatelli 2nd D’Onofrio

Roll Call – Yes

Tom Reeveley

Came to do an assessment of our computers by request of our Village Administrator, Joann Esenwein

- Looking at security of our systems and updating to Windows 11
- Team Office is certified in Criminal Investigation Information Services, 10 techs’ plus himself and trained to be in a Police environment.
- As of December 27, 2024 rules have changed, became very strict in regards to cyber security, networks, etc.
- Joann and Tom have worked on a state grant, still waiting for final grant approval, getting mixed signals about passage and disbursement. State government was giving up to \$20,000 for cyber security support/security on networks.
- Suggest in the meantime to get a domain, .gov We currently have .org (on our website) so anybody can impersonate. .Gov cost a couple dollars, to get, a letter must be submitted from Mayor, on letterhead and our website and emails would be more protected.
- Some computers do need replaced due to not being able to be updated.
- Firewall needs addressed, police dept should be separate. Approx. \$30.00 mo. for subscription, Firewall approx. \$830, \$395 to configure, set up, make sure works on network
- Mayor ask Chief Alli if OLE (sp) is protected the same? Chief says this is where they put their reports and it’s on its own system. It is not on a separate network from Village.
- Joann asked about the County bringing in the fiber, does this tie-in at all? Tom says he believes this is for the 9-1-1 systems. Says we can ask them if we can use it.
- Tom suggest they could start upgrading now but Joann believes we cannot start any of these projects while waiting for the grant. This could disqualify us from receiving grant.

Solicitor Lanzo arrived while Tom speaking.

Zac – MS Consultants

- EPA Findings & Orders - Still collecting quotes for pumps. Hopes to have by end of the week. Meeting scheduled next week with his team.
- North Side Fire Station – Utility coordination and grading plans. Working with Enbridge about depth. Charter, relocate line that comes into city hall. Elevation being worked on. Once done looking over foundation plans will then go to structural dept. Will coordinate with Olympia steel buildings, Newport and Sourcewell.- state purchasing programs. Olympia approx. \$51,000.00 for drawings on buildings, Newport – still waiting for quote. Steelwell – they hope to receive by end of next week. Mayor asked about yearly fee we pay to state term schedule STTS, is this the same program? Zach not sure-will find out but did check online and showed we were registered.

- West Water Street Riverfront Park – Project is out for bid starting this Friday at 11:30 am. So far, 5-6 contractors requested plans. Once bids received MS Consultants will take and evaluation and get back to us with recommendation. Amount on engineer's estimate is \$440,000.00 –bids can only go 10% above and/or below. DOES NOT INCLUDE PLAYGROUD EQUIPMENT – was already done by Eastgate. This quote is lower than original due to furniture and equipment no longer being included. Joann spoke with Jim Murray about sub-precipitant agreement for how much is left for construction and what we need for the Wi-Fi. Have to work with the Dept. of Development. May need a special meeting in future.
- Youngstown-Lowellville Rd. Meeting this Friday at MS office 10am. Mayor suggest to have at city hall since bid openings start at 11:30 at city hall.
- OPWC passed for 10 years but also wanted to inform us about Small Governments having \$20M available, possibly increase of \$25M – statewide competitor program from OPWC and villages are eligible. Grants up to 90% eligible with 10% local match for any repairs. Will also be offering a 50/50 for new expansions.

Motion to return to regular order of business – Moved by Rotunno 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes

Coppola motions to suspended the readings from the previous meeting 2nd McNicholas

Roll Call – Yes

Motion by Mayor for claims be sent to the claims committee for approval. Moved by Coppola 2nd McNicholas

Roll Call – Yes

Administrator informed Council of small accident that happened on 5/12/25 with the SCT bus by our driver, Tammy. She backed into a vehicle at Walmart and she provided all information to owner of the car. Owner was hoping it could be buffed out but not able to. Owner took to shop, got estimate of \$951.48 Information was received right before meeting so Joann will look over insurance policy tomorrow and see what our deductible is and go from there.

Motion to move to claims as approved to claims committee and be moved to the pay ordinance Moved by Coppola 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes

Correspondence read by Clerk

Discussion of Flowers being done by the Lowellville Garden Club. Paula phoned 5/13/25 about planting at city hall and in front of the Lowellville sign for Memorial Day. I informed her that a council meeting was on 5/14/25 and will get back to her. Phoned her 5/14/25 in the morning to see if she could provide an estimate of the cost so I could present to Council. She said she would call back but did not. I informed Council in 2024 & 2023 we paid approximately \$140-150 but the flowers were not done in front of Lowellville sign then. In 2022 we paid \$344.00. McNicholas says the Enrichment Group could donate up to \$200.00 McCaughtry says if's higher he is more than happy to donate towards. Lowellville Village will cut the check and the Enrichment Group will donate \$200 to us. Per McCaughtry – use fund 1000-710-650-0000

Motion to authorize the Enrichment Group to donate \$200.00 for flowers to the Lowellville Garden Club moved by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio

Roll Call – Yes

Fiscal Officer requesting approval for the following reports (Resolution 4154):

- Revenue Supplemental 4/9 – 5/12
- Appropriation Supplemental 4/9 – 5/12
- Interfund Advance Listing 4/9 – 5/12
- Interfund Transfer Listing 4/9 – 5/12

Motion to approve the moves by Coppola 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes

Under discussion items on correspondence regarding the Income Tax Levy the Mayor stated Council needed to promote it more and inform the voters what it was.

Improvement committee – McNicholas

- Lowellville Day – This Saturday - Parade at 12, request council to be at school by 11. Golf cart is ready for Council. Events start at 1 at gazebo with ceremony, laying of roses, fallen officers' tribute, citizen of the year, recommending Bill Flora. Legislation was done by Solicitor for Council to sign. Group was reminded that Council picks person of the year but very happy with Bill Flora, great choice. Will need passage from council.
- Requesting assistance from Police & Fire. Police Chief informed committee that we only have 1 car due to understaffing (unable to block off all side streets)
- Duck Derby at 3 – request that bridge be closed in both directions for approximately 1 hr. Will need road closed signs and cones to place on road.
- Community Wide Yard Sale 6/21/25 – Administrator informed them to let her know if Water Street will need closed. They will let her know.
- Motion to pass legislation of Bill Flora being Person of the Year 2025 Moved by McNicholas 2nd McCaughtry **RESOLUTION 4158**
- Roll Call - Yes

Finance Committee – McCaughtry

- Finance meeting was held on 5/13/25 in regards to WWTP finances for health insurance and natural gas shortage.
- Moved \$9000.00 from WWTP equipment. \$1000.00 to natural gas \$8000.00 to health insurance. Will still be short later in the year and will need discussed again later down the road.
- Lots of increases in the new year

Safety Committee – Donatelli

- Nothing at this time

Utility Committee – D'Onofrio

- Nothing at this time

Ordinance Committee – Coppola

- Working on updating some ordinances
- Talks of changing BOCA
- International Maintenance code – IMC
- Tax Commissioner – redefine the duties

Mayors Report:

- Had a meeting with Mahoning Co. Auditor – Manual and Sherry
- Mayor sent to everyone by email (printed, as well)
- 93 properties with delinquent property taxes – Adds to up \$200,000.00
- Village needs to inform Mahoning Co. Treasury Office to start tax collections and/or foreclosures
- Coppola asking if taxes not paid and County puts penalty does it also automatically start a lien? Lanzo explained it does put a “cloud” on the title in the event of a sale. When sold all taxes are to paid but people find ways to evade.
- Donatelli questioning why the County doesn’t inform the Village of these past dues. Lanzo explained they are understaffed.
- Mayor requesting Council to look at printouts he provided. Rate Resolution from County, \$225,373.00 – this is if 100% of taxes collected. “In” means County Money “Out” means Our levy. Lowellville is 8mills “In” 3.5MIL “Out” 4.5MIL (this was our levy renewal) Then you remove the Health & Note money.
- Mayor suggest contacting people on delinquent list to see about a payment plan and/or foreclose on property. Mayor did speak with Yemma for input also.
- Most people on list are also delinquent on sewage bills.
- Mayor asking solicitor – next steps, we need to collect. Solicitor said they did, in the past, collect on past sewer and he will call auditor’s office to see if we can get started on tax collection.
- Aqua does handle delinquency’s but are not for us. Mayor will find out who is correct contact at Aqua for collections.
- Mayor suggesting, we look into joining Poland Twp. For Police and Fire. Currently at \$500,000.00 Would cost Village, as taxpayers, to join \$200,127.00 for Fire \$78,715.00 for Police
- Council needs to decide. Suggested assessments.
 - Ex: \$100,000 home currently pays \$157.57 taxes NEW would be \$365.08 PER YEAR
- Put on levy?
- Mahoning Co. Paddles and Puddles is proceeding. Should be closing with title agency soon.
- Meet with ODOT – Bike Trail project is scheduled to start June 2nd
- River road will start after festival

New Business

- Rotunno – Jerome Donatelli house by old school, anything being done? Yes, Zoning Inspector sent letter but it was returned. New owners live in TX. Our street dept. is cleaning up the property.
- Solicitor says if certified letters refused or comes back unclaimed you can send by regular mail. If no response, still, you can start to condemn property. Whatever code says.
- Solicitor says let him know if we need him to do resolution to join WRFD and/or Poland Twp. Police. Will find out what cost would be if we contracted with another district for Police.
- Administrator requesting road closure on 8-2-25 for block party. Walnut St – Park Ave to Jaric
- Motion by Keith to close road 10am – midnight 2nd Coppola
- Roll Call - Yes

Legislation

- Move on suspension of the rules for pay ordinance by Coppola 2nd McCaughtry
- Roll Call – Yes
- Move on passage Donatelli 2nd D’Onofrio
- Roll Call – Yes
- Consent Legislation PID 112198 – ODOT to replace signs on SR289 in Village. **RESOLUTION #4157**
- Move to suspend the rules for ODOT by Coppola 2nd Rotunno
- Roll Call – Yes

- Resolution signed by Mayor Iudiciani, Councilman Coppola, Clerk, & administrator
- McCaughtry left meeting
- Move on passage by Donatelli 2nd Coppola
- Roll Call – Yes
- Legislation passed for Citizens of the Year under Improvement Committee section

Clerk informed council of the following donation request:

- Lowellville Little Rockets – in 2024 we gave \$250.00
- Moved by Donatelli to donate \$250.00 again 2nd McNicholas
- Roll Call – Yes
- American Legion Post 247 – in 2024 we gave \$450.00
- Move by Coppola to donate \$450.00 again 2nd Donatelli
- Roll Call – Yes

Motion made to go into executive session to discuss contracts, Invited Solicitor, Mayor, administrator, fiscal officer
- moved by Donatelli 2nd Coppola

Roll Call – Yes

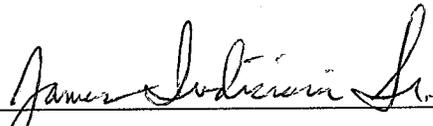
Motion to return to regular order of business – moved by Coppola 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes

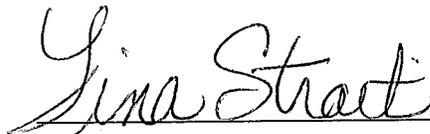
Public request – None

Motion for Adjournment – moved by Coppola 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes



Mayor – James Iudiciani, Sr.



Fiscal Officer – Tina Strait

