

Village of Lowellville Regular Council Meeting 10/8/25 6:00 PM City Hall

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor called meeting to order

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

All Here

Also in attendance: Mayor Iudiciani Sr, Solicitor James Lanzo, Administrator Joann Esenwein, Tina Strait

Mayor requesting to go out of regular order to hear from Team Office, Engineer, & public request

Motion moved by D’Onofrio 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes

Tom Reeveley Team Office was requested by mayor to attend meeting regarding HB96 and cybersecurity questions.

Joann explained to Mayor what we were working on was different. We are working on cybersecurity grant and cybersecurity policy. One was for a program, the other funding, to update our system for more security. The funding is a grant, looks like we are getting, but since the government is shut down it’s on hold.

Tom-Penalties start Jan 1 but we need to be concerned with liability. He is suggesting an assessment of all our computers, which is included in the quote he provided this evening, along with several other suggestions.

Joann has watched a few videos and they state we need a person in charge of the cybersecurity program. They suggest the Administrator being responsible for training of employees and making sure we have what we need. Joann is not comfortable putting together a program for this since she is not IT savvy.

Ryan asking Tom are they able to get our systems up-to-date and make them cybersecurity secure. Tom went over the quote. They are capable of getting systems updated.

Fiscal asked if we proceed with this quote will it affect the grant we are waiting for? Thought the grant was for this work and if we do work before grant will they not award us. Tom -the grant is just a way to procure the money. Tom believes you can make retroactive. Joann believes if work done before grant money received, they will not give grant. Tom says people are putting the security in place then billing the government from that date forward. Joann concerned it may prevent us getting grant.

Lanzo states we must get this in place, sooner than later.

Ryan – what happens if we don’t get grant? Joann-we have been told we are approved. We are just waiting for funding to come through. This funding will get us our “.gov” pages, firewalls for police. Getting this done is necessary.

Tom – Eff. Dec 14, 2024 criminal justice services requires cybersecurity on police. Mayor-our police have a closed system, is this part of that? Tom-the AOS expects that you have reasonable security.

Tom-can help set up our email securely, as well. Clean/block spam. We would get converted to ".gov" emails.

Lanzo – Have Team help back-up the secretary desk and store on cloud.

Tom – Police would be separate from Village, for security

Lanzo – needs done ASAP. Pass ordinance for policy and HB needs implemented.

Tom is willing to extend terms to 6 months. Ryan is willing to look over more and Tom will provide an updated quote and include 6-month terms.

This must be done by year end.

Lanzo – policy must be passed and then implemented. May not be able to wait for grant money since these needs done by year end.

Zach – MS Consultants

Findings & Orders – Joann spoke with the Ohio EPA about a potential new development. EPA will not allow for any new connections to the sanitary system. Mayor – because of the findings from the EPA we have to take care of these projects for new development. We have to take care of I&I, Youngstown-Lowellville Rd. project took care of some. Zach – we follow a schedule and report to the EPA. Trying to figure out if it's the plant that's the issue or is it the system its self. If system is not the issue, then we focus on the plant. What kind of improvements do we do to make it better? Thinking it's the system. Joann is having sanitary dept. inspect all manholes. CCTV 22-25% of village has been done. Scope testing 68-70% done. I&I study 22-25% - funding can be done at 0% loan over 5 years though WPCLF. Attending a OPWC meeting on 10/7/25 with Joann in regards to the Watson St project. Usually everyone gets 3/5, Lowellville got 5/5, the F&O is why we received additional points. Hoping to qualify for small government loan. Sanitary is approximately 80 years on Watson, impacts 15 people as of now and downstream is another 60. \$728,000.00 over 5 years

Fire Station – still waiting for final estimate. Requested approximate cost-occupancy \$500,000 – \$600,000.00 To just have foundation, shell, roof, downspouts, pavement to enter and exit-approximate cost \$260,000-\$275,000.00

Parson's – Preconstruction meeting 10/14/25 with X-Press Underground.

Riverfront & W Water St – Playground structures should be completed end of this week. Mulch will start after that and the wall is installed. Don-what's the elevation of the swing set, looks like 18" drop. Zach will check on it.

Youngstown-Lowellville Rd – project done. OWDA grant closed. Loan repayment schedule will be coming.

Syphon – will have to be renominated for WPCLF loan.

Public Request -

John Docherty – would like to use city hall for AA meetings on Sunday nights at 5:00 pm, even if it's a holiday. Joann & Ryan – only issue may be Dec 7, Santa arrives. John says they must pay rent, they are a non-profit, \$50.00 month. Would like to start in January.

Lanzo will do contract for \$50.00 month with automatic renewal.

Motion to approve use of city hall for AA meetings every Sunday starting in January for \$50.00 mo.

Moved by McCaughtry 2nd McNicholas

Roll Call – Yes

Ben Mashburn 308 W Liberty St. – When will the bike trail be done – they have the drains blocking the sewer, the water can't go out. Running out to road. Joann – it's not completely done yet. Bollards need installed to prevent people from driving on it and punch list needs done.

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

Roll Call – Yes

Motion to go out of regular order of business to hear from Nick, Zoning Inspector and Police Chief moved by McNicholas 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes

Nick Ruozzo – Zoning Inspector

Received call regarding 404 E Wood St – asking about having a sober living home for people leaving drug rehab. The home currently has 5 bedrooms & 3 bath. Lanzo – will need more information provided and is that area zoned for this? Single family dwelling would now become a multi-dwelling. Mayor – he would need to come to council and request re-zoning to start.

Nick asking mayor if he looked at zoning permits yet for the downtown condo's, was emailed? Mayor doesn't believe he saw the email. Mayor told Nick to go ahead to sign them, he's fine with it.

Building downtown – west side wall is craving in and may need to tear down and re-do. Does it require a new permit? Per Mayor and Coppola – no.

Trash cans Ordinance currently reads as minor misdemeanor. Do we need legislation? Coppola - Lanzo did provide one tonight. Lanzo-new one is civil penalty and going to ordinance committee.

Nick – are we vacating the alley? Coppola – did you receive official letters from everyone? Nick – showed you letters at last meeting and Escaro was here. You stated it had to go to legislation or meeting. Coppola/Lanzo – everyone that touches that property has to sign a petition and present to council, including the church.

Police Chief – no questions at this time

Motion to return to regular order of business moved by McCaughtry 2nd McNicholas

Roll Call – Yes

Minutes from the previous meeting – Motion to suspend the reading of the previous month minutes moved by Coppola 2nd D’Onofrio

Roll Call – Yes

Send claims to the claims committee for approval – moved Coppola 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes

Claims have been approved and place on the pay ordinance moved Coppola 2nd McCaughtry

Previous claim regarding Olson has been denied by insurance. Village will pay.

Roll Call – Yes

Correspondence for October meeting read by Fiscal Officer

Mayor – Jeff Wildes benefit. Hopes everyone can make a donation

Lanzo – Village cannot donate since not set up as non-profit

Improvements Committee – Ryan McNicholas

- Still working on newsletter and hoping to send to council by end of October for review
- Enrichment group – decorating this Saturday. Cornstalks on light post.
- Requesting funding for expenses - \$120.00 cornstalks and \$225.00 for winners of the decorated contest.
- Motion for village to issue PO NTE \$400.00 to cover expenses. Moved by McNicholas 2nd McCaughtry
- Roll Call – Yes
- Reminder: the Christmas decorating contest will be coming soon and will need money for that, as well.
- Motion for village to issue PO NTE \$400.00 to cover expenses for Christmas decorations & contest by McCaughtry 2nd Donatelli
- Roll Call - Yes
- Santa and tree lighting– Dec 7th – working with Fire Dept.
- Enrichment group requesting use of bus for the contest. – Just let Joann know the dates.

Finance Committee – Keith McCaughtry

- Had finance meeting and moved some funds around to keep our sewage dept operating. Will be short in funds by the end of the year for the WWTP, around \$20,000.00 or so.
- Joann has been billing Republic for the extra work that is being performed at WWTP but still running short on revenue.
- Lots of unexpected repairs
- Mayor – where are we at with the liens? Joann – did receive the contract from Aqua. Started in 2008 Fee is 6.9% on what they bill. Spoke with Manual about the lien process. Still looking everything over. Looks to be only 5 people on special assessment for sewer. We need to figure out a process on our end.

Safety Committee – Joe Donatelli

- Texted Council, Chief Alli & Chief Harris requesting a few parades for this weekend. Little Rockets made playoffs. Game away on Saturday – same parade route, both ways. W Wood Ext, turn down 289, turn on 1st St, go to Mt. Carmel then safety depts will pull off. Home game on Sunday – from Mt Carmel following same route as Saturday back to school. All times were good with safety forces.
- Motion to move on above by McCaughtry 2nd McNicholas
- Donatelli requesting mayor to do coin toss for the Sunday game. Mayor cannot make it on Sunday.
- Roll Call – Yes

Utility Committee – Don D’Onofrio

- Nothing at this time
- Still waiting to hear back from electric
- Joann – asked if renewing since expiring July 2026 – Don – yes, this is what I’m waiting to hear back on.
- Mayor – new rep from Ohio Edison wants to come to Village. Anything we want to ask Edison for? Improvements? Street Lights?

Ordinance Committee – Bob Coppola

- Ordinance meeting was held other day in regards to salary ordinance and will be having another one next week.
- Are we allowed (Chief Alli was at ordinance meeting) to pay out vacation? Per Solicitor – yes, a one-time policy, emergency finding, that police do not have to use vacation before vacation expires. If anniversary falls between Nov 2025-April 2026 time frame they can be paid for vacation.
- Informed Chief Alli we would not be able to pay till after the new year. Solicitor – need to make emergency resolution to pass with specific findings-not enough personnel to cover shifts.
- Coppola has requested solicitor to bring new resolution for one-time policy if anniversary date falls between 11/10/25 – 4/9/26 for any police officer who may lose vacation shall be paid, if not taken, and paid in first/second quarter of 2026.
- Moved by Coppola for above resolution 2nd D’Onofrio
- Roll Call – Yes
- Salary Ordinance – 4101 & 4156
- Section 8 that was to be in 4156 was not updated properly. It had an old policy inserted in error. 4101 for Section 8 was the correct one and needs updated in 4156.
- Solicitor has updated salary ordinance to word document for easier corrections and has sent to us. It is not correct-would like ordinance committee to look over and let him know of all corrections they want done. After that they will update and send to us to get passed.
- Coppola did give approval to pay fire dept using 4101 Section 8 for 3rd quarter pay.
- Solicitor - once you make all the corrections you’ll need to pass retroactively since quarter 2 fire dept. was paid with 4101 section 8 (which is correct policy, but not updated on 4156)
- Fiscal officer needs added to salary ordinance.

- Solicitor – Fiscal officer has a separate ordinance but you can incorporate in salary ordinance. Coppola would like to do that.
- Fiscal officer asking why this one is separate and why not do them all separate? Wouldn't that be easier? Solicitor-when created fiscal officer it was done ad hoc and would like each dept to have its own salary ordinance, as well. It can be done at any time.
- Coppola – will also be looking over step program.
- Coppola – numbered the pages of the printed ordinance he has and wants to insert page 9-10 of 4101 to 4156 to make it correct.
- Coppola – spoke with fire chief about some request he has and more discussion will need to be done.
- Coppola – We passed some ordinances that are not online yet. Spoke with Tina and all new ordinances will be getting sent to Walter Drane soon. Tina told Bob that Walter Drane has everything up to Sept 2024 so if it's before that it will need looked at.
- Mayor – Fire Chief Harris is requesting balance from 2nd quarter salary to be paid to him since he was acting Chief. Formal Chief got paid \$250 instead of \$500 for working half month. Harris was not sworn in until following month, can this be paid out to him? He was paid as Asst Chief.
- Solicitor – No, he can only be paid as Asst Chief, since he was not sworn in as acting Chief and was sworn in as Chief the following month.
- Mayor will inform Chief Harris
- Mayor – salary steps needs updated. Coppola is looking at.
- Solicitor – recommends separate salary ordinance for each dept and separate salary step program for each dept explaining the different steps within each dept. Wording should read step 1, 2, etc. excluding years of service section.
- Coppola – Ordinance received tonight – Solar Energy Systems Zoning Regulations – Bob does not see any issues with it.
- Coppola – Ordinance for garbage cans out beyond designated times – Is it considered a "service" when someone uses the "blue bags"? Solicitor – yes, it is.
- Will change wording in ordinance to include 1 container or bags service for single dwelling residential A
- Duplex's, 4-plex, 6-plex must have container per unit or a dumpster equal to the volume of 4 containers, etc.
- Will work on the wording at ordinance meeting

Claims Committee – Ron Rotunno

- Olson's – was settled at last meeting – told them if insurance would not cover the village would.
- Keith – just let them know it will be taken care of at the beginning of the year.
- Joann will let them know
- Other discussions to talk about but will do in executive session

Motion to have Trick or Treat on 31st from 5-7 moved by Donatelli 2nd McCaughtry

Ron Rotunno – possibly in football playoffs that night.

Roll Call – Yes

Solicitor Report and Legislation – James Lanzo

- Look over ordinance submitted – it has R-1, R-2, R-3 not A, B, C – will need updated to read correctly.
- Lanzo – okay to write on it A, B, C
- Coppola – okay will do – and add industrial and commercial
- Per Bob – write Residential A, Residential B, Residential C on the ordinance
- Move on suspension of the rules for Solar Energy Systems Zoning Regulations Ordinance by Coppola 2nd McCaughtry
- Roll Call – Yes
- Move on passage by Coppola 2nd McCaughtry (**ORD #4165**)
- Roll Call – Yes
- Fiscal Officer read Cybersecurity Policy
- Move on suspension of the rules by Coppola 2nd D’Onofrio
- Roll Call – Yes
- Move on passage by D’Onofrio 2nd Coppola (**ORD 4164**)
- Roll Call - Yes
- Move on suspension of the rules for the pay ordinance to be placed in the claim’s ordinance by Coppola 2nd Donatelli
- Roll call – yes
- Move on passage by Coppola 2nd D’Onofrio
- Roll Call – Yes
- Motion to approve Estimated Certificate of Resources for 2026 by McCaughtry 2nd Donatelli
- Roll Call – Yes

Mayor’s Report – James Iudiciani, Sr

- Mayor asking Joe - Sport masters- temp has to be 50+ correct, for them to finish basketball & pickleball courts? Yes
- Looking for a full-time street dept employee. If you know of someone, please let us know. Phil Alfano can fill in for the meantime since he does know how to plow snow but he also drives the mini-bus. Joann will advertise and put on our website.
- Thank you, Phil for filling in on the street dept and driving the bus.

Old Business –

- Coppola – status of the park, do we have to get camera? Wi-Fi? When are we getting? Per mayor – It’s part of the contract to get the camera’s/Wi-Fi
- Coppola – following up on the stripping request on the bends, white dash strips. D’Onofrio suggested a sign – on coming traffic does not stop? Mayor – if you decide on a sign, it will need an ordinance.
- McNicholas – Opioid money, has anyone used the \$1729.00 yet? No, but it was decided to give to Fire Dept/EMS for training. Joann has informed Chief Harris.

- Mayor asking the emails he's getting and forwarding to Joann & Tina – we are not comfortable opening the "DocuSign" attachment without having a clue what it is and no way to verify it. Says he received something else, as well, and will forward to Joann and Tina again.

Fiscal officer is requesting a time slot during the meetings to discuss Fiscal matters.

FO asking council, again, for help with the audit. Papers were sent to council but I have not received help from anyone. Questioner and significant changes is what is needed. I will send again.

FO asking council if they seen the email from Chief Harris?

- Resignation of Chad Richard
- Back wall at Station 31 is damaged
- Would like to see the drawings for the NS Fire station
- Concerned about the floor under Engine 32
- Finances for upcoming expenses (will go to finance committee)

FO received a refund check from Anthem for the ACA. We have 2 options: Reimburse employees or put towards your premium. The check is \$3,533.59 Per council – put towards premium.

FO spoke with solicitor regarding special assessments on our real estate settlements from the county auditor and asked solicitor to explain it to council.

Solicitor – we get money back from the county for our special assessments, unpaid sewer bills, grass cutting, etc. Currently money gets received as GF if it's a sewer bill collection. FO would like to create a separate line item for property tax intake but under the sewer account.

FO would like council to approve this being done and allow FO make a new line item.

Moved by Coppola to let FO receive special assessment sewer into a new line sewer fund. 2nd McCaughtry.

Roll Call – Yes

Move to go into executive session to discuss liens and financial. Invite: Administrator, Solicitor, Mayor, Fiscal officer, and all of council by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio

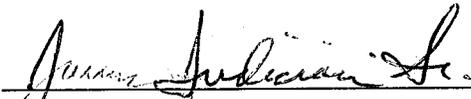
Roll Call – Yes

Motion to regular meeting moved by McCaughtry 2nd McNicholas

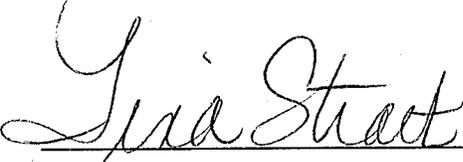
Roll Call – Yes

Move on adjournment by McCaughtry 2nd Rotunno

Roll Call – Yes



 Mayor James Iudiciani, Sr



 Fiscal Officer – Tina Strait