

# VILLAGE OF RUSHVILLE COUNCIL MEETING

MONTH: February

Meeting Date: February 8, 2024 Start Time: 6:00 PM End Time:

**CALL TO ORDER:** THE Village of Rushville Council was called into Regular Session by Mayor John Burge at the Municipal Building.

Council Members	Present	Employees	Present
John Burge, Mayor	Yes	Cindy Lewis	Yes
Jennifer Henery	Yes	Jon Browning	Yes
Kate Poston	No	Dave Traub	Yes
Matt Schweitzer	Yes		
Ken Dean	Yes		
Steve Lewis	Yes		
Steve June	Yes		

**Welcome Visitors:** Art Dickson, a member of the Masons, came to let Council know about a leak and possible collapse of the roof.

**Approve Last Month Minutes:** Jennifer moved, and Ken seconded, to approve the January Regular meeting minutes. Motion passed. The January Special Meeting minutes need corrections before approval. Cindy will have them at the next meeting.

## Committee Reports

**Village Administrator-** Dave said that they are working on a policy for people moving in and out. There have been instances where people moved in and didn't notify the Village so they haven't been paying bills. He said they are also going to put tag outs on the vacant sewer control boxes and locks on the meters. He is also working with Ohio Rural Water Assoc. for a mapping of fire hydrants and water taps. He said that the repairs at the water tower are complete. Jon suggested that it is better to have an ordinance and the policy for the utility application and deposit.

**Finance-** Steve Lewis. Steve Lewis said that he sent everyone reports that gave a broad overview of what happened last year. He did a brief outline of each fund status at end of year. In depth reports for each fund are available. In water operating, Steve said we will have to take a hard look at water rates once we get the new contract with Bremen. Steve said there will be a meeting of the committee on Monday, February 19 at 2:00. All Council members are invited, and it will be posted for the community.

**Historical-** Regarding the church auction, Matt said that Kate is working with Larry Watson, the auctioneer. He thinks it is still moving forward. Matt asked Jon about deed

restrictions. Jon talked to the title company and their lawyer and the underwriters. The underwriters are the ones on the line if there is something incorrect in the title. The underwriter said that you can put a deed restriction in regards to the land. Absent the building being in an historical district or have an historical designation, or zoning restrictions, there is nothing you can do to stop whatever a new owner wants to do. Matt asked if we could pass an Ordinance declaring it an historic building. Jon said that is spot zoning and is frowned upon. Steve L said that we need to get rid of the building. It is a liability, and if we start putting impediments on it, we're not going to be able to sell it. Jon said that he should have an Ordinance ready for the March meeting. Matt said that he would like to see some of the proceeds from the auction to replace our town sign with something larger, easier to read, and closer to the road. John said to do the research on what he wants and how much it will cost and get the figures to Dave. John said to be sure what ODOT easements are. Matt said that the historic marker for the underground railroad is ordered, but it's a four to six month wait. The original grant was for \$4,200 as that was the quote. Somehow, we got a discount so we have \$990 left in our account with Fairfield County Historical Association that we can use to put a nice brick area where the trash can. The trash can be moved between the benches. We have to spend the money on something related to the marker. Matt said that he would like to create a logo. Cindy said she would love to have that logo and print some real stationery.

**Emergency Response- Steve June-** Steve said that they have had several meetings to begin forming a plan. Several village residents, West Rushville residents, and the fire chief have attended meetings and contributed ideas for what all would need to be done. The fire department has some things that we can use for the plan. John said that they started with a worst case scenario such as the Village is wiped out by a tornado. What must the Village do within the first 24 hours as other help would become available after that.

**Grants- Jennifer-** No update on the Strand Engineering grant submissions. John said it would probably take a month for them to go through all of the applications. Jennifer said it will probably be a few months before we know anything.

**Municipal Records-** John said that he is waiting until the Sunshine Laws training is available again as that addresses record retention.

**Communications- Matt-** Looking at an outdoor board similar to West Rushville. Could be put outside the Municipal Building. Matt will look at sizes and costs.

**Planning Commission- Jennifer-** She is getting together zoning codes and seeing what other villages are doing.

**Executive Session-** Ken moved, and Jennifer seconded, to enter Executive Session. Roll call vote: Jennifer Yes; Ken Yes; Matt abstained; Steve June Yes; Steve Lewis Yes. Motion passed at 7:23 PM. The subject of the session was the Town Hall/Masons Building. Steve J moved,

and Jennifer seconded to exit Executive Session. Roll call vote: Jennifer Yes; Ken Yes; Steve June Yes; Steve Lewis Yes. Motion passed at 7:34 PM

**Pay Bills:** Steve L moved, and Ken seconded, to pay any and all bills. Motion passed.

**Adjourn:** Steve L moved, and Jennifer seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

**Signed by:**

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John Burge, Mayor

  
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Cindy Lewis, Clerk/Treasurer