

Pemberville Village Council Meeting
1/6/04

The newly elected Mayor and Officials were given the oath of office on Monday, January 5th, 2004 by Judge Mark Reddin.

Mayor Oberhouse called the regular meeting of Council to order on Tuesday, January 6th, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. A prayer was offered by Douglas Wegman followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present for roll call were Vandersall, Panning, Sharp, Wegman, Brann, and Barnes. Also attending the meeting were Police Chief/Safety Director, Robert Vespi; Solicitor, Michael Marsh; Jordan Fouts from the Sentinel-Tribune; and residents--Eric Campbell and Nedra Sheets.

The minutes from December 16th and December 31st, 2003 were reviewed. As there were no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Bills in the amount of \$7,566.48 were presented for approval of payment. Vandersall moved, seconded by Sharp, to approve payment of the bills. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was then turned over to the new Mayor, James Opelt, who read the following statement:

"It is with much excitement that I begin my term as Mayor of the Village of Pemberville. I consider it a privilege to serve this village and to work with you, the council, our safety department and village employees.

I want to publicly thank Mayor Oberhouse for her years of service to this community and to personally thank her for her time and advice in making this an easy transition. I would also like to thank Councilwoman Vandersall for the graciousness that she has shown me the last few weeks.

We come to this table with different backgrounds, ideas, priorities and goals. However, our differences will not be our strength. Our strength will be our common understanding that we are here to serve the best interest of all village residents. The common ground will allow us to make the best decisions based on research, experience, and the advice of experts and--most importantly--the members of our community.

With all do respect to the mayors who have come before me, I will be different. There will be changes. Change however, is not something to fear. Change can be good and healthy.

We will make mistakes. I will make mistakes. And when I do, I will be the first to admit it and do all in my power to correct it. It is not important how a mistake is made but what we do to correct it.

I don't have all the answers tonight. And don't plan on me having them next meeting either. I am willing to learn. As I told the ladies in the office, just be easy on me.

We will work on situations, not problems. We will not talk about people; rather we will talk about the concern and work for a positive solution. We will treat one another as professionals at all times and leave misunderstanding, disagreements or unfortunate harsh words at this table. We will walk from here after every meeting as friends who are privileged to live in the greatest community in the state.

Finally, we will listen, we will hear, we will act, and we will involve this community in their local government. Around this table tonight sits decades of experience, knowledge, outstanding work habits, and dedication to this community. Some of you I have known all my life, others for only the past few years. But, I consider all of you friends and colleagues and again look forward to working with each of you.

Together, we will continue to provide this community with the leadership that they deserve and that we as elected officials are obligated to provide."

BPA—Vespi reported the BPA is asking for Council's approval to sell the line truck. They also recommend the purchase of a clamp on fork for the bucket on the backhoe so it can be used as a forklift. The cost could be split four ways. Feller, Finch & Associates, Inc. has been contacted about rebuilding the lift station on Bridge Street as it is in bad shape and the purchase of a new water truck is on the burner. Wegman moved to sell the line truck. Seconded by Vandersall, the motion carried unanimously. Wegman moved to purchase the fork for the backhoe. Seconded by Brann, the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance #1280, Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Lease Agreement with AMPLEX Electric, Inc. for the Placement of Certain Equipment on the Village Water Tower to Facilitate Internet Service for Citizens, had its second reading.

Ordinance #1284, Ordinance Approving and Adopting Personnel Rules and Regulations, had its first reading. Vandersall moved to suspend the rules. Seconded by Sharp, the motion carried unanimously. Vandersall moved to pass Ordinance #1284 as an emergency. Seconded by Sharp, the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance #1285, Ordinance Authorizing the Clerk to Advertise for Bids and the Mayor to Enter into a Contract or Contracts for the Joyce Avenue Sewer Project, had its first reading. Vandersall moved to suspend the rules. Seconded by Brann, the motion carried unanimously. Brann moved to pass Ordinance #1285 as an emergency. Seconded by Vandersall, the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #659, Resolution Adopting the Final Version of the Wood County Mitigation Plan for Natural Disasters, as Submitted by the Wood County Mitigation Committee, had its first reading. Vandersall moved to suspend the rules. Vandersall moved to pass Resolution #659. Seconded by Brann, the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #660, Resolution Restating the Pick Up Contribution Made by the Village of Pemberville to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, had its first reading.

Additional fire extinguishers were taken to the Fire Station to be tested. Some need to be replaced and new ones are also needed for the new utility building for a total of eight. Sharp moved to purchase eight fire extinguishers and to recharge others as needed. Seconded by Brann, the motion carried unanimously. Brann said he was asked to check them every month. Vespi will number the extinguishers and give a location of where they are.

Planning Commission Chairman, David Miesmer, aired his concerns in a letter sent along with his approval of the parcel split of the property occupied by the Water Tower and Old Street Garage. Since it is zoned R-2 Residential it would become a non-conforming lot if sold and neither residential nor commercial use of the lot/building would be compliant with the Zoning Ordinance. Solicitor Marsh advised the zoning should be disclosed before the building is sold or it could be rezoned before offering it for sale. It will be discussed at the next Lands and Buildings Committee meeting on January 22nd.

MAYOR: A Council President needs to be elected. Sharp moved to nominate Vandersall as Council President Pro Tem. Seconded by Panning, the motion carried unanimously.

Passed a list of Council Committees for approval and proposed goals for 2004. Would like to form Mayor Committees for projects and will give a list to Council at the next meeting.

Would like to take Chief Vespi to the TMACOG General Assembly meeting on January 29th. Registration fee is \$45.00. Poggemeyer Design is paying the Mayor's fee. Vandersall moved to pay Vespi's TMACOG fee of \$45.00. Seconded by Brann, the motion carried unanimously.

Will be representing the Village at an Eagle Scout program on Friday for Mark Westphal.

Tom Reiter is putting the installation of a permanent handicap ramp in front of his apartments on Hickory Street on hold. He also wants clarification of sidewalk liability and asked if there is a rebate for leveling. The Solicitor said the property owner that abuts the sidewalks on the right-of-way is responsible for them. If the Village has actual knowledge of a defect, then it is responsible. The Sidewalk Ordinance applies only to replacement of sidewalks.

Vespi is taking care of repainting the Mayor's office. The Mayor would also like a computer for his use, a dedicated phone line and an intercom or paging system. Barnes said there is a wireless intercom system available at Radio Shack. Vespi will get prices.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PANNING: Expressed his dismay at a letter distributed as part of their menu by the Fork's Restaurant owners, Larry and Carol Moore, that stated, "Pemberville will be in for a crazy time at City Hall. Incumbent Council members do not think the newly elected Mayor should have won and they are not going to work with him." Council members took offense to this statement and felt it was slanderous and should never have been printed.

Asked the Mayor why he didn't stay for the Elected Officials Dinner Monday night after the oaths were given. He replied that he felt he needed to be with his family who came in from out of town.

SHARP: Has a quote of \$225.00 from S & R Tree & Stump Removal to remove six stumps from the Town Hall Park property. It was suggested she get another quote from Rick Beeker. Sharp moved to have the stumps removed for the best price. Seconded by Wegman, the motion carried unanimously.

The Joint Recreation Board will meet Tuesday, January 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Suggested giving the office the authority to adjust line item amounts without Council's prior approval. Sharp moved that the procedure for inter-fund transfers be done by the Clerk/Treasurer, then giving notice to Council. Seconded by Vandersall, the motion carried unanimously. The Solicitor suggested checking with the auditor to make sure this procedure is okay.

WEGMAN: Saw an advertisement in the paper that Dold Homes is looking for acreage to build on. The Mayor will talk with him to see what he has in mind.

Has concerns about the reduction of the speed limit on Bierley Avenue to 25 mph feeling it might cause problems with Modine workers who only have a half hour for lunch. Modine should be contacted to see if it will be a problem.

It was suggested to him that parking be allowed on the west side of Cedar Street. Chief Vespi responded that the street is not wide enough to have parking on either side as long as it is a two-way street. He recommended making it one way to Cherry Street but it was never approved. The Police & Safety Committee will take a look at it along with the replacement of yield signs in town with stop signs.

BARNES: The community can always use some improvement and our public relations can probably use a little polishing.

As there was no further business to be brought before Council at this time, Brann moved, seconded by Sharp, to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.