

**St. Charles Village Council
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 14, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Roe with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: McPhail, White, Dennis, Roe, Neumann, Theile, and Kutz.

Others present: Matt Lane, Pat Mishler, Deanna Koehler, Shannon Grunas, John Grunas, Theresa Bailey, Jeff Wood, Ken Kutz, Terry Browne, Mandilee Hecht, Barry Smith, and others.

Theresa Bailey and Terry Browne gave their support of the burning ordinance and do not want to see it repealed.

Terry Browne presented the council with an EPA document discussing the hazards of burning leaves.

Ken Kutz explained citizen rights and the choice to live wherever they want but not to infringe on the rights of others by restricting those choices.

Theresa Bailey countered with no one has the right to inflict harm on others.

Ken Kutz opined that we do not live in a perfect world and questioned who gets to decide what is best for everyone.

Jim McPhail expressed concern over the fire safety precautions at the Haunted House.

Tom White asked for clarification on the water and sewer line insurance. Matt Lane explained there are separate campaigns and each campaign offers a discount if you sign up after that offer comes out from the insurance company.

Tom White also thanked Marie Roe for bringing the Christmas for the Kids Program back to the Village.

Barry Smith from Chesaning Street addressed the council on a rezoning request. Mr. and Mrs. Smith as well as Mr. and Mrs. Grunas were trying to understand the best way to get their homes zoned as residential rather than industrial. Diana Kutz explained the process and the costs for rezoning. Chris Neumann also explained the timing requirements and that the Planning Commission would probably not "spot zone" their area and it would be best to get their neighbors to join in on the request. Matt Lane explained that by waiting for the Planning Commission to update the Master Plan rather than paying the application fee for the rezoning could take up to a year.

Diana Kutz asked about getting an "Engineer of Record" and asked to have it added to the next meeting agenda.

Motion by Neumann, second by Theile to approve the November 9, 2016 Village Council Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Communication was received from USP News & Notes.

Motion by Dennis, second by Theile to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$90,378.29. Motion carried.

Motion by Neumann, second by McPhail to approve the Goodrich Building alarm system upgrades from DDA Funds. The DDA were polled and expressed support of the upgrades. Motion carried.

Neumann suggested industrial park funds be exhausted prior to the expiration of the development plan. Possible budget items to accomplish this could include 3-phase electric to every lot in the industrial park, curb & gutter, road improvements that will allow large trucks, and additional lighting for the industrial park. Lane will check with Pat Mishler for additional options.

Other budget projects could include security upgrades for village properties, additional street lighting, cameras for the parks, sprucing up the downtown, maintenance options for the old water tower, and training for the boards and commissions.

Motion by Neumann, second by Dennis to decline the offer from Crown Castle to renegotiate their lease agreement with the Village. Motion carried.

There was a consensus of the Village Council to keep the burning ordinance in place as is. No action was taken.

Department reports were accepted and filed from the DPW, Police, and Building Inspector.

Theresa Bailey and Terry Browne thanked the council for keeping the burning ban in place.

Ken Kutz as a taxpayer would like a volume amplification system installed in the council chambers so he can determine how his tax dollars are spent.

Theresa Bailey has also requested additional lighting at the school and they have assured her they would take care of it.

Jim McPhail again questioned the safety of the Haunted House and would like to see some form of committee put in place to oversee safety upgrades.

Jim McPhail also asked about the removal of the giant propane tank in front of Horger's. He has received numerous complaints about the tank from the community and believes it is very unsafe. Matt informed council that Horger's has received a written order to remove the tank or to request a variance. There has been no action in response by Horger's at this time.

Motion by Neumann, second by Kutz to close the regular meeting and enter into a closed session at 9:00 pm to consider purchase of real property per Section 8 (d) of the Open Meetings Act. Roll call vote: McPhail, yes; White, yes; Dennis, yes; Roe, yes; Neumann, yes; Theile, yes; Kutz, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by McPhail, second by White to exit the closed session and resume the regular meeting at 9:25 pm. Motion carried.

Motion by Neumann, second by McPhail to direct Matt Lane to enter into negotiations to purchase the two remaining vacant parcels in the Industrial Park. Motion carried.

Motion by Theile, second by Kutz to adjourn at 9:53 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna L. Koehler, Village Clerk