

**St. Charles Village Council
Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 11, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM with a moment of silence for 9/11

Pledge of Allegiance by President Tithof.

Members present: Freed, Ginderske, Harris, Kendall, McSweyn, Nesbit, and Tithof.

Members absent: None.

Others present: Don Ackerman, Donna Ackerman, Austin Alexander, Pete Atkins, Hartmann Aue, Tyler Browne, Adrian Cervini, Scott Crofoot, Penny Falkenberg, Steve Harris, Derrick Huff, Julie Jastrzebowski, Kevin Kilbourn, Pat Kinsey, Brian LaFrance, Julie LaFrance, Lucretia Leitz, Mick Levens, Jeanne Marcello, James McPhail, Jenny Rosser-Nesbit, Mark Norton, Jason Oliver, Butch Smith, Regina Smith, Rick Sprowl, Ethan Thompson, Travis Thurston, Karen Wachowicz, Ray Walker, Mark Wesolek, Andrea Woodgate, Neil Woodgate and others.

One adjustment to the agenda, add under new business E. – Retirement Insurance- \$500.00.

Motion by Freed, second by Ginderske to add F – Ithaca Rd. ditching. Roll call vote: Freed-yes; Ginderski-yes; Harris-no; Kendall-yes; McSweyn-yes; Nesbit-no; Tithof-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Freed, second by Kendall to add G – Scott Crofoot. Motion carried.

Public Comment – Ray Walker talked about current water rates. Rick Sprowl spoke about issues with his yard since water project. Pat Kinsey and Penny Falkenberg spoke about the Village Sign Ordinance. Brian LaFrance spoke about an incident he had in front of his home. Mark Weslock invited the candidates that are running for trustee to comment at next month’s meeting about how they have helped the community.

Mark Norton and Austin Alexander from Spicer updated Council on the projects Spicer is working on for the Village.

Motion by Harris, second by Nesbit to approve the August 14, 2024 Village Council minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Nesbit, second by Harris to accept and file the Commission and Committee Reports from Downtown Development Authority September 6, 2024. Motion carried.

Motion by Nesbit, second by McSweyn to accept and file the Commission and Committee Reports from Parks & Recreation Committee August 21, 2024. Motion carried.

Motion by Nesbit, second by McSweyn to accept and file the Commission and Committee Reports from Planning Commission Committee August 15, 2024. Motion carried

Handout from Fleis & Vandenbrink was accepted and filed.

Paul Ginderske spoke about the Village Sign Ordinance.

Motion by Nesbit, second by Harris to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$203,440.52. Motion carried.

Aue presented a Retirement Letter from Gary Campbell the Village Lawyer. Campbell will be retiring at the end of 2024. The letter gave several lawyers for the village to consider using. Council would like to find out who municipalities in our surrounding area are using.

Aue presented a Retirement Letter from Don Ackerman the Village DPW Superintendent. Dons last day will be September 27th. The open position has been posted on the Village website, the electronic sign and through the Michigan Municipal League Classifieds. Freed would like to be included in the interview process.

James McPhail presented a letter and pictures to council regarding drainage issues in his yard. This has been an ongoing issue that has not been solved. Council agreed to have the DPW superintendent and James meet to see what they can come up with to fix the issue.

Aue presented minutes from the April 8, 2009 and April 11, 2018 council meetings. Both minutes discuss having a \$500 retirement benefit that the retiree can use towards their own personal health insurance premiums. This will be the first time the village has had a retiree use the benefit.

Troy Freed commented on the Ithaca Rd ditching that was presented in the August 14, 2024 Village Council meeting. Freed wanted it known that he is against the re-engineering of the ditches and just wanted the ditches to be maintained.

Freed wanted to discuss Scott Crofoot, the villages Zoning and Ordinance administrator. Scott Crofoot formally requested that the council go into closed session to discuss anything related to him.

Motion by Freed, second by Ginderske to exit open session at 8:25 PM. Motion carried.

Motion by Freed, second by Kendall to open closed session at 8:27 PM. Motion carried.

Motion by Freed, second by Nesbit to exit closed session at 8:31 PM. Motion carried.

Motion by Nesbit, second by McSweyn to open session at 8:31 PM. Motion carried.

Reviewed departmental reports.

Public Comment – Regina Smith and Julie Jastrzembowski both spoke about Ithaca Road ditching. Penny Falkenberg talked about the park.

Motion by Harris, second by Nesbit to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia Leitz, Village Clerk