**Village of Cement City**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

July 14, 2011 7:00 p.m. Village Hall Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Cement City Village Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance: 20 Citizens present. Members present: James Ellis, Bill Bendele, Mel Cure, Mike Gavett, and Larry Babinger. Clerk Carol Ladd, Treasurer Chari Cure, and Deputy Treasurer Patty Lueker were present. Zoning Inspector Eric Trumble was present. DPW Supv. Steve Fletcher was absent due to illness.

**Departments**

Police: Chief Elwell reported on police activity. Elwell reported that he has been meeting with the motorcycle club regarding their upcoming event and shared expectations. On another note, the police have been addressing Quads running on the streets and on unauthorized property. Mel Cure thanked the department for their call of duty in helping with the loose buffalo in the village.

Fire: No Fire Representative. Ellis reported that the property at Wheaton Rd. and US12 will be used for a training facility for the department.

Guest Speaker-Bruce Caswell visits and explains some of the state budget cuts and expenses. He also explained how the social security brackets will change.

Complaints-Don Lueker addressed a letter he received from zoning. He remarked that he will mow the property but would like to see letters of complaints if any as addressed in the letter. He voiced concern that he was being targeted for being a friend to Bill Bendele. He stated that the property has never been mowed in the 20 years he has owned it and he sees no reason that it should be mowed. Ellis stated that the village electors elect leadership to uphold the laws. Since the property is zoned residential, it has to be mowed. Bendele says the lot should not have to be mowed as it is a hardship to wildlife. Ellis reiterated that residential properties must be maintained.

Pam Dunham complained that the bar property and Cheetham's needs to be mowed. Trumble reports that these properties are being addressed. Ellis reminded the crowd that the Planning Commission is currently working on updates to the zoning ordinances and everyone has the right to voice concerns as updates are made.

Public Participation-

Dusty Hollifield introduced himself and other guests as members of the motorcycle club. He invited all to the annual party taking place this Saturday and is working with police to abide by the law. Ellis thanked the members for coming to the meeting and introducing themselves. Pam Dunham expressed concern for the selling of alcohol. Elwell reports that the club is within its rights to serve alcohol, however, they cannot sell alcohol or raffle tickets or accept donations for the purchase of alcohol without licensing. Dunham also asked if the bikers can refrain from revving engines, running stop signs, and driving too fast in the village. Hollifield countered by saying the group has been asked to obey the traffic laws and to refrain from revving. He also interjected that he has witnessed numerous villagers breaking traffic laws too.

**Minutes Reviewed-** Motion made by Cure, second by Babinger to accept the 6-9-11 minutes as presented. All Ayes, Motion Passed. Motion made by Cure, second by Gavett to accept the 6-9-11 Special Budget Meeting minutes as presented. All Ayes, Motion Passed. Motion made by Gavett, second by Cure to accept the 6-24-11 Special Millage Meeting minutes as presented. All Ayes, Motion Passed

**Receipt of Treasurer’s Report-** Motion made by Cure, second by Gavett to accept the Treasurer’s Report subject to audit. All Ayes, Motion Passed.

**Presentation of Existing Bills**- Motion made by Cure, second by Gavett to pay existing bills with late additions. Ayes all, Motion passed. Ladd pointed out that payroll has been added to the already approved bills listing per Bendele’s request.

**Staff Progress Reports-**

Zoning: Eric Trumble updated the council on numerous letters that have been sent and will be sent regarding the mowing of lawns and chronic yard sales. Bendele asked if the village has been mowing lawns and charging owners. Trumble stated that he had contacted the lawyer for advice and that the village has mowed and charged for 3 properties. Bendele stated that this practice should be heard by the council before taking action. Babinger stated that the council has given DPW and Zoning authority to take care of day to day business and it is not necessary to seek permission. Gavett asked what initiates this mowing process. Trumble states that a warning letter is sent explaining that if the property is not groomed by the date indicated that the village will mow and have the charges added to the tax bill. Wittenberg advised that the council has other more important issues to deal with and should avoid micromanagement.

Building: Fletcher was absent. No report given.

**Old Business**

Pam Dunham requested follow up action for her drainage problem. Some improvements have been made but she asked the DPW to revisit the project since she is still seeing water runoff that is potentially harmful to her property. She also asked if the Clerk had been in touch with Consumers regarding tree trimming. Ladd responded that Consumers has its own cadence of tree cutting and we have no power to make the request. Ladd and Bendele advised Dunham to make a personal call to Consumer’s to see if action will be taken sooner.

**New Business**

Diane Woods addressed the council on behalf of Cement City Baptist Church. She thanked the council for their service to the community and asked for permission to erect a new sign at the church. Woods submitted a detailed copy of the sign with dimensions. The council recognized that the sign is not within the allowable dimensions and advised that the church request a variance. Wittenberg encouraged the lighting option. Gavett stated that the sign is very nice. Woods described how the old beams from the old church have been salvaged and stored in her barn and the church intends to utilize them in the sign. Ellis asked about the project timetable. Council concurs that the sign will help to beautify the church and will also be a welcome addition to traveler’s first entering Village limits. Council advised Woods to work with zoning and the planning commission to complete the necessary paperwork with no charge and to move forward with the project.

Ellis noted that the council reduced fees by 50% over a year ago to help citizens with their construction needs. Caswell spoke briefly about the Matthew Gast Act that allows citizens to remodel with no worry of additional tax due to the improvement. He advises that citizens complete the form and to notify the Accessor of the improvement.

Donna Irelan updated the council with Cement City Days plans and asked for citizen help. Her phone number is 517-936-9380 and e-mail contact is DonnaNov54@aol.com. A water ball fight is in the works with the help of Addison Fire Dept. A “Touch a Truck” and chili cook-off is in the works. Irelan asked the council to judge the contest. Police are working on a plan to barricade Main Street so that the activities can take place. The Duck Band and the Band Uniquellizer will be at the event. The music will take place in two sessions 4:00-6:30 and 6:30-9:00. Vendors can join the event for a $10 charge and Chili making contestants will give a $5 entry fee that in turn, will be used as prize money.

3 young men escorted by family came to apologize for damage incurred on Village property with paint ball guns. A young man stated that the charges were dropped and they were found not guilty. The grandmother asked to speak and stated they should not have to acknowledge the crime and claimed that Fletcher has been stalking the boys. Ellis reported the council was unaware of any change in the findings or restitution regarding the court. Elwell interjected stating that the probation officer, police, judge, and council recommended a public apology and says the best lesson is to stand before the people and apologize and the kids had already agreed to apology. Babinger respectfully asked the grandmother to move forward with the public apology and to address other issues after the apology. All 3 boys apologized sincerely. Babinger accepted the apology and thanked them. Gavett recognized the courage it took to apologize before the council. Ellis accepted thanks and encouraged the boys to avoid wrong doing and face life’s challenges.

Election Update: Per the charter, the village must have twice the nominations as position openings. 3 citizens’ submitted requests, therefore, the council must nominate additional citizens to run for write-in candidacy. Council named Cathy Senkewitz, Stan Trumble, Donna Irelan, and Joyce Schultz. Clerk will send request letters this upcoming week. Nominees will have 3 days to respond.

Motion made by Cure, second by Gavett to allow Clerk and Treasurer to close the year end books for fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Ayes all, motion passed.

**Good & Welfare**

The Village Council thanked the citizens for attending tonight’s meeting. Motion to adjourn by Cure, second by Gavett. All ayes, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Carol Ladd, Clerk Approved by James Ellis, President