

TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FROM: July 15, 2024

Council called to order in regular session at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Matthew Shanahan presiding. Opening ceremony: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Shanahan. Roll call of members: Brenda Mackey, here; Connie Mehring, here; Mark Smith, here; Robert Bergfeld, here; Lincoln Fox, here. Also present was Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. Visitors present: Village resident Paul Neal. Minutes from the July 1st meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCE and CLAIMS: A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilman Bergfeld made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilwoman Mackey seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a third reading, by title only, of Ordinance #975-24, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE COST AND EXPENSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE REMOVAL AND SPECIAL TREATMENT OF SHADE TREES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING THE BLIGHT AND DISEASE OF SAME; AND FOR PLANTING, MAINTAINING, TRIMMING AND REMOVING SHADE TREES IN AND ALONG THE STREETS AND WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OF THE VILLAGE. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Ordinance #975-24. Councilman Bergfeld seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan did a third reading, by title only, of Ordinance #976-24, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE COST AND EXPENSE OF THE LIGHTING OF THE STREETS, ALLEYS, WAYS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES OF THE VILLAGE OF TONTOGANY. Councilwoman Mehring made a motion to adopt Ordinance #976-24. Councilwoman Mackey seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor Shanahan asked visitor Paul Neal if he had anything for Council. Mr. Neal responded that he did not have anything specific for Council. He thanked members for allowing him to sit in and observe a meeting. The mayor and members then asked him to tell them a little more about himself. Mr. Neal answered that he and his wife, Sarah, moved into 17411 Harley Woods Drive in July of last year. They sold their house on Cross Creek to their daughter and son-in-law and moved to a ranch home in the Harley Woods subdivision. He added that he is glad he doesn't have to spend two hours mowing his lawn now. Members gave Mr. Neal a wholehearted welcome to Tontogany.

Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger reported that we have two hall reservations in August—one on Sunday, August 4th, and one on Sunday, August 18th. Saturday, August 10th has been requested, but payment has not been received yet for that date.

Councilman Fox asked about the ant problem we had at the hall. Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger responded that the problem is completely gone. No more ants have shown up after we had the outside of the building professionally sprayed and we sprayed the ants in the hall ourselves. He added that he didn't see any need to call for more spraying.

Mayor Shanahan reported that the Northwest Ohio Mayors & Managers Association is hosting a steak dinner on August 21, 2024 at the Pemberville Legion. Social hour is at 5:30 p.m. and the steak dinner is at 6:30 p.m. State Senator Rob McColley will be the guest speaker. The mayor told members that he intends to attend and any council member who wants to attend should let Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger know in time to submit payment to meet the RSVP deadline of August 6. Councilman Fox said he would like to attend the dinner with the mayor. The mayor asked Mr. Harnishfeger to let him know who all will be attending, after members have a couple of weeks to decide, so he can coordinate riding together, if anyone wishes to do so.

ZONING: Councilman Fox suggested that we might want to have Zoning Inspector Johnson take a look at some of the tall grass in town. Mayor Shanahan responded that, now that Mr. Johnson is back on zoning, he is going to ask him to ride or walk around town with the mayor to look at some things and prepare to send out some letters. He added that there are a couple of locations where they did water line testing where the dirt is caved in, which will need to be filled in.

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UTILITIES: Nothing to report.

STREETS and ALLEYS: Mayor Shanahan reported that he posted on some of his social media that the Tontogany Road paving project will be beginning July 17th and that residents and anyone using Tontogany Road should plan accordingly. He also noted that we have road work signs on our streets in the village. The mayor reported that one resident on Washington Street contacted the village office today and reported that a road work sign had severed their underground pet fence. The mayor said he would reach out to Ebony first to see if they put in the signs. The mayor said that he talked to the resident today and let her know that it wasn't a village project, but he would be happy to help her make a connection and then step back to let them work out a resolution. The pet fence has been repaired; she is just looking to get reimbursed for the costs.

SIDEWALKS and TREES: Councilwoman Mackey reported that growth needs to be trimmed at the corner of North Street and Tontogany Road, because it is obstructing visibility there. Councilman Smith said that he would put it on his list; he has a new saw that will take care of trimming that off in about five minutes.

DRAINS and SEWERS: Mayor Shanahan remarked that the drains are working well with all of the downpours we have had.

CITY HALL and PARKS: Councilwoman Mehring reported that someone called her about the torn carpet on the step at the hall entrance, that it is a possible tripping hazard. Councilman Smith commented that we could just use a shovel from the shed to remove that carpeting from the step.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that there are weeds that need trimmed at Centennial Park, at the corner of Tontogany Road and North Street. Mayor Shanahan replied that we can just ask Josh Heckerman to add that to his to-do list for the village. Councilman Smith asked if they were talking about weeds in the gravel. The mayor and Ms. Mackey answered "Yes." Mr. Smith commented that next year that could probably be sprayed. Ms. Mackey asked if she should give Josh a call. The mayor answered that she should do so. She also stated that she has noticed that Josh's 16-year-old son (who overall is doing a great job) has been blowing grass into the alley and not blowing it off afterwards. She said she would mention that to Josh as well, and ask him to have his son blow the grass off of the alley in the future.

Councilman Fox reported that he noticed that the round flowerbed across the alley from the hall is full of weeds. Mayor Shanahan replied that he would say something to Brett Swanson, since he is the one who planted that area.

Councilwoman Mehring reported that she worked for a couple of hours pulling weeds at Mehring Park and putting them in piles, which will need to be removed. She said that there are still a lot of weeds that need to be pulled out. She suggested that we make it a group effort and get together to get the job done quicker and easier than her trying to do it alone. The mayor noted that it is hard for everyone to coordinate various schedules to get together, so each person may want to go to the park and work on it a little when they have a chance. He also said he thought we could ask Josh Heckerman to get rid of the piles for us.

Councilwoman Mackey told members that she thinks we need to talk about mulch for the parks, or at least for Mehring Park which badly needs more mulch. Councilman Fox asked if we might not want to include mulch in a park grant request along with some new equipment for Mehring Park. Ms. Mackey answered that she thinks Mehring Park needs new mulch now, rather than waiting for a possible grant next year. Mr. Fox asked if we had a contact at the American Legion for who did the rubberized mulch. Councilman Bergfeld and Councilman Smith made comments that they were not in favor of using the


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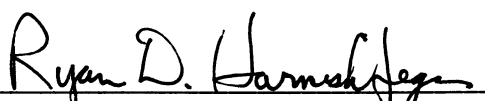
rubberized mulch. Mayor Shanahan asked Ms. Mackey if she had quotes from Renewed Outdoors for mulch. She replied that she had received quotes for 8 inches and 10 inches of mulch at each park and then she asked for and received quotes for 4 inches and 6 inches. Mr. Fox asked if the new mulch just gets put on top of the old mulch. Ms. Mackey answered that it does. Mr. Fox asked Fiscal Officer Harnishfeger if we have money available for purchasing mulch for the parks. Mr. Harnishfeger answered that we have a little over \$11,000 left in appropriations for park supplies and materials. Mr. Smith stated that he is good with going ahead with mulching, if we are serious about installing another piece of playground equipment at the park, rather than shrinking the playground area. Ms. Mackey found her quote information and told members that 6 inches for Mehring Park would cost \$4,800 and 6 inches for Centennial Park would cost \$5,400. Mr. Bergfeld stated that he thinks we should at least do Mehring Park. Mr. Fox, suggested that, since we have enough money budgeted, we might as well just go ahead and do both parks. Mr. Bergfeld and other members agreed. Ms. Mackey told members that Renewed Outdoors informed her that they would need to do another weed treatment before putting down mulch at either park, which costs \$285. Mr. Harnishfeger told members that the cost of weed spraying comes out of a different appropriation line item than the park money. Mr. Bergfeld asked if we had come up with any park grant ideas yet. Mr. Fox suggested that we could look at upgrading the swing sets, especially at Centennial Park, with perhaps a handicap style of swing. Ms. Mackey commented that we could revisit that for Centennial Park, since the last time they only approved swings for Mehring Park. Councilwoman Mehring made a motion to spend the money for 6 inches of mulch at each park, plus weed spraying before laying down mulch. Councilman Fox seconded this motion. All were in favor; motion carried. The mayor asked Ms. Mackey to find out and let him know Renewed Outdoors' schedule, so we know when we need to have the bigger weeds that Ms. Mehring spoke about pulled out at Mehring Park.

Mayor Shanahan reported that the new banner brackets have been received. He also reported that the first set of pictures sent for the banners were not high enough resolution, so he needs to rescan them at a higher resolution and send them to the company again. He already sent two rescanned pictures and they were acceptable, so he will rescan and send the other four tomorrow. Then they will let him know the schedule of when we can expect to receive the finished banners.

Mayor Shanahan reported that the first Christmas Tree meeting is Sunday, July 21st at 6:00 p.m. at Bill and Mary Gase's house. Councilwoman Mackey told the mayor that she would like to suggest that the Christmas Tree Committee look into some fundraising for the lighting. She said she had been under the impression that the Village bought the lights for the first time for the tree, but that we weren't going to have to assume the whole amount repeatedly. The mayor responded that we have to pay every year, but the lights are stored away in our name, and we have to pay for the labor of putting them up and taking them down and storing them. Ms. Mackey said we paid for the lights the first time, but then we keep paying for them again every year, even though they were just stored for us. The mayor said that, in his opinion, it is a small thing and it would actually cost us around \$10,000 if we had to pay for everything. Ms. Mackey said, in her opinion, maybe some fundraising could be done by the committee to help with the large yearly cost of about \$3,700. Councilman Bergfeld commented that even if they raised \$1,000 it would be a help. The mayor said that he would be happy to bring this suggestion up at the Christmas Tree meeting, although he hadn't thought they were asking too much of the Village.

With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.


Matthew Shanahan, Mayor


Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer