

Village of Rothbury Council Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2024

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Rothbury Village Council was called to order in the Village Hall at 7:00PM

President Vern Talmadge was absent, President Pro-Tem Mike Harris officiated the meeting.

Council members present were Autum Drake, Jim Fekken, Denise Kurdziel, Troy Voorhees, and Dylan Zuniga.

Also present were Treasurer Deb Murphy, Deputy Clerk Carol Witzke, Police Chief Tom Hasper, Sgt. Ethan Walker, DPW Director Scott Beishuizen, Event Coordinator Doug Roeseler and Will Meier from Parmenter Law.

Also, in attendance were Barbara Thompson, Lisa Armstrong, Carlos and MaryAnn Canales, Anna Rapa, Jayne Silvers, Trevin Silvers, Chris Oracz, Stephanie Tallquist, Ed Goerbig, Sonya Talmadge, Luke Sass, Rita Kobylski, Fred Inglis, Allison Scarborough, Katie Carls and Patricia Day.

Dylan Zuniga made a motion to approve the prior meetings minutes as presented, seconded by Denise Kurdziel. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Deb Murphy gave the monthly Treasurers report and introduced Jackie from Kuerth's Disposal who spoke to council about the proposed pending agreement to contract trash removal for Village residents.

Motion made by Troy Voorhees, seconded by Jim Fekken to accept the treasurers report as presented. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion carries.

Chief Hasper gave the monthly police report.

Mike Harris gave the Planning Commission an update, advising on the ongoing blight issues and steps being taken to rectify them.

DPW Director Scott Beishuizen updated on the chip and seal scheduled for 80th Avenue.

Brandy Williams gave the recreation update, confirming that the Easter Egg Hunt was a success this year, and that the 8 bicycles given away this year were received by the

lucky winners. Denise Kurdziel updated on the grant application and that all have been accepted by the DNR.

RCC director Deb Murphy informed the council that the Recreation Center has been booked for all but two dates through September.

Motion by Autum Drake to move forward with the Read Early, Read Often of Oceana County using the Village Hall as a free book pickup location during normal business hours. Motion seconded by Jim Fekken. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Motion to pay the bills by Autum Drake seconded by Jim Fekken, 6 ayes, 0 nays motion passed.

Brandy Williams updated the council on the purchase of the Hren property and the blight issue with the Winston Rd. property and that the attorneys are working on both.

Mike Harris advised council that the agenda item for an ordinance to change the Clerk and Treasurer positions to appointed will be tabled until the attorneys have adequate time to draft ordinances.

Brandy Williams reminded the council and the audience of the Public Comment policy and that it must be followed, encouraging each member of the audience to take a copy.

Public Comment followed with multiple residents voicing comments of various natures.

Mike Harris responded with the following statement on behalf of council in regard to accusations from the public comment:

The Rothbury Village Council acknowledges and values the opinions and feedback of all residents. However, as a council, we stand by our decision to issue the mass gathering permit for the Electric Forest Festival. We firmly believe that this decision was made in the best interests of the Village and its residents. The benefits that the festival brings to our community are numerous and the negative impact of its absence would be significant. While we recognize that some residents oppose the change to the neighborhood wristband program, we would ask that you direct your questions to the festival organizers- the neighborhood program has never had anything to do with mass gathering permit and is an operational decision within the purview of the Festival organizers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy Williams