

VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA
COUNCIL MEETING
August 7, 2023

The meeting of the Westphalia Village Council was called to order by President Tim Fandel at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance given to the flag.

Council Members in Attendance:

Tim Fandel, President	Tanner Droste, Member	Phil Smith, Member
David Boswell, Clerk	Bill Schmitt, Member	
Steve Miller, Member	Kevin Krzeminski, Member	

Minutes & Agenda: Member Miller made the motion, supported by Member Krzeminski to approve the minutes of the July meeting as presented and the Agenda for the August 7 meeting, with changes. Motion carried.

Appointments: There were no appointments.

Guests:

Guests in attendance included:

- Alex Hanses, DPW Supervisor
- Karen Spitzley, resident – attended the meeting to ask questions about the water main improvement project, and specifically the locating of fire hydrants.
- Kylie and Dennis Weinstein, owners of “Tavern 1836” (formerly Charlie’s) – attended the meeting to introduce themselves to the Council and notify Council of their intent to open their restaurant in October. The Weinstains provided a high-level overview of their plans for general operations and brief overview of the menu (still being developed).

Water: DPW Supervisor Hanses provided the Council with an update on the water main improvement project. Significant progress has been made in several areas of the Village. At this time, approximately 41% of the actual water main replacement has been completed.

Due to a delay in the processing of the Village’s initial Request for Disbursement of Funds by EGLE, the Village elected to make a partial payment to Nashville Construction, pending receipt of full reimbursement by EGLE.

Pay Request #2 from Nashville Construction was presented. Member Schmitt made a motion, supported by Member Smith, to approve the Application for presentation to EGLE for reimbursement.

Sewer: A recent evaluation of the Village’s lagoons was conducted by Clearbrooke Technologies. The review indicates that the amount of sludge in the lagoons has been reduced by an average of approximately 1½”.

Financial: Expenditures made during the previous month were presented and reviewed. A motion to approve all invoices was made by Member Schmitt and supported by Member Smith. Motion carried.

The Revenue and Expenditure Report for the current fiscal year was reviewed to determine if the budget for the fiscal year should be amended. No changes were made at this time. Revenue and expenditures will be reviewed periodically, and the budget amended as needed.

The millage used in calculation of Village taxes was reviewed and discussed in detail. The Village has only modified the millage once and only temporarily. In anticipation of upgrades to the infrastructure necessary to maintain the integrity of essential Village services it was determined that the millage should be increased. Member Miller made a motion, supported by Member Schmitt, that the millage should be increased. Motion carried.

Planning Commission:

Enhancements at Droste Park.

The Planning Commission (and Council) have received multiple suggestions for the enhancement of recreational opportunities available at Droste Park. The Planning Commission will be considering these suggestions and considering what, if any, enhancements should be made to the park. No immediate changes are anticipated, with the possible exception of new signs.

As it evaluates the opportunities under consideration, The Planning Commission is considering:

- Updating the Parks Master Plan
- Whether financial resources/grants should be applied for
- Reinstatement of the Parks Board

Cruise-In

The Planning Commission has received feedback regarding the annual Cruise-In from local businesses and cruisers. Based on the feedback received, the Village is reviewing whether the Cruise-In is achieving its original objectives and what, if any, changes need to be made. The Planning Commission will invite local businesses to an upcoming meeting to obtain input from our local businesses and to share ideas.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2023, at 6:00p.m.

Building & Zoning: Application for Plot Plan Approval #23-009 for an addition to a business at 100 E. Main Street/107 S. Westphalia Street was reviewed. The proposed changes meet the requirements for the zoning district. Member Smith made a motion, supported by Member Droste, to approve the application. Motion carried.

Streets: No new business.

Community Service: No new business.

Parks and Recreation: Please refer to the summary under Planning Commission.

DPW: In conjunction with updates to the water main in the area of Chestnut Street and Pine Street, the Village will also be completing work on the storm sewer.

Administrative Issues:

There have been instances of vandalism and theft of Village street signs. Please contact the Village with any information regarding these or any other acts of vandalism.

Unrelated to the above-mentioned vandalism, and to enhance public safety and security, the Village is considering the purchase and placement of security cameras at various locations throughout the Village. The placement and use of security cameras has proven beneficial in reducing crime and solving crimes in many communities throughout the state and country.

Next Council Meeting:

- Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Member Smith, supported by Member Miller. Motion carried.