

Village of Homer  
Regular Meeting of Trustees  
July 13, 2020  
7:00pm

Those present: Village Trustees: Mike Johnson, Guy James, Joe Bear, Jim White, Kevin Knott, and Zach Wells, Village Mayor/Board President, Raymond Cunningham, Village Clerk, Sharon Jeffers, Treasurer, Cindy Pruitt, Maintenance, Ryan Byerley, Sewer/Zoning, Dave Hermes, and residents: Mary Kay Anderson, Tom and Lisa Wakefield, John Kammin, Pat Perry, Herb Lacey, and guest Brandon Gast.

Public Comment: Mary Kay Anderson commented on the Homer Police Department hoping that they were trained to handle different cultures and people with special needs. She hopes that we do not use choke holds. She is proud of our community. Mayor Cunningham responded by telling her that he had spoken with the Chief regarding these issues, also Police Board Chairman Mike Johnson has complete confidence in our Police Department.

Tom Wakefield wanted to thank the Village for the lawn refuse area and wanted to commend Ryan for the good job he has done revamping it. He also shared his concerns with rock chips on W Fourth St. The surface materials are not made for chips and it has created a lot of dust and the rocks just roll into yards. He is asking that we not continue this procedure. Board response: there was a misunderstanding on the placement of these rocks, and it won't happen again. If possible, maintenance will try to sweep up what is there.

John Kammin wonders why so much attention to Fourth St when there are so many bad roads in town. The board responded stating that we are trying to repair roads in order of need and amount of funds available. Mr. Kammin also asked if Golf cart could be allowed on the sidewalks or right of ways since they are not allowed on State or County roads. The board responded with no. He also asked about the quality of water, the hydrants need to be flushed. Maintenance is working on that.

Herb Lacey commented on brush pick up and that Maintenance is doing a good job.

Board Comment: Mayor Cunningham thanked everyone for their help during Dumpster Day. Kevin Knott stated that he will defend our Police Department and will not agree to defund it. He also stated that he would never agree to NOT saying the Pledge of Allegiance at Village Board Meetings.

Guy James stated that he will stand solid with the Police Department.

Jim White had concerns of the fireworks that were being let off on July 4<sup>th</sup>, some where be shot in the middle of Rt 49/Main St.

Joe Bear reminded everyone that parking lot paving would begin tomorrow.

Minutes: Guy James made the motion to approve regular, special, cemetery, and Library minutes as presented, Guy James second the motion, all in favor, motion approved.

Village Bills: Guy James made the motion to pay Village bills as presented, Mike Johnson second the motion, roll call vote: Joe Bear, yes, Zach Wells, yes, Guy James, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Kevin Knott, yes, and Jim White, yes, motion approved.

Reports: Kevin Knott made the motion to approve Treasurer, Police, Water, Sewer, Zoning, Maintenance, and Village Hall reports as presented, Guy James second the motion, all in favor, motion approved.

- Having trouble getting good residuals out of tower. Need to flush hydrants more.
- We have seen some reduction in sales tax and in employment tax. Unimportant purchases need to wait.
- Need to schedule crane to pull pumps for repair at the Sewer plant
- Need to have Janitor clean/sanitize during rental events. Each renter is required to follow all state guidelines.

Curbside Liquor Caseys: Straw poll vote: Joe Bear, no, Zach Wells, no, Guy James, no, Mike Johnson, no, Kevin Knott, yes, and Jim White, no.

Ordinance 071320A: Mike Johnson made the motion to pass Ordinance 071320A, amending Liquor Ordinance to allow curbside alcohol sales, Zach Wells second the motion, roll call vote: Joe Bear, no, Zach Wells, no, Guy James, no, Mike Johnson, no, Kevin Knott, yes, and Jim White, no, motion failed.

Stump Grinder: Zach Wells made the motion to rent a stump grinder for one week for \$800 from Awesome machines, Jim White second the motion, roll call vote: Joe Bear, yes, Zach Wells, yes, Guy James, yes, Mike Johnson, no, Kevin Knott, yes, and Jim White, yes, motion approved.

Laser, mulch, and flags all tabled

FY20 Audit: Guy James made the motion to approve Stan Feller to prepare the FY20 Audit, Kevin Knott second the motion, roll call: Joe Bear, yes, Zach Wells, yes, Guy James, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Kevin Knott, yes, and Jim White, yes, motion approved.

Rock: Zach Wells made the motion to table purchase of 3" rock, Kevin Knott second the motion, all in favor, motion approved.

307 S Caroline: Mike Johnson made the motion to reject the offer to purchase 307 S Caroline, Zach Wells second the motion, all in favor, motion approved.

Appropriations: Kevin Knott made the motion to pass Ordinance 071320B, An Ordinance approving FY21 Appropriations in the amount of \$2,163,750.00, Joe Bear second the motion, roll call vote: Joe Bear, yes, Zach Wells, yes, Guy James, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Kevin Knott, yes, and Jim White, yes, motion approved.

Storm sewers need to be repaired, two on West First St, and one in farm field south east of town.

Purchase Nuisance properties: Mike Johnson made the motion to approve purchase of 205 S Church and 307 W Crittenden in the amount of \$600 per property, plus \$51 filing fee per property to Champaign County Tax Agent, Zach Wells second the motion, roll call vote: Joe Bear, yes, Zach Wells, yes, Guy James, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Kevin Knott, yes, and Jim White, yes, motion approved.

Subdivide 202 N East: Mike Johnson made the motion to decline new subdivision proposal for 202 N East St, Kevin Knott second the motion, roll call vote: Joe Bear, yes, Zach Wells, yes, Guy James, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Kevin Knott, yes, and Jim White, yes, motion approved.

Demolition Bid: Kevin Knott made the motion to accept bid from Block Field Tiling, LLC in the amount of \$12,780.00 to be paid from TIF to demo 305 S Caroline, Mike Johnson second the motion, roll call vote: Joe Bear, yes, Zach Wells, yes, Guy James, recuse, Mike Johnson, yes, Kevin Knott, yes, Jim White, recuse, and Raymond Cunningham, yes, motion approved.

Downtown project survey: Zach Wells made the motion to survey downtown for the downtown rehab project in the amount of \$22,400.00 to be paid from Goad fund, Jim White second the motion, roll call vote: Joe Bear, yes, Zach Wells, yes, Guy James, yes, Mike Johnson, no, Kevin Knott, yes, and Jim White, yes, motion approved.

Finance/Ordinance Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

Adjourn: Mike Johnson made the motion to adjourn, Guy James second the motion, all in favor, motion approved.  
Adjourn: 8:53pm

Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Village Clerk

Minutes draft

July 20, 2020

Present: Ray Cunningham, Joe Bear, Dave Hermes, Guy James, Mike Johnson, Kevin Knott, Cindy Pruitt

Discussions regarding the L. Carl Goad Charitable Trust account centered around fee structure and investment strategy. Fees are comparable to other investment firms. Kevin will investigate other banking and investment firms' fees.

Dave Hermes reviewed unfinished permits. How do we proceed? Current ordinance requires a permit each year. If issuing a fine, we have to go through court. New building permit is a year; other permits or remodeling are 90 days. Need a letter to communicate permit expired and must file an extension within 30 days. If we increase the extension fee each time, it would require a new ordinance. For current expired permits, send a letter, follow up with that letter, notice of a fine through lawyer. Prior permits are grandfathered in. For future permits, change ordinance: If 90 day permit, extension should be 90 days. If year permit, get a year extension. This is a change of ordinance from 180 day extension. Double original permit for first extension. If second extension, would be double the cost of the first extension. For example, if \$15 permit, first extension is \$30 and second extension is \$60, third extension is \$120.

Review setbacks – 5' and 10' setback questions. Ray discovered 5' setback was for original plat for Homer and older small lots. 10' setback intended for 1968 for new areas to get larger lots. 35' in the back for septic that is no longer needed. Can apply for a 1/3 variance. 30' for new residential on major streets. Corner lot 30' both ways. If more than 30% must be approved by board. Not recommending any changes. Encouraging people to get variances. Fence 4' on front and 6' on side. Fence on property line.