

The Village of Walton Hills

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date: September 4, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Council Chambers

Mayor Kolograf called the meeting to order. Mayor Kolograf introduces Mr. Neilsen as the new council member, and states he was sworn in this morning in Council Chambers. Roll call was taken by Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer. Present: Councilpersons Gloria Terlosky, Jennifer Allen, Denny Linville, Fred Neilsen, Brian Spitznagel, and Mary Brenner-Miller. Six ayes approve.

Persons Having Business Before Council. Lee Nielsen stands and speaks. She has a business in Walton Hills for 18 years. She is quite concerned about the negative stories about Walton Hills that she has seen in the press and on the TV. She is concerned about not hearing anything from the council about the stories in the paper, and then also concerned about the change in council membership and not hearing anything about it. As a tax-paying resident, she would expect to receive information by mail when there are issues of this importance in this community. She wants to know when she can expect to receive information coming out of the council, Village Hall, the Mayor's office on Village direction, goals, progress toward goals, and any major issues facing us. She also would like to know what actions the Mayor and council plan to take given the accusations against our prior Mayor to address the lawsuit and any behaviors in our City Hall that are related to that. Mayor Kolograf addresses these issues with her. Mr. Mason explains where we are with the lawsuit and how it is being handled. They ask Lee what it is that she exactly wants. She states she would like a one-page letter stating that we have an issue in our administration and our Mayor has resigned. There is a lawsuit and you will see some things on the news about it. Please be aware that we are taking steps to manage this. Councilman Spitznagel addresses it as well. Councilwoman Allen addresses this as well and specifically talks about the Owl not having the village information. She says that the previous Mayor took all of that information that used to be in the Owl and put it in the Journal instead.

Josephine Wardle stands and speaks. She states her approval with the 7 p.m. meeting time. She also thinks the residents need more information, and if they do not combine with the Owl like we used to, they ought to utilize the journal. Councilwoman Terlosky could put in there a brief synopsis of the council meetings that had happened the previous month, with council permission, along with what is going to be voted on. Mayor Kolograf addresses Josephine on these issues.

Denny Harkai from 7120 Hickory stands and speaks. He thanks the entire group for their service to the community. He knows it is extremely challenging. He states a couple of different ideas. He thinks we should combine the Owl and the Journal, which could perhaps save the village some money and also email is a common way of communicating these days. Councilwoman Allen has offered this service before. He also asks if anyone has actually sat down with the people who filed this lawsuit and asked them to drop it and move on. Mayor Kolograf addresses these issues. Denny then states that he went to the village website and took the email addresses that are posted for all of our elected officers, and last night at 7:53 p.m., he sent an email to every single person who has their email listed on the website. He received a response back from everyone but Councilwoman Brenner-Miller, Carol, or Mr. Linville. Councilwoman Brenner-Miller tells him that he was out of the office on appointments most of the day. Denny also states that he went to the village website and called the voicemail after hours. He described his experience with this. He thinks the after-hours voicemail updated. He is only making suggestions that could lead to improvements. He continues to address issues that he is finding on the website that could be changed or updated. With Economic Development, he asks if someone could tell him how many businesses were visited and by whom. Mayor Kolograf addresses these issues with him.

Joe Canzoni from 18817 Alexander Road. He says he would like to donate \$20 so the council can get a timer to keep time on the resident's comments.

Duane Lorens from 14770 Alexander Road stands and speaks. He has a couple of questions regarding how long each member has been on council. He voices his concerns about the newly hired council member and how he received his position.

Benjamin Blondin from 16883 South Meadowpark stands and asks if we are using any type of Round-Up or glyphosate products. He is concerned about the lawsuit in where a man's cancer was accelerated due to the glyphosate in these products. Mayor Kolograf says he will get back to him.

No further comments or questions from the audience.

Council Comments. Councilwoman Brenner-Miller states that she thanks everyone who came to the microphone and they can all be used and taken into consideration.

Councilman Neilsen speaks and states that he was sitting in the resident's space last week. He is going to try and straighten out some things while being a councilmember. We are all still friends and neighbors. He wants to get along with everyone.

Councilman Spitznagel comments on the committee meetings comment made by Mr. Harkai.

Councilman Linville congratulates Councilman Neilsen. He addresses some of the issues and comments that the residents had.

Councilwoman Brenner-Miller congratulates Councilman Neilsen as well. She also addresses the concerns from the residents.

Councilwoman Allen speaks and welcomes Councilman Neilsen as well. She also addresses the concerns from the residents. She addresses the Economic Development questions and concerns as well. She says she has been working on a list of incentives for businesses as well. She asks for a meeting with the Mayor in regard to this.

Item 5 – Ordinance 2018-13. Mr. Mason introduces Ordinance 2018-13, an ordinance amending Chapter 230 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Walton Hills and declaring an emergency. He explains a summary of this ordinance. He states that the Ohio Ethics Committee does not give those kinds of opinions. It comes down to the Law Director and what their opinions are. It is Mr. Mason's opinion that by decreasing the position to part time and decreasing the wages was like creating a whole new position. He suggest that we change the ordinance and strike things from Ordinance 2018 with any reference to the decrease in the salary of the Mayor, striking that out and making him part time. He created a letter for him to sign as Exhibit A to the Ordinance volunteering to take \$46,500 as a salary for the part-time Mayor. He thinks that clears up any issues we may have, and we can move forward. He reads the letter aloud for the council to hear. Councilman Neilsen said that he went over this with Mr. Mason ahead of time, and he is aware of what is going on, and he understands it. Councilman Spitznagel asks if the Mayor will voluntarily sign the letter that Mr. Mason said he would. Mayor Kolograf said that he read the legislation and he agrees to the legislation, and he will sign the letter. Councilwoman Allen asks Mr. Mason a couple of questions regarding striking out things in the old ordinance. Mr. Mason addresses these questions with Councilwoman Allen. Councilman Spitznagel states this will be voted on tonight in the Special Council meeting.

The floor is opened to the residents for any comments or questions. Connie Flauto from 7041 Shaner stands and asks regarding the previous Mayor who received a salary for being Safety Director. She asks if

there is anything written into what we are discussing for Mayor Kolograf getting a certain salary for Safety Director. Mr. Mason says that the Mayor still has the responsibilities of the Safety Director, but he is only going to accept the salary that was discussed at the last meeting, which is \$46,500. This will be the total.

Josephine Wardle from Egbert Road stands and asks about the duration of the ordinance. Mr. Mason addresses this with Josephine.

Item 6 – Discussion on Property Tax Assessments for 2019. Katie explains this and discusses this with the council members. Councilwoman Allen asks what we charge for the delinquent grass cutting. Katie says it varies and depends on the size of the property, the condition of the property, and how long it takes. Councilman Spitznagel says that there are three things in this ordinance and goes over these with the council and Mayor Kolograf.

Floor is opened to the residents for questions or comments. None are seen.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mayor Kolograf says that we have the house listed for sale next to the community room. We actually had three bids with two very good bid. The council accepted one bid and have been going through the process. They did accept our latest counteroffer.

Mayor Kolograf states that he is not going to do the magistrate. We will have a magistrate do it as opposed to himself. It is actually less expensive having magistrate do it. Mr. Mason told Mayor Kolograf that it is the Mayor's appointment, and John Montello is our prosecutor, and he was our former Law Solicitor. He would like to have Mr. Melling be our magistrate. He talked to the staff, which is the Clerk of Courts and the Police Chief, and they worked very well with Mr. Melling in the past and felt he did a good job. He would like Mr. Melling to be our magistrate. Janice St. John will do our camera court once a month. Dean DePiero would be her backup if she cannot make it.

Item K – Adjournment. Mayor Kolograf asks for a motion for adjournment. Councilwoman Brenner-Miller makes a motion to adjourn the COW meeting of August 16, 2018 at 8:36 p.m., seconded by Councilman Linville. Six ayes approved.

Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer