

Village of Homer
Regular Meeting of Trustees
April 10, 2023
7:00pm

Call to Order

Those Present: Trustees: Guy James, Skip James, Ray Ryerson, Mike Johnson, Herb Lacey, and John Dodd, Mayor/Board President, Jim White, Clerk, Sharon Jeffers, Treasurer, Cindy Pruitt, Chief of Police, John Rouse, Maintenance/Water, Ryan Byerley, Sewer, Tom Parrish, Farnsworth, Dennis Cummins, Guests: Dave Lucas, Darlene James, Roger and Angela Faulkner, Roy Woodmansee, and Zach Wells.

Guy James and Herb Lacey were recognized for their time on the board.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: The Clerk was asked if we could allow dogs in the Cemetery. No answer was given. We are still working on the Railroad water main project, we are also applying for a water emergency repair grant through USDA.

Charlies is dealing with the Champaign County Health Department which is causing the delay in opening. They are asking for a liquor license. The Liquor Committee will meet Wednesday at 3 to discuss and make recommendations for the board.

The Finance committee will meet Thursday at 5:00pm to discuss payment of engineering for the water plant.

Minutes: Mike Johnson motioned to approve minutes as presented, seconded by Skip James, all in favor, motion approved.

Village Bills: Guy James motioned to pay Village bills as presented, seconded by Ray Ryerson, roll call vote: Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

Reports: Guy James motioned to approve reports as given, seconded by Ray Ryerson, all in favor, motion approved.

- The tower will be washed this week
- Treasurer is finalizing new budget sheets
- Abandoned house needs to have graffiti painted over

Solar Farm is now being reviewed by the Environmental Land Use Committee.

MFT: Ray Ryerson motioned to pass the 2023 MFT program and to authorize the Mayor and Engineer to prepare the delivery and install proposal for the 2023 chip and seal project, seconded by Guy James, roll call vote: Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

Illinois Funds: Mike Johnson motioned to close the Illinois Funds account and transfer funds to Prospect Bank, seconded by Skip James, roll call vote: Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

Employee 2023 pay increase: Ray Ryerson motioned to approve pay increases proposed by the personnel Committee, seconded by Mike Johnson, roll call vote: Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

Ordinance 04102023A: Mike Johnson motioned to pass Ordinance 04102023A amending water ordinance increasing rates, Ray Ryerson seconded the motion, roll call vote: Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, no, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

Ordinance 04102023B: Ray Ryerson motioned to pass Ordinance 04102023B amending wastewater ordinance increasing rates, seconded by Skip James, roll call vote: Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

FY24 Budget: Skip James motioned to approve FY24 budget as presented with additions given by Treasurer, seconded by Ray Ryerson, roll call vote: Guy James, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, Herb Lacey, yes, and John Dodd, yes, motion approved.

Meeting Dates: Mike Johnson motioned to approve FY24 meeting dates, seconded by Ray Ryerson, 6 in favor, Guy James against, motion approved.

Adjourn: Mike Johnson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ray Ryerson, all in favor, motioned approved.

Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Clerk

Village of Homer
Finance Committee
Thursday, April 13, 2023
5:00pm

Called to order at 5:15pm

Those present: Mayor Jim White, Committee members, Ray Ryerson, Guy James, and Mike Johnson, and Treasurer Cindy Pruitt.

The funding of new water plant engineering was discussed. It was decided to use the water CD's, water and sewer project funds, water checking, and possibly ARPA. These funds and accounts will be reimbursed for EPA loan. Also purchase of land for Water plant will come out of water account.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm

Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Village Clerk

Village of Homer
Liquor Commission
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
3:00pm

Called to order at 3:15pm

Those present: Liquor Commission, Jim White, John Dodd, and Mike Johnson, and representatives for Charlies Restaurant.

Discussed issuing a new liquor license for Charlies Restaurant that would include mixed drinks and beer, and to include a beer garden. We will talk to the Attorney to see what needs to be done and have him write an amendment to the liquor license. The board recommends to the board to approve the license at the May 8th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm

Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Village Clerk

**Homer Recreation Board
Village Hall
Monday, April 17, 2023**

Members present: Sharon Jeffers, Kim Dalle, Rachel Denmark, Perry Dable, Tammy Boen, Sarah Bledsoe and Case Phillips

Called to order: 6:30pm

Freedom & Music Festival

- Sponsorships are still coming in but we need to continue to follow up with one's we haven't heard from and those that verbally committed
- If we don't receive an ice sponsor, we may consider asking the Village to fund a machine that will be placed out in the concessions/restroom building to be used for all events. There is a general fund that may be able to fulfill this need.
- Reviewed vendors that have booked for the festival and are still looking for more various vendors such as handcrafted gifts, art, sweets/treats, collectables...etc
- Food trucks line up is looking good, want to secure a secondary BBQ option and maybe pizza/burger
- For family activities/entertainment, there are 2 different magicians that have agreed to perform at separate times and provide crowd interaction as well as a professional clown. Joyful Bubbles responded to our invite and agreed to an all day demonstrative show. A vote to hire each of the listed entertainers for their set fees was a unanimous yes and Sharon will build them into the schedule
- We discussed that we needed to increase the order for porta pots to 6 units, 1 handicap unit, and 2 handwashing stations. We also have the use of the concessions building's 2 large bathrooms.
- Sharon received the shipment containing the Bingo supplies and will be asking for Village Board approval to proceed with special events license at next month's meeting
- Kim (Front Porch Creations) announced that the Koozies are ready to sell and she brought an initial supply to hand out to those of us that have started securing orders. She is taking t-shirt sizes for those that are volunteering to work the festival and is getting grey stock ordered.
- There is some time in the afternoon for another family event and we discussed the possibility of holding a watermelon contest. How many melons would we need, what kind of prize for the winners, and where to order the melons from was tossed around. More discussion to solidify this contest will ensue later on now that we are in agreement that this would be a crowd pleaser

- Case will be working/organizing the parade and will create invites/advertisements to gather entries for lineup. She will speak with Sharon on route confirmation and get the word out to the local rescue squads to secure 1st Responder volunteers and trucks

Vendor Event

- Kim has been working on the Vendor event that's set for Sat May 6 and several more vendors have signed up
- Discussed having the vendors open an hour earlier on Saturday to match up with the Library Book Sale since they are in the same building to maximize the crowd attendance

New Business

- Share facebook posts about May's vendor event and invite friends to come out
- Tents will be booked soon
- Will be selecting alcohol offerings for the beer tent soon
- Members please reach out to potential festival sponsors and give them an ask letter, let group know who you've talked to or secured
- Members please share the festival vendor application forms and tag businesses on Facebook event page to get the word out
- Members please like/share Facebook posts and event page about the festival to drum up attention

Adjourned: 7:40pm

Next meeting: Tuesday May 2 @ 7:00pm at Village Hall

**Homer Recreation Board
Village Hall
Tuesday, May 2, 2023**

Members present: Sharon Jeffers, Kim Dalle, Perry Dable, Tammy Boen, Sarah Bledsoe and Case Phillips

Called to order: 7:04pm

Vendor Event

- Kim has been working on the Vendor event that's set for Sat May 6 and now has 14 vendors confirmed (FULL!!)
- REc Board would like to have a table set up to sell Festival koozies, 50/50 fireworks fundraiser tickets and set out a donation bucket. We will need someone available on Saturday to run that table.
- Sharon succeeded in creating an Homer Recreation Board Venmo account for purchase transactions and give donors another option to send needed funds

Freedom & Music Festival

- Sponsorships are still coming in but we need to continue to follow up with one's we haven't heard from and those that verbally committed
- Perry spoke to owner at Sleepy Creek Vineyards about serving their wine at the festival. The goal is for this to be a profitable venture for both Sleepy Creek and the Rec Board and a meeting is set between owner and Sharon to discuss details
- Reviewed vendors that have booked for the festival and are continuing to accept more vendors such as handcrafted gifts, art, sweets/treats, collectables...etc
- Food trucks line up is looking good and have secured another BBQ option
- A couple members reached out to the local bars that have putt-putt courses to see if they would be willing to lend us their stations in exchange for sponsorship advertising and a few have agreed. We're exploring how to round out the course and if we will need to build some this year or if we can lock in a couple more bars
- Went over preliminary music lineup along with where the additional entertainment and activities are scheduled. Lou DiBello is in the hospital and is hopeful to make a solid recovery but we will be looking at a standby that can fill his performance slot should he need more time for his health (we agreed he stays on ALL advertising regardless of his decision out of respect to his dedication and support for Homer's events)

- Parade discussion turned to whether the Recreation Board should have their own float this year in the parade to advertise what we are and encourage more volunteers. Case is on board with leading the build and Perry has a trailer we can use. Would need to find a covered building to work on and store the float for approximately a week leading up to the parade and for tear down
- Perry suggested that the bands create mini promo videos to upload to their Facebook pages that can be shared to our event page to drive up crowd engagement and keep advertising costs low. Sarah added that every vendor should be invited to post to our event page to introduce themselves and show off their products and we agreed both ideas need to be implemented

House Decorating Contests

- We discussed if we wanted to continue offering 3 contests each year: 4th of July, Halloween, and Christmas were residents decorated for the holidays and judges voted for winners. We all felt it kept the village engaged and haven't had any complaints so we will continue promoting those. Sharon suggested we ask the Village Board to forgive the water bills for the winners instead of the Rec Board paying for them out of fundraiser money

New Business

- Ask Village Board for permission to apply for Bingo license, gain approval for liquor permit, and to consider purchase of village ice machine at their monthly meeting
- Share facebook posts about May's vendor event and invite friends to come out
- Members please reach out to potential festival sponsors and give them an ask letter, let group know who you've talked to or secured
- Members please share the festival vendor application forms and tag businesses on Facebook event page to get the word out
- Members please like/share Facebook posts and event page about the festival to drum up attention
- Members that have admin access to Rec's Facebook page will work together to begin creating a flow of event posts to start advertising for the Festival

Adjourned: 8:05pm

Next meeting: Tuesday May 16 @ 6:30pm at Village Hall

Homer Library Board Minutes

March 14, 2023

Present: Mary Kay Anderson, Jill Weathers, Christine Cunningham Library Director, Becci Powers, Troy Schiff, Chantelle Thompson, Joey Rice, Public Casey Phillips and Cindy Happ from Friends of the Library.

Absent: Chris Thompson

Jill called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Minutes: Becci moved to approve the minutes as read, Troy seconded. Motion carried.

Friends: A vacuum was bought for the Library. We will do May flowers with Danville Gardens, and we cannot do 20% flyers and the flower sales, so the flower sales is better. We are starting the membership drive again. We are having a Murder Mystery Dinner on June 3rd. The Amazon Smiles brought in \$19.98, however they are not doing Amazon Smiles anymore. They are considering helping with the Heritage book vending machine.

Treasurer's Report: Grand total is \$118,190.98. Loss of \$1820.67. Joey moved to pay Visa Debit Charges \$201.46. Troy seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to note: Illinois Dept. of Revenue \$50.69.

The American Legion Auxiliary donated some money. Seeds were donated.

Becci moved to pay Baker and Taylor \$287.48, Chantelle seconded. Motion carried.

Librarian's Report: Ancestry subscription and classes were well attended. Sent out a card renewal letter which mentioned the Ancestry Library. Homer will be a stop on the African American Heritage Trail. "Read Across America" went well with 34 participants. Coffee and Conversation is up to 22 participants. 24 High School students stopped in after visiting the Historical Society. Received a couple more donations generated from the Business Magnets. An Indiana book seller will sell some of our graphic novels and give us a percentage from a donation of books which we received. The new vacuum is great! Still working on the Easy Reader set up. We had one complaint on the Disney movie "Strange World".

Meeting Dates: Joey moved we continue with the second Tuesday of each month for fiscal year 2023-2024. Becci seconded. Motion carried.

Computer Policy: Christine will work on it in more detail.

NEW BUSINESS

FOIA, OMA Training: Jill is double checking rules on how often and when we need to take these.

Policy: Christine presented an Equity Diversity and Inclusion Policy for us to study since we need a policy.

Carpet Cleaning: Christine got estimates from McCloud for \$424 and Exact Extraction for \$300. The board agreed to have her contact Exact Extraction.

Closed Session: Becci moved to go to closed session at 8:00 pm to discuss budget. Chantelle seconded. Motion carried. Joe moved to leave closed session at 8:29 pm, Troy seconded, Motion carried.