Ohio County Commission
June 11, 2024

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Delegations:

- Albert Leach – Mr. Leach, and several residents from Cobblestone Drive, said Tunnel Ridge had rented a property to an organization which has opened a halfway house. There are cars traveling the road all day and night at a high rate of speed. They provided camera footage of the traffic and asked what could be done. Mr. Wharton advised the group to form a homeowner's association, while Mr. Tennant advised the group to consult an attorney. The Commission will follow up with other agencies to see if anything can be done.
- Marie Travis – Serenity Hills Life Center – Ms. Travis spoke about the center and the success they have had. Several employees also spoke about their jobs and why they are proud to be associated with the Center. Ms. Travis is looking for working capital to keep the Center running. She will prepare documentation and send to Ms. Marco to pass along to the Commissioners.

The minutes from the May 21, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- Letter of Intent for the Highlands Walkability Improvement Project – Ms. Marco presented the Commissioners with a Letter of Intent that would provide $100,000 to conduct a study for a walkability program at the Highlands. The grant has a 20% match. Motion to improve the Letter of Intent made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Letter of Intent for the Victims of Crime Act – A Letter of Intent was presented for the VOCA grant. The Commission intends to apply for $40,000.00 with no match. Motion to approve the Letter of Intent made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Court Security Fund – Ms. Marco applied for the Court Security Fund and the Commission was awarded $25,000.00 to be used for additional cameras and an ID printer. Ms. Marco asked for a motion to accept the grant funds. A motion was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley – Ms. Marco reported the United Way did apply through the Community Grant process but did not ask for a set amount. They are asking the Commissioners to support their Red, White, and Brew event. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve $500.00 for the event with a second from Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

- West Virginia Aviation Conference – The West Virginia Aviation Conference will be held at Oglebay July 28-30, 2024. At the event, Mr. Russell Escue and Mr. Kevin Price will be speaking. Ms. Marco reported they are looking for sponsors for the event. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve $500.00 for the event, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- West Virginia University Extension Office Ohio County 4-H Camp – The camp will be held June 24 through July 11, 2024. They are asking for a $5,000.00 sponsorship to pay the cost of renting Camp Russell. Mr. Wharton asked that this be placed in their budget moving forward. Motion to approve $5,000.00 made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Holy Family Child Care Center Touch a Truck – Ms. Marco asked that this be removed from the agenda. The group had applied during the Community Grant process and were approved at the time of review.
- YMCA Seventh Annual Joe Palmer Memorial 5K Run / Walk – Mr. Wharton made a motion to approve $200.00 for the event with a second by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Northern Panhandle Home Consortium Resolution – The resolution authorizes the Ohio County Commission to participate in the Northern Panhandle Home Consortium for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Motion to approve the resolution made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Chief Deputy, Ohio County Sheriff's Office – Nelson Croft – Mr. Randy Russell spoke to the Secretary of State. Mr. Tennant said that was the proper organization to speak to concerning the matter. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve Mr. Croft, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Employee Health Insurance Renewal – The Cornerstone Group will be hosting open enrollment sessions next week for all employees. They will present three plans to employees and open enrollment is June 14-24, 2024.

Elections:

- Election Update –The election was certified on May 24, 2024.

Staff / Elected Official Reports:

- Administrator Report - Mr. Russell was out of town.
- Facilities Update – Ms. Marco reported that all 122 windows have been replaced and 80 have the trim completed. The masonry work on the North End of the building is complete. Double doors were cut in the back of the building to be able to enter the electrical room. If equipment arrives as scheduled, the first move of offices will occur on July 8, 2024. The mural has been hung on the side of the Annex. The Airport Tower Renovation project achieved substantial completion today. Work will continue at the Animal Shelter to improve their processes and procedures. Ms. Marco also reported Governor Jim Justice had approved Juneteenth as a holiday just yesterday. Ms. Marco asked the Commissioners for their approval. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the holiday, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- EMA – Mr. Vargo – The radios have been upgraded and retuned. The batteries for the municipal departments have also arrived.

- Sheriff's Department – A representative from the Sheriff's Department was not in attendance at the meeting.

Finance:

- Mrs. Coyne reported the bills are up to date. Motion to approve the bills made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Unpaid invoices – Some of the invoices were awaiting grant funding. No further action is required.
- Budget Revisions – Mrs. Coyne presented the final budget revisions. Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the revisions, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Exonerations – Mr. Abraham made a motion to approve the exonerations, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator

*Executive Session for personnel matters or property transactions: West Virginia State Code §6-9A-4