

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

June 10, 2024

The Council of the Village of Coldwater held its regular meeting in the Village Council Chambers on June 10, 2024, with Mayor Doug Bertke presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call was responded to by: Niekamp, Bettinger, Buschur, Seitz and Rutschilling. Davis was absent. Also present were Village Manager Eric Thomas, Law Director Judy Koesters and Finance Director Jason Eyink.

Invocation by Niekamp.

Guests included Kevin Wynk and Georgia Rindler.

A motion was made by Buschur, second by Niekamp to approve the minutes from May 27, 2024. Roll call resulted in the following ayes: Niekamp, Bettinger, Buschur, Seitz and Rutschilling. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Bettinger, second by Seitz to approve the bills. Roll call resulted in the following ayes: Niekamp, Bettinger, Buschur, Seitz and Rutschilling. Motion Carried.

The agenda was revised to include a first and final reading of Ordinance 1733. A motion was made by Niekamp, second by Rutschilling to approve the revised agenda. Roll call resulted in the following ayes: Niekamp, Bettinger, Buschur, Seitz and Rutschilling. Motion Carried.

Comments from the Public: None

Reports:

Police: Wynk advised he has been working with Judy Koesters to revise some ordinances.

Finance: Eyink discussed the cash position report and the income tax report.

Manager: Thomas reminded everyone that the annual taste of the town is tomorrow.

Mayor: None

Committee: A public meeting was held on June 3, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Doug Bertke at 6:30 PM at the Municipal Building.

Present were Mayor Bertke, Dale Rutschilling, Mark Davis, Charmaine Bettinger, Brad Niekamp, Tim Buschur, Eric Thomas and Jason Eyink. Guests present were Kevin Wynk, Barb Elking and Abby Miller.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and answer questions regarding a potential 0.5 percent increase to the current income tax rate for the Village of Coldwater.

Tax administrator Tricia Ontrop began the meeting by discussing the basics of income tax for municipalities in Ohio. Residents of Coldwater are taxed based on where they work. They are required to file a tax return with the Village of Coldwater since that is where they reside. Coldwater's current tax rate is 1 percent and currently grants up to 1 percent credit for taxes paid to other municipalities.

Finance Director Jason Eyink discussed the following items:

- THE VILLAGE OF COLDWATER HAS HAD A 1% INCOME TAX SINCE JULY OF 1987.
- THIS TAX CURRENTLY GENERATES APPROXIMATELY \$2,300,000 OF ANNUAL REVENUE.

- THE PROPOSED TAX WOULD INCREASE THE TAX RATE TO 1.5% AND WOULD INCREASE THE ALLOWABLE CREDIT FROM OTHER CITIES TO 1.5% FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.
- AN INCREASE TO 1.5% WOULD GENERATE APPROXIMATELY \$1,150,000 OF ADDITIONAL REVENUE TO THE GENERAL FUND.
- ALL LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN OUR AREA WITH A POPULATION OF GREATER THAN 2,500 PEOPLE HAVE A CURRENT INCOME TAX RATE OF 1.5%.
- THIS ADDITIONAL REVENUE IS NEEDED TO FULLY REPAIR SOME OF THE MAIN STREETS IN TOWN SUCH AS VINE, BUTLER, TERRACE, SECOND AND CEDAR. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SECTION OF TERRACE AVE THAT NEEDS REPAIRED IS ESTIMATED TO COST \$700,000 FOR A FULL DEPTH REPAIR. WE CURRENTLY SPEND ABOUT \$400,000 A YEAR ON STREET REPAIRS DEPENDING ON GRANTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE.
- THE ADDITIONAL REVENUE WOULD ALSO HELP FOR LARGE ITEMS AT THE PARK. THE PLAY SURFACES AT THE PLAYGROUNDS ARE VERY COSTLY. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN MANY REQUESTS FOR NEW PICKLE BALL COURTS. WE HAVE APPLIED FOR SEVERAL GRANTS BUT WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FUNDING THESE LARGER PROJECTS ARE NOT POSSIBLE.
- OUR EMPLOYEE WAGES (SPECIFICALLY POLICE) ARE FALLING BEHIND OTHER COMMUNITIES. CELINA POLICE OFFICERS WILL TOP OUT AT \$32.10 THIS YEAR, ST HENRY POLICE OFFICERS WILL TOP OUT AT \$30.25 THIS YEAR. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GIVING A 3% COST OF LIVING INCREASE BUT OUR OFFICERS WILL STILL ONLY TOP OUT AT \$27.45.
- HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST A TAXPAYER.....A RESIDENT WHO WORKS IN THE VILLAGE OF COLDWATER AND MAKES \$50,000 A YEAR CURRENTLY PAYS \$500.00 ANNUALLY. THIS AMOUNT IS DEDUCTED DIRECTLY FROM THEIR PAYCHECK. THE NEW AMOUNT WOULD BE \$750.00 IF THE TAX INCREASE WERE TO PASS.
- RESIDENTS WHO WORK IN OTHER TOWNS AND ALREADY PAY 1.5% WILL BE CREDITED THE 1.5% ON THEIR VILLAGE TAX RETURN. FOR EXAMPLE, SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN COLDWATER AND WORKS IN NEW BREMEN WOULD PAY NO ADDITIONAL TAX ON THE INCOME EARNED IN NEW BREMEN.

Eyink then opened it up for questions. Abby Miller asked if there was any concern from the Village that the school was also putting a levy on the ballot in November. Eyink said the Village has been discussing an increase to the income tax for years and have waited and tried to be fiscally conservative. The council feels like now is the correct time with street repair costs rising and wages falling behind. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

#### Old Business:

Ordinance 1732- An ordinance establishing certain positions and a pay schedule for hourly and salaried employees of the Village of Coldwater Ohio, providing for employee benefits not otherwise specified in the personnel policy manual and declaring an emergency. Ordinance 1732 received its third and final reading. A motion was made by Rutschilling, second by Bettinger to suspend the rules for Ordinance 1732. Roll call resulted in the following ayes: Niekamp, Bettinger, Buschur, Seitz and Rutschilling. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Niekamp, second by Buschur to approve ordinance 1732. Roll call resulted in the following ayes: Niekamp, Bettinger, Buschur, Seitz and Rutschilling. Motion Carried.

Resolution 834: A resolution declaring the necessity of an election on the question of approving the passage of an increase of one-half of one percent to the existing Village of Coldwater Ohio income tax beginning January 1, 2025 for the purposes of public safety, municipal services, capital improvements, operating expenses, acquisition, maintenance, repair and replacement of municipal property, and all other municipal operations and obligations permitted by law. Resolution 834 received its second reading.

New Business:

Ordinance 1733. An ordinance authorizing the Village Manager/Engineer to execute a real estate purchase contract and other necessary documents to purchase property owned by McDonald's Corporation and McDonald's USA LLC and declaring an emergency. A motion was made by Rutschilling, second by Seitz to suspend the rules for Ordinance 1733. Roll call resulted in the following ayes: Niekamp, Bettinger, Buschur, Seitz and Rutschilling. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Niekamp, second by Buschur to approve ordinance 1733. Roll call resulted in the following ayes: Niekamp, Bettinger, Buschur, Seitz and Rutschilling. Motion Carried.

Council Call-Final Comments:

Bettinger and Buschur congratulated the Coldwater girls track team on the state runner up finish and also the Fort Recovery baseball team for a state runner up finish.

Seitz has received several complaints about a young kid on an electric scooter or bike near Woodview Drive. Wynn said this is one of the ordinances being reviewed with Judy.

A motion to adjourn was made by Seitz, second by Rutschilling. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Jason Eyink, Clerk of Council



Douglas Bertke, Mayor