

## REGULAR MEETING

October 22, 2024

The Village of Ashmore Board of Trustees met in regular session on October 22, 2024 at the Ashmore Municipal Office. Proper notice of the meeting was posted. President Kurt Crail called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Freezeland acknowledged that a quorum was physically present and that there were no requests for remote attendance. Freezeland took roll call attendance:

### Trustees Present:

- Bill Edwards
- Thomas Grissom
- Terry Price
- Bryan Watson
- Cathy Welborn

### Also Present:

- President Kurt Crail
- Clerk Jackie Freezeland
- Treasurer Kathy Childress
- Seth Flach of Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC (exited 6:16 p.m.)
- Residents Jim & Nancy Meese (exited 6:12 p.m.)

Trustees Absent: Dane Perdieu

## Guests

Seth Flach of Milano & Grunloh Engineers (MGE) spoke about the application process for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Freezeland noted that the Village had requested proposals from three different agencies for the administration of the CDBG project, and as of the deadline, only Milano & Grunloh Engineers had submitted a proposal.

## New Business Out of Turn

Resolution #24-10-22A, A Resolution Supporting the Application for a Community Development Block Grant, was passed with amendments on a motion from Watson, seconded by Welborn. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Flach collected a copy of the amended, tallied, and executed resolution and then exited at 6:16 p.m.

## Guests (continued)

Nancy Meese with her husband Jim, residents on the north end of town, spoke about the ongoing disturbance at her home caused by the noise from the fans on TGM's grain bins. The fans run constantly during harvest, which is ongoing. Mrs. Meese noted that the bins are larger than before and there are more of them than there were in years past. As such, the noise is greater than it has ever been. She noted that they disturb her sleep, and as a result, she must do things that block out all noise during the night. This is concerning to her, because then she cannot hear her husband who has health issues. Mr. Meese agreed that the fans are very loud, and he can hear them all the time. Mr. Meese also made comments about his hearing difficulties.

Mrs. Meese presented the Board with copies of excerpts of the Ashmore Village Code, drawing special attention to the definitions of "Nuisance" and "Disturbing the Peace" and also to business regulations pertaining to nuisances. Mrs. Meese asked the Board to reconsider taking action to remediate the noise, and she also asked that the Board reject future Building Permit Applications from TGM to prevent additional bins from being constructed.

The Board and Administration expressed condolences for the Meese's situation and reminded the Meese's that their powers as Village representatives are limited and specific. They noted that

they strive to protect the residents of Ashmore but must also fairly protect the businesses as well. They assured Mr. & Mrs. Meese that the issue would be researched and investigated further and that the Village's attorney would be consulted. Mr. & Mrs. Meese exited at 6:12 p.m.

### **Reports, Approvals, and Claims**

Freezeland gave an update about new and ongoing projects in the Municipal Office, including:

- IDOT has audited the MFT revenues and expenditures for calendar year 2023, and their audit findings are being passed around for review;
- The Ashmore Harvest Festival made its debut in October and was a resounding success. The committee is welcoming feedback as plans begin for another festival in 2025;
- A hearing was held on October 21 regarding two abandoned properties in town, one was not contested and the other was contested by the current owner;
- October was the first month with the new water billing deadlines, and so far, the results have not been negative. There was only a minor increase in the number of late notices being mailed out, but no late fees were assessed so none of the residents have acted dismayed about it;
- The Municipal Office will pass out treat bags to the elementary school students during their Halloween parade at 1:00 on Halloween day, and Trick or Treating hours will be at 5:00-7:00 p.m. the same day; and
- The Municipal Office will be collecting complaint letters pertaining to the water quality, particularly from residents who live in the CDBG Phase III Project footprint. This is in addition to other evidence supporting the need for water main replacement in these neighborhoods.

Board Minutes dated September 24, 2024 were approved on a motion from Watson, seconded by Welborn. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Closed Session Minutes dated September 24, 2024 were approved on a motion from Grissom, seconded by Price. There was no discussion of the minutes which would warrant another closed session, so the meeting remained open. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

The payables and payroll for October were passed around and approved by signature.

Upon recommendation from Treasurer Childress, Edwards motioned to transfer \$40,000 from the General Fund to the Water Fund to cover upcoming expenses. Welborn seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report for September 2024 was placed on file with the Clerk on a motion from Welborn, seconded by Price. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

Superintendent Jake Johnson left a written report in his absence, which Freezeland read aloud. His report included the following updates on public works projects:

- Water samples came back clean;
- Preparations at the park for the Harvest Festival;
- Several smaller projects being completed at the maintenance building and around town before winter weather; and

- Repairs to a few service lines and meter setters.

### **Unfinished Business**

Ordinance #24-0924, An Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (“FY2025”) for the Village of Ashmore, Coles County, Illinois, was passed on a motion from Welborn, seconded by Edwards. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

There was no other unfinished business.

### **New Business**

Grissom motioned to donate \$500 to the Festival Planning Committee, and Watson seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye; motion carried.

Resolution #24-1022B, A Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of a Technical Assistance Agreement with the Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission on Behalf of the Village of Ashmore, Illinois, was passed on a motion from Watson, seconded by Welborn. In a roll call vote, all trustees present voted aye.

There was no other new business.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m. on a motion by Edwards, seconded by Price. All trustees present voted in favor. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 2024.

Jackie Freezeland  
Ashmore Village Clerk