

**Council of the Village of Yellow Springs  
Emergency Meeting Minutes**

**Council Chambers**

**Thursday, March 12, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President of Council Brian Housh called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were President Housh, Vice President Marianne MacQueen and Council members Kevin Stokes, Lisa Kreeger and Laura Curliss. Also present were Village Manager Josue Salmeron; Public Works Director Johnnie Burns, Planning and Zoning Administrator Denise Swinger, Finance Director Colleen Harris, Police Chief Carlson and Administrative Assistant Ruthe Ann Lillich.

**COUNCIL STATEMENTS REGARDING EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

Each Council person made a statement related to their concern about the COVID-19 situation, and noted sources of helpful and accurate information.

All noted concern for citizens who may be affected by food insecurity and a desire for the Village to assist in any ways possible.

**VILLAGE MANAGER STATEMENT REGARDING EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

Salmeron stressed that he and other Village leaders have been attending regular updates and meetings related to crisis response and mitigation.

Salmeron noted closure of the John Bryan Center to non-governmental uses. He stated that essential staff are prepared to continue to provide services even at 50% of capacity.

Audrey Hackett from the Yellow Springs News asked whether there would be any change in policing activities.

Chief Carlson stated that other than an enhanced attention to universal precautions with which officers are already familiar, there will not be a noticeable change. He asked for donations to provide snacks for youth, which officers can distribute as they make contact with area youth who frequent the John Bryan Youth Center, and who often count on the food available there.

Housh asked for further information regarding possible youth intervention.

Carlson commented that money and snack donations would be welcomed.

Kreeger stated that she will contact Jeannamarie Cox of the Community Foundation, who may be able to find financial support for some of these activities.

Carlson asked that citizens limit gatherings and use social distancing.

Council discussed support for citizens and businesses.

Karen Wintrow, Chamber of Commerce, noted several efforts underway.

Salmeron encouraged use of the dropbox and ACH for bill payment.

Ruthe Ann Lillich offered support with contacts if people are feeling anxious or uncertain.

Kelli Ann Tracey commented on the situation generally, asking whether the Village can assist those most vulnerable.

Karen Wintrow noted a new webpage with resources available through the Chamber. She stated that she is attempting to coordinate more food delivery from restaurants and more online shopping.

Housh lauded the efforts of Florence Randolph, Community Outreach Specialist.

**LEGISLATION**

**Reading of Resolution 2020-11** Authorizing The Use of Technology for Holding Official Meetings of Council While Under a State of Emergency. MacQueen MOVED and Stokes SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

The Clerk explained the resolution which was written in anticipation that there will be some amendment to Sunshine Law requirements amid the health crisis.

Housh noted the language stating “to the extent allowed by law” in the resolution, which prevents use of meetings by technology unless this is deemed permissible.

Housh stated that he wants to explore options for citizen participation, should this form of meeting be put in place.

Housh CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 on a VOICE VOTE.

#### **CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION**

Salmeron responded to a question from Housh, stating that the Village will need to work with providers around responses to citizen needs, since the Village is not set up to handle this on any large scale.

Kreeger urged collaboration with other stakeholders, and a clear response and communication.

Salmeron stated that more information will be forthcoming.

#### **VILLAGE RESPONSE TO HEALTH CRISIS AND EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

Salmeron read the Village Press Release in response to the situation. This will be posted on Facebook and the VYS website.

Salmeron responded to comments, noting that he wants to be cautious of overwhelming the emergency response system. He stated that the Village will provide contact numbers for available services in the community on the Village website.

In response to a question from a citizen, Salmeron stated that information regarding infection rates locally will be handled through the Department of Health.

Council discussed holding their meeting scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>, agreeing to hold the meeting, whether virtually or in-person, and how to navigate this.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:08 pm, Kreeger MOVED and Curliss SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

*Please note: These notes are not verbatim. A DVD copy of the meeting is available for viewing in the Clerk of Council’s office between 9am and 3pm Monday through Friday or upon request from Channel 5.*

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Brian Housh, Council President

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Attest: Judy Kintner, Council Clerk