

VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

County of Kent, Michigan

Village Council Meeting Minutes

For Monday December 13th, 2021 7:00 p.m.

250 S. Maple St. SE

Caledonia, MI 49316

Meeting was called to order by President Lindsey at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present were; Neil, Miller, Soest, Hahn, Erskine and Lindsey. Also present was Manager/Clerk Thornton and Treasurer Eardley. Trustee Schuler was not in attendance.

Mr. Michael Newlin was heard under public comment. Speaking that he felt that the ordinance up for consideration may not go far enough and sees issues with enforcement.

No inquiry of conflicts of interest were heard.

Moved by Neil, supported by Miller to approve the agenda and consent agenda, consisting of the minutes of the November 8th meeting, treasurers report, to pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes and notes were provided form the Planning Commission and the finance committee.

Reports from Engineer and Consultants were received. Jon Moxey presented a brief status of the Kinsey St. Project and that it looked as if the project would be a January bid letting. Trustee asked some questions of the Legacy and Hanover developments and the Village manager answered.

Thornton attended that the last school board meeting and provided information as to the school districts activities. Lindsey reported some of the Townships activities

The manager reported on various activities including; leaf pickup, Christmas preparations, snow removal preparations, etc., He also reported that we had not received any of the ARPA funds as of yet.

There was no unfinished business.

The council had discussion regarding various aspects of the proposed ordinance amendment 20-21. Moved by Soest, supported by Erskine to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and accept the amended ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the finance committee's findings and recommendations regarding employee benefits. Moved by Lindsey, supported by Erskine to allow Christmas Eve 2021 and New Year's Eve 2021 to be a paid holidays for qualifying employees. Motion passed unanimously.

The notes from the Joint Utility committee meeting were provided to council for review and questions. Moved by Erskine, supported by Soest to accept the report from the committee.

Kim Peters spoke under public comment, thanking the community for Christmas in Caledonia this year and helping make next year better. She also spoke to the council of her dissatisfaction with the use of "the way we have always done it" term and the importance of taking care of employees with the "great resignation. Four million Americans switched jobs in one month.

Jeremy Drisko spoke to the ordinance amendment that was made and the people that types of people that can't be a neighbor and be part of the community and it is a shame that neighbors can't talk about problems rather than going through amending ordinances and having meetings.

Council comments: Erskine spoke of the emergency in Tennessee, Soest spoke of her negative experience helping direct traffic for the parade, Hahn and Neil wished all a Merry Christmas. Miller spoke on behalf of teachers with the hardships that they are dealing with.

Lindsey thanked everyone for their participation with Christmas in Caledonia and the manger for his efforts making it happen and we look to improve next years. She also encouraged everyone be neighborly.

The manager thanked everyone that attended the Christmas event. He relayed some positive comments that he had received and he commented on the date and it is that date "the way we have always done it". He addressed a comment that was received regarding a business that felt that they should have received a personal invitation. Notices were done on social media and in the local media and the new committee would promote as they see fit.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Jeffrey D. Thornton, Village Clerk

