Village of New Athens

Committee of the Whole Meeting

05/27/2025

6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Arlene Geppert. Those in attendance were Gary Kearns, John Feder, Richard Fitzgerald, and Ryan Heinecke. Tim Buehler, Chief of Police and Nancy Ritter, Village Clerk were also in attendance.

There were four visitors in attendance: Mark Schreder, Edwin Cockrell, Jr., Lisa Weigand and Steve Darner.

**Streets and Alleys** – Nothing to discuss.

**Finance and Audit** – Nothing to discuss.

Water and Sewer – Nothing to discuss.

**Personnel** – Fitzgerald requested executive session later in the meeting.

**Public Property and Parks** – Discussion on community activities at the city park.

Feder advised Cockrell that the Village does not have funds to cover activities at the park. Cockrell said he is checking into insurance and noted that this would be non-alcohol events. He said they may need a way to police this. The Committee suggested that Cockrell put together a proposal for the events and they would go from there.

**Cemetery** – Nothing to discuss.

**Ordinance – Exterior Storage Containers.**

There was a discussion regarding whether to allow Steve Darner an extension on when to move the storage container he has. Vice President Geppert stated that her opinion is that he had 60 days to comply and he is not in compliance with the ordinance. It was discussed in a variety of ways on how to manage. One was to let it go to court and take it from there and another was to allow him to keep it if he puts it at the back of his house with a fence. Darner was asked how long he had the unit there and he said it has been there since October 2023. It was noted that that the ordinance was written after he had the container there for quite some time. Darner stated that he read the ordinance after it’s passage and felt that it was created specifically for him. After some discussion it was decided to give him 10 days to move to the back and put a fence up or discuss another solution at the next board meeting.

**Mobile/Manufactured/Modular Home Zoning Code**

Fitzgerald stated that we should adopt St. Clair County’s code on manufactured homes. He is going to make a proposal to change the zoning codes for mobile, manufactured, and modular homes in our current zoning code. He will have it available for the next Committee of the Whole Meeting for review before passage.

**Sally Wetzel Manufactured Home Review**

It was decided to table this discussion until after the zoning code is updated.

**Tow Fees/Hearing Review**

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the tow fees and the hearing with the Village Attorney. It was decided to leave the ordinance as is and to vote at the next board meeting on which bank account to deposit the tow fees in.

**Improvement and Grants** – Nothing to discuss.

**Public Safety** – Nothing to discuss.

**Marina** – Nothing to discuss.

**Other Business** – Nothing to discuss.

The Committee went into executive session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss personnel.

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:03 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Arlene Geppert

Vice President

Nancy Ritter

Village Clerk