

**Ashley Village Council Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2023**

The regular council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Ann Paksi.

Roll call was taken with, Ann Paksi, Mike Turner, Dave Foote-arrived subsequently, Doug Schneider, David Kimball, Robert Studt, Michelle Fitzpatrick-Clerk/Treasurer. Absent : Kristin Mills, Paul Beck-DPW Supervisor

Visitors: Steve Sopocy-Gratiot County Commissioner, Don Smith, Paula Pettigrew

After review and discussion **R. Studt** made a motion to approve the 12/14/23 agenda with amendment adding lift station and DDA to the agenda. Supported **D. Schneider**. Motion carried.

After review and discussion **D. Schneider** made a motion to accept the Council Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2023 as presented. Supported by **M. Turner**. Motion carried.

After review and discussion **R. Studt** made a motion to approve the check register November 10, 2023 through December 14, 2023 Supported, **D Kimball**. Motion carried.

Committee Chairman Jane Unterbrink presented updates for the Village of Ashley Country Christmas.

- Paula gave financial update
- Chairman Unterbrink requested Depot Building Roof estimate ASAP so they can add to their budget
- Chairman Unterbrink requesting the consideration of an added administrative position to the Country Christmas committee
- Chairman Unterbrink gave Christmas in July update
- Chairman Unterbrink is working on an updated list of Country Christmas Committee members

Old Business:

Tree removal – Ferrell tree removal should be contacted to check status of tree removal for the village.

Clerk/Treasurer Fitzpatrick gave update of the discussions with USDA on selling the property around the Water Tower.

After review and discussion council requested to table the Water Tower property for further discussion.

Clerk/Treasurer Fitzpatrick gave update from the attorney regarding Millage rate increase for the village.

After review and discussion **M. Turner** motioned to accept 2023-09 **A RESOLUTION FOR AN INCREASE PROPOSAL TO RESTORE OPERATING MILLAGE FOR THE VILLAGE OF ASHLEY**. Supported by **Robert Studt**. Roll call was taken by the clerk.

Ayes: D. Foote, D. Schneider, D. Kimball, M. Turner, R. Studt, A. Paksi

Nays: None

Absent: Kristin Mills

Resolution 2023-09 Declared ADOPTED December 12, 2023

New Business:

As noted above Chairman Jane Unterbrink will be giving us a current/updated list of Country Christmas committee members and the council will need to review the Resolution for any needed updates.

As noted above Country Christmas is asking to hire either an Contracted employee or regular employee as an Administrative position to help with administrative duties.

After review and discussion council decided to table an administrative employee to discuss with attorney the best resolution of hiring either a contracted employee verses a regular employee.

President Paksi Appointed Andrew Brown and Traci Gavenda to the Village of Ashley Planning Commission committee.

Clerk/Treasurer Fitzpatrick brought attention to the board that the Contract with Point Broadband ends in February 2024.

After review and discussion council decided to table the contract with Point Broadband for further discussion at the January 8th Work Session meeting.

Clerk/Treasurer Fitzpatrick brought two applications for village janitor position.

After review and discussion it was decided to hire for the position to start January 2024.

Clerk/Treasurer Fitzpatrick brought written complaint regarding Blight within the village.

After review and discussion, it was determined that the village will need to check with Gratiot County Blight officer when we have more blight issues than what they are taking on.

Operator in Charge Studt notified the council that the new Lift Station was not sealing correctly and that the contractor Rohde Brothers who put the Lift Station in will be fixing it as it was an error on their part.

Trustee Foote and Kimball discussed forming a DDA for the village.

After review and discussion council decided to look into forming the DDA and will discuss at further meetings.

D. Foote motioned to adjourn regular council meeting at 9:25pm. Supported by **D. Schneider**. Motion Carried.

Ann Paksi, Village President

Michelle Fitzpatrick, Village Clerk