

THE VILLAGE OF LAKEMORE  
MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2022

Meeting was Called to Order by Mayor Cole at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Roll Call: Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, Ms. Anderson, and Mr. Ray were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Cole

Motion to Accept minutes from November 21, 2022 Council Meeting as presented and not read was made by Mrs. Cochran and seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. Roll Call: Ms. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Ray, Ms. Anderson and Mrs. Cochran voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to Accept Purchase Orders from November 19, 2022 to December 2, 2022, totaling \$21,059.00 as presented and not read was made by Mr. Strittmatter and seconded by Ms. Anderson. Roll Call: Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Ray, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Cochran and Mrs. Coontz voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to Accept Bills from November 19, 2022 to December 2, 2022, totaling \$160,279.07 as presented and not read was made by Mr. Ray and seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. Roll call: Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Ray, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, and Ms. Snyder voted “yes”. Motion carried.

**Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

Resolution 7227-2022 “Hire Full-Time Police Officer” emergency Cochran  
Resolution 7228-2022 “Hire Full-Time Laborer” emergency Strittmatter  
Resolution 7229-2022 “Salary Increase for Tracy McMenamée” 1<sup>st</sup> read Strittmatter  
Resolution 7230-2022 “Hire Part-Time Firefighter/Medic” emergency Cochran  
Ordinance 1795-2022 “2023 Budget Appropriations” 1<sup>st</sup> read Anderson  
Ordinance 1796-2022 “Amend Budget” emergency Anderson  
Ordinance 1797-2022 “Amend Police Pay Scale” 1<sup>st</sup> read Cochran

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Cole announced the Lakemore Food Pantry will be December 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00p.m. at LUMC.

## **Council Report**

Mrs. Cochran thanked everyone for helping and giving donations for a successful Fill-a-Cruiser.

Mrs. Coontz thanked everyone that helped and participated in the Tree Lighting Event.

Ms. Snyder announced Spectrum channel 1023 will be covering special events and meetings around the area.

Mr. Strittmatter announced the pictures that were taken from the Tree Lighting Event are posted online.

Mr. Strittmatter announced the next Council Meetings will be December 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> each at 7:00p.m. at Springfield High School Community Room.

Mr. Ray announced the next Council Workshops will be December 14<sup>th</sup> and December 27<sup>th</sup> each at 6:00p.m.

Ms. Anderson thanked Nicki Coontz and Tracy Sayers for all their hard work behind the scenes getting things ready for the Tree Lighting Event.

## **New Business:**

Mrs. Cochran makes a motion to dispense with the three readings Resolution 7227-2022. Mr. Strittmatter seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Ray, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, and Mr. Strittmatter voted “yes”. Motion carried. Mrs. Cochran makes a motion to adopt Resolution 7227-2022. Mr. Strittmatter seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, and Mr. Ray voted “yes”. Resolution adopted.

Mrs. Cochran makes a motion to dispense with the three readings Resolution 7230-2022. Mr. Strittmatter seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Ray, and Ms. Anderson voted “yes”. Motion carried. Mrs. Cochran makes a motion to adopt Resolution 7230-2022. Mr. Strittmatter seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Ray, Ms. Anderson, and Mrs. Cochran voted “yes”. Resolution adopted.

Mr. Strittmatter makes a motion to dispense with the three readings Resolution 7228-2022. Mrs. Cochran seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Ray, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Cochran, and Mrs. Coontz voted “yes”. Motion carried. Mr. Strittmatter makes a motion to adopt Resolution 7228-2022. Mr. Ray seconded the

motion. Roll Call: Mr. Strittmatter, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Ray, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, and Ms. Snyder voted “yes”. Resolution adopted

Ms. Anderson makes a motion to dispense with the three readings Ordinance 1796-2022. Mrs. Cochran seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Anderson, Mr. Ray, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, and Mr. Strittmatter voted “yes”. Motion carried. Ms. Anderson makes a motion to adopt Ordinance 1796-2022. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Ray, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, and Ms. Anderson voted “yes”. Ordinance adopted.

Motion to Dispense out of the Regular Order of Business was made by Mrs. Cochran. Mrs. Coontz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Ray, and Ms. Anderson voted “yes”. Motion carried.

- Swearing in Dylan Ukleja as a full-time police officer with the Lakemore Police Department

Motion to Return with the Regular Order of Business was made by Mrs. Cochran. Mrs. Coontz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Ray, and Mrs. Cochran voted “yes”. Motion carried.

### **Appeal Hearing for Sergeant Skrypek**

- Solicitor Ben Chojnacki gives background on the appeal regarding the termination of Sergeant Skrypek.
- Sergeant Skrypek explained he sent an email to the Council Members that he would like them all to review before making a decision.
- Ben asked Sergeant Skrypek two questions:  
Did you draft a letter on 6/12/22? He replied yes, based on conversation he had days prior.  
Did you draft a letter on 11/10/22? He replied yes.
- Sergeant Skrypek asked Ben about a letter and that he wanted a copy of it. Ben replied he didn't know about it. Ben also replied that the letter had no determining factor regarding his termination.
- Ben questioned Chief Smith asking what is his position in Lakemore? Chief Smith replied that he is the Chief of Police for the Village of Lakemore.
- Ben asked Chief Smith if he drafted a letter on 11/7/22? He replied yes.
- They reviewed time cards from Officer Tate, Sergeant Skrypek, and the dispatch records from 6/7/22. Chief Smith explained when the call from dispatch about a missing juvenile, that Officer Tate was already clocked out.

- Sergeant Skrypek appealed that the allegations of him trying to break into the municipal building were false. He was just trying to find Officer Tate because there was a call for a missing juvenile. Officer Tate was in the municipal building having an exit interview with the Village Administrator, Tracy Sayers. Officer Tate did hear the call, but Officer Gilbert already responded to the call and she didn't hear that he needed back up. Sergeant Skrypek explained he did clock out Officer Tate, but it was with the Chief's approval.
- Sergeant Skrypek claimed that he requested a public records request that was never filled. Ben and Tracy responded that they filled all public records request that were given to them. Sergeant Skrypek kept saying that wasn't true, and he still needed documents. Ben asked Sergeant Skrypek why he didn't ask for a continuous if he didn't have the documents that he needed? Sergeant Skrypek replied that he and his lawyer tried.
- Ben questioned Sergeant Skrypek about items in the letter that he drafted on 6/12/22. Sergeant Skrypek felt like he had to draft this letter after a conversation he had with the Chief previously that week.
- Sergeant Skrypek explained all he was doing was his job when it came to Officer Tate. Being a Sergeant he was just explaining to her what she was doing wrong and try to help her. He stated that the Chief should have been the one training Officer Tate, instead of him.
- Tracy asked Sergeant Skrypek about the letter he originally wanted her and Megan Pitman to read. Now he is stating Tracy went behind the Mayor's back and took documents to the Chief. What happened to have the story changed about the letter? Sergeant Skrypek replied that Tracy didn't follow protocol and gave the documents to the Chief.
- Sergeant Skrypek gave an example on how Officer Tate was doing something personal on the clock and it was on the body cam. Sergeant Skrypek stated she came to him to delete the footage on her body cam and he didn't do it.
- Sergeant Skrypek asked/questioned Tracy if she questioned the termination letter. Tracy said no she didn't. Sergeant Skrypek questioned Tracy if she actually felt he was breaking and entering into the municipal building. Tracy explained he was the one that stated he was trying to get into the municipal building.
- Heather Anderson asked Sergeant Skrypek about the timeline from when Officer Tate was clocked out compared to the dispatch record of when the call came through. Sergeant Skrypek claims Officer Tate wasn't doing her job, because she was over at the municipal building talking to Tracy. Heather questioned Sergeant Skrypek about why he didn't push for reasons from Officer Tate why she didn't

go on the call about the missing juvenile. He said he decided just to go on the call himself, instead of potentially causing more trouble. When Officer Tate returned back to the office, Sergeant Strypek claimed he just talked to her about the missing juvenile situation and when a call comes out like this one, then all officers need to be on the call. When Officer Tate was in the office she had Tracy on speaker phone. After the talk from Sergeant Strypek, he said she got mad and left.

- Sergeant Strypek asked about a letter that was addressed to Officer Tate's ex-husband. The letter was originally given to the Mayor. Ben asked the Chief if anything in the letter pertained to the termination. Chief Smith replied no it didn't.
- Ben then explained to Council that the documents and materials, and the Chief and Mayor's decision for termination were provided to them. That they need to review and make their own decision on this matter.

Mrs. Cochran made a motion to accept everything that has been presented at tonight's meeting. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Ray, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Cochran, and Mrs. Coontz voted "yes". Motion carried.

Motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Mrs. Cochran. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Ray, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, and Ms. Snyder voted "yes". Motion Carried. Mrs. Cochran made a motion to amend the motion to enter into Executive Session by inviting the solicitor and village administrator to join. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Ray, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, and Mr. Strittmatter voted "yes". Motion carried. They entered into Executive Session at 9:00p.m.

Returned from Executive Session at 9:45p.m.

**Motion to Adjourn** Motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter and seconded by Mrs. Coontz. Roll call: Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Coontz, Ms. Snyder, Mr. Strittmatter, and Mr. Ray voted "yes". Meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.



Minutes Prepared By



Minutes Approved By

