

**VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
March 2, 2015**

Mayor Hammond called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Hammond then asked for a Moment of Silence to honor our Men and Women; Past and Present; for their Military Service to our Country. Fiscal Officer Hastings took roll call with the following members present: Mr. Sadler, Mr. Geiger, Mr. Wissinger and Ms. Evans. Solicitor Hess was also in attendance. Mr. Laxton, Mr. Shelton, Engineer Grosse and Chief Jordan were absent.

Mr. Sadler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geiger to approve the January 19, 2015 Special Council Meeting Minutes. All members were in favor. The motion passed.

Mr. Geiger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sadler to approve the February 2, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. All members were in favor. The motion passed.

Ms. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sadler to approve the February 16, 2015 Special Council Meeting Minutes. All members were in favor. The motion passed.

**Administrative Reports:**

A. Mayor's Report – Mayor Hammond informed Council that we are now down to two police officers working 30 hours a week each. He said Chief Jordan has not provided any recommendations or applicants to him as of today. He said there is a 30 hour a week position available and in need of being filled. Mr. Sadler asked how we are trying to solicit to fill this position. Mayor Hammond said Chief Jordan has not given him any suggestions which he believes is the responsibility of the Chief. Ms. Evans asked when the resignation of the previous officer was received. Mayor Hammond said he gave a two week notice. Fiscal Officer Hastings said we received notification on February 9, 2015 and he worked until February 20, 2015. Ms. Evans asked if Officer Greathouse was patrolling on his own. Mayor Hammond said he is now radar certified and patrolling on his own.

B. Village Engineer's Report –

C. Village Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Hess asked Council to remove Ordinance 2015-02 based on comments and concerns during tonight's public hearing. He asked Council to not have the first reading on this ordinance. Solicitor Hess also asked Council to remove Resolution 04-2015 from consideration tonight due to not having enough members present to waive the three readings. He said if Council has a first read only on this resolution, it would have to be amended to reflect different dates of coverage needed.

D. Police Department Report –

E. Village Administrator – No report

F. Fiscal Officer Report - Fiscal Officer Hastings gave the following report. Fund balances as of February 28, 2015 – General Fund - \$ 1,050,435.09; Street Construction Main & Repair – \$ 205,797.89; State Highway - \$ 17,627.75; Parks and Rec - \$ 2,908.57; Permissive Motor Vehicle – \$ 7,486.46; Enforcement and Education - \$ 1,100.00; Housing Development - \$ 16,676.07; Water Operating - \$ 2,125,990.28; Sewer Operating - \$ 1,994,017.59; Garbage Operating - \$ 19,761.65.

**Legislative Reports:**

1. Randy Shelton – Nothing to report
2. Nicole Evans – Nothing to report
3. Clarence Wissinger – Nothing to report
4. David Sadler – Mr. Sadler said he had attended the Zoning Committee meeting. Their goal is to go through the entire Zoning Ordinance book. He said a few hot topics to be worked on are private swimming pools, weeds/grass on vacated property, signs. He said he also attended the Safety Committee Meeting on February 9, 2015. He said they went over the hours of coverage. He said it was announced that officer Kaltenegger had submitted his letter of resignation. Overall he felt the meeting went well.
5. Mark Geiger – Mr. Geiger said he was also at the Safety meeting. He said there was discussion on whether or not Third Street was a one way or not. He suggested making it a one way heading south. He said there are people living on Harsh Alley that use it as a two way street. Mr. Geiger said there was discussion on using crossing guards at some of the intersections. He said his wife is going to be speaking with the principal at Scioto Elementary regarding this. He said they also

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discussed possible speed limit changes on a few streets in the Village. State Route 762 between Brown Street and Bellshazzer being reduced to 25 mph and from Welch Road into town on SR 762 down to 45 mph. Mr. Geiger said both of these changes would need input from the County and State transportation departments.

Mayor Hammond said he had attended both committee meetings and felt they went very well with valid points being brought up. He said when there is a vacated house and no owner, the Village has mowed the grass for less than \$ 500 in a three year period, the consensus from the meeting was maybe that is what we should continue to do. He said he appreciated the members of Council working on these items. He said the Zoning code is long overdue. Mayor Hammond said we were needing primary coverage during the school hours. What he and Solicitor Hess reached out to the Sheriff for help in making sure these hours were covered since we are down an officer. Mayor Hammond said there was a retired Sheriff Deputy that had agreed to come back and help us out for 30 days. Mayor Hammond said at this time it is a moot point. He said Sheriff Radcliff told him that he will have a cruiser here more frequently until we can be back to full staff working 90 hours a week. Mayor Hammond said we may be having a special meeting to bring this back to Council.

6. Brad Laxton – Nothing to report

At this time, Mayor Hammond opened the floor for citizen's comments. Mr. Scott O'Neil said he had a chance to speak to Officer Kaltenegger before he left our department. He said some of the reasons Mr. Kaltenegger gave him were 1) lack of commitment from the Council to the Police Department; 2) low pay; 3) hours – 30 vs. 40 per week. Mr. O'Neil continued to say there was an incident in the Village over the weekend involving a man with a gun. He said that he had learned it was a hostage situation where the man barricaded himself inside his house. He said it took the Sheriff Deputies 39 minutes to get on scene. He feels this is unacceptable. Mr. O'Neil said Chief Jordan was called at home to come in. He said the Sheriff's website said it took them 39 minutes for the first patrol car to show up on the scene. Again he does not feel this is an acceptable amount of time. Mr. O'Neil said he suggested during the Safety Committee meeting, because of the opposition from Council on funding the 16 hour position, to take the 16 hours and split them between Chief Jordan and Officer Greathouse. He doesn't feel it would cost that much more to do this. Mr. O'Neil feels going with the Sheriff is wrong. He doesn't have much faith in it.

At this point a very lengthy conversation was held with regards to what it would take to keep our own police department vs. contracting with the Sheriff. Some citizens feel higher wages, more hours, and benefits would be key factors in keeping our own department. Others argued that we would not have any more hours of coverage on the street if we offered these things.

Ms. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wissinger to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

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Joe Hammond, Mayor

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Wendy L Hastings, Fiscal Officer