

Village of Commercial Point
Special Council Meeting
May 17, 2018

Mayor Joiner called the meeting to order. Mayor Joiner took roll call with the following members present: Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Townsend, Mr. Grassel, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Moore and Ms. Wolfe.

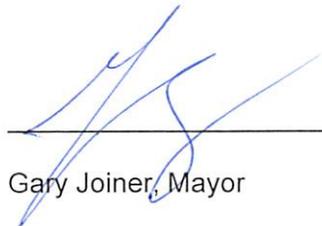
Mayor Joiner said there are no conversations or open discussions. He said before the council is a letter presented by Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore explained the letter is basically explaining that all of the facts are available regarding the Duckett report that recently was released to the public. He asked council to review it and make sure everyone is onboard with it.

Mayor Joiner asked for a motion to accept. Mr. Grassel motioned to accept, seconded by Ms. Wolfe. Roll Call taken: Mr. Moore-Yes, Ms. Wolfe-Yes, Mr. Thompson-Yes, Mr. Townsend-Yes, Mr. Grassel-Yes, Mr. O'Neil-Yes. All in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Moore said they need to discuss how they want to publicize this. He mentioned possibly the new webpage, Facebook or Circleville Herald. Mr. O'Neil said he can take a picture of it after it is signed and attach it to his video.

Adjournment:

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. O'Neil to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.



Gary Joiner, Mayor



Wendy Hastings, Fiscal Officer

**Minutes provided by Paula Baldwin, Administrative Assistant.



Village of Commercial Point

P.O. Box 56
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(614) 877-9248

May 17, 2018

To the Citizens of Commercial Point:

In light of the human resources investigation performed by special counsel Douglas E. Duckett, Esq., your Village Council and Mayor Joiner felt it prudent to provide you—the Citizens of Commercial Point—with additional facts in the interest of full transparency.

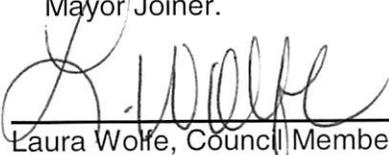
In June 2017, the Mayor became aware—thru both observation and complaints from officers and citizens—of potential human resources issues within the Commercial Point Police Department. After informing Village Council and conducting an initial investigation, it became apparent that a human resources professional was needed to complete the investigation due to the depth and complexity of the issues discovered. Accordingly, the Village of Commercial Point, at the recommendation of the Ohio Municipal League, retained Mr. Duckett to perform a confidential internal human resources investigation. This investigation began on August 16, 2017, and concluded on February 3, 2018. The report was first made available to the Village on February 16, 2018, and became public record on April 2, 2018.

It is the unified opinion of your Village Council and Mayor Joiner, that this report includes disturbing details that warrant both discipline and corrective action. However, we also feel it is important to note that Mr. Duckett's report is clear that these issues have not affected the essential service provided by the Commercial Point Police Department. In fact, Mr. Duckett concludes his report with the following quote:

This focus on problems in the Commercial Point Police Department may paint a picture that, in isolation, is one-sided and overly negative. That is neither my intent nor is it warranted. Overall, the Village is served by dedicated police officers who work very hard to do a good job and deliver excellent service to Commercial Point residents.

With that said, the details of the report have not been—and will not be—taken lightly. Upon receiving the report, the Village immediately began to institute corrective measures to ensure the future integrity of its police department. Further, the Village took immediate disciplinary action as warranted by Mr. Duckett's report and the actions of its employees.

It is also important to note that since Mr. Duckett drafted his report, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission has determined that the actions of Mayor Joiner did not equate to discrimination under Ohio law. Further, while allegations of an improper use of the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) are currently under investigation by the Pickaway County Sheriff's Department, the investigations has not affected the daily operational functions of the Village and no criminal charges have been levied against Mayor Joiner.



Laura Wolfe, Council Member



Bruce Moore, Council Member



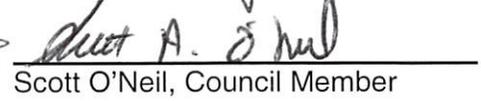
Aaron Grassel, Council Member



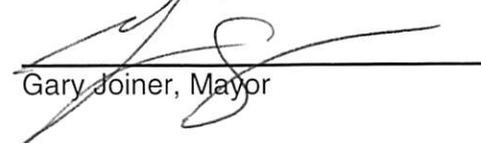
Jason Thompson, Council Member



Ben Townsend, Council Member



Scott O'Neil, Council Member



Gary Joiner, Mayor