

**Village of Misenheimer**  
**Council Meeting - Community Building**  
**Monday, March 8, 2021 6PM**

**Council Present:** Michael “Frizbee” Herron, Mayor  
Jeff Watson  
Mike Burrage  
Micah Edquist, Finance Officer

**Staff:** Anita Blair, Administrator/Clerk  
Erik McGinnis, Chief

**Visitors:** Mike Riemann

**Council Absent:** Peter Edquist

**1. Call to Order:** Mayor Herron called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. Moment of Silence:** Mayor Herron requested that a moment of silence be observed.

**3. Ethics Statement:** Anita Blair read the Ethics Statement asking if any Council members present may have any potential conflict(s) of interest or any known or perceived conflict(s) of interest related to the meeting Agenda presented. None were noted.

**4. Introduction of Visitors:** Mike Riemann was welcomed.

**5. Approval 03/08/21 Agenda:** Micah Edquist moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mike Burrage seconded the motion and it was approved by a 4/0 vote.

**6. Approval 02/08/21 Council Meeting Minutes:** Mike Burrage moved to approve the Council Meeting Minutes as presented from the 01/11/21 Council Meeting. Micah Edquist seconded the motion and it was approved by a 4/0 vote.

**7. Public Comment Period** – No public comments were offered.

**8. Carolina Thread Trail Railroad Crossing – Mike Riemann:** Mike Riemann reported that all approvals are in place from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the Wesley Chapel Railroad Crossing. He commented that Thread Trail money is tight and is evaluating all projects. He asked for Council’s approval of just completing the railroad crossing if there isn’t enough money to complete the railroad crossing and the light. He doesn’t know what will be required regarding lights. The complete project could cost up to \$80,000. Council again confirmed their commitment to the Wesley Chapel Railroad crossing for the Carolina Thread Trail. Micah Edquist moved to continue with the previously approved \$35,000 commitment for the pedestrian crossing. Jeff Watson seconded the motion and it was approved 4/0.

**9. Review Unaudited Financial Status at 02/28/21:** Micah Edquist reported the following reconciled bank balances at 02/28/21 as follows:

General Fund	\$573,114
Powell Bill Fund	\$116,870
Carolina Thread Trail	\$ 21,285 (Grant #2) Trail Acquisition Grant (Village, Richfield & New London)

**10. Budget Focus/Priorities FY 20/21:** A revised list of budget items was given to Council for review and further discussion. Finance Officer Micah Edquist reviewed each item highlighting ones not previously discussed.

Gladstone: Many thoughts regarding the potential floor repair including footings and foundation were discussed. Micah Edquist commented that the foundation should be fixed before the floor is fixed. It was the consensus of Council to contact Stokes Construction and ask them bring the Gladstone floor up to standard to obtain occupancy per their recommendation.

The current “Certification and Educational Increases” Policy, approved February 8, 2021, awards educational increases when a degree is obtained during the fiscal year and is a one-time only payment upon receiving a degree pertinent to the employee’s current employment. Mayor Herron, during a budget meeting, proposed changing the policy to a yearly

bonus for the upcoming fiscal year for those who have and/or obtain degrees. The three Council members present disagreed with changing the policy that was approved in February, 2021.

**11. Police Report – February, 2021:** Chief Erik McGinnis reported 89 traffic stops, 61 total charges, 19 warning citations and 6 arrests for the month of February, 2021. Nine motorists were issued citations with multiple charges. There were 15 mutual aid requests from the Stanly County Sheriff’s Office and State Highway Patrol. There were 36 citations written on Hwy 52 and 51 on Hwy 49. The highest speed cited on Hwy 49 was 84 mph.

**12. Employee Tuition Policy Approval Request/Clarification:** The current Tuition Assistance Policy Application Procedure, approved February 8, 2021, requires an employee to submit the Tuition Assistance application to the Department Head prior to registration for approval. Since the Tuition Policy was in the process of being edited and approved, a Village employee proceeded with his registration. Since this is outside of the newly adopted Tuition Policy guidelines, a request was made, on the employee’s behalf, for the expenses to be allowed for reimbursement. In addition, the policy states that reimbursement shall be limited to 2 courses per semester, quarter or session. The employee is also requesting reimbursement for 5 classes totaling \$823.64 which is less than the allowed amount. Included in the reimbursement figure submitted was \$261.30 in fees which are not allowed per the policy, only tuition and books are allowed expenses.

The following permission and clarification were requested from Council:

- 1) Permission for a one-time exception for tuition reimbursement since registration occurred while the Tuition Assistance Policy was in the update and approval process.
- 2) Should courses be limited to 2 courses per semester, quarter, or session, or consider \$2000 per fiscal year no matter how many classes are taken per semester, quarter, or session?
- 3) Do you wish to include any fees for reimbursement?

Mike Burrage moved to allow the one-time exception request and reimburse the allowed expenses of tuition and books only, and to change the policy from a 2-class limit per semester, quarter, or session to a no-class limit keeping the \$2000 per fiscal year limit and no fee reimbursement. Jeff Watson seconded the motion and it was approved 4/0.

**13. Other Business:** Anita Blair reported that proposed Zoning Ordinance Changes related to Chapter 160D and the Sign Ordinance are being distributed to the Planning Board. Copies were distributed to Council for review before the April 1<sup>st</sup> Planning and Zoning Meeting. The Village Council will hold a Public Hearing on April 12, 2021 to get public input regarding the proposed zoning changes and Council will approve at that time.

**14. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

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Mayor Michael “Frizbee” Herron

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Date

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Anita Blair, Administrator/Clerk

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Date