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# COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

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VILLAGE OF GEORGETOWN, OHIO

## MINUTES

### **Utility Services Committee Meeting Village of Georgetown September 10, 2020**

The Village of Georgetown Utility Services Committee convened in regular session on Thursday, September 10, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. until 6:23 p.m. in the Georgetown Municipal Building, Council Chambers. Chairperson Dave Guenther called the meeting to order with the following council members present: Councilmember Buddy Coburn and Councilmember Ginny Colwell. Employees present: Mayor Dale Cahall, Administrator Tyler Thompson and Fiscal Officer Natalie Newberry.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Chairman Guenther opened the floor to Nancy Montgomery who first wanted to clarify that Kelly Montgomery and herself did indeed obtain permission from Mayor Cahall and Fire Chief Rockey prior to painting the fire hydrant in front of the Bicentennial Park. Then as Nancy Montgomery, Ad Hoc Fiber Optics Committee Member, shared that after listening to the recording she felt there was some confusion at the last Utility Services Committee meeting held on July 9, 2020 and wanted to clarify the matter discussed in paragraph seven under the section General Business of the July 9<sup>th</sup> minutes. The paragraph reads as follows: *“Councilmember Coburn brought to the table the topic of the fiber optics project and an email sent from Thor Sage with MVECA to the Village Solicitor and carbon copied to the Mayor, Administrator, Fiscal Officer and Nancy Montgomery. Discussion held on why it was sent to Montgomery. Mayor Cahall said that it went to her since she was on the Ad Hoc Fiber Optics Committee and was unsure why it did not go to Councilmember Highlander, Councilmember Clift and Councilmember Cornette as they were also on that committee. Councilmember Coburn asked if all Ad Hoc minutes could get sent to Village Council. Mayor Cahall will get those to Village and Council.”* Ad Hoc Member Montgomery distributed a copy of the email also dated July 9, 2020 that was discussed at the July meeting and asked Councilmember Coburn how he received a copy. Councilmember Coburn could not recall who or how he got the email. It was explained that Nancy Montgomery is an Ad Hoc Fiber Optics Committee Member. Councilmember Coburn asked if the committee was a legally established committee. Mayor Cahall confirmed that he established the committee prior to Councilmember Coburn being on Council and that the members consisted of Councilmember Clift, Councilmember Cornette, Councilmember Highlander, Ad Hoc Committee Member Montgomery, and himself. Ad Hoc Member Montgomery also distributed another email dated June 25, 2020 explaining that this was a prior email where she was trying to get information clarified that was printed in the

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# COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

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VILLAGE OF GEORGETOWN, OHIO

newspaper and felt that Thor Sage was simply hitting reply all when sending the July 9<sup>th</sup> email. Councilmember Coburn noted that at the time of the last Utility Services Committee Meeting he did not know Nancy Montgomery was a member of the Ad Hoc Fiber Optics Committee. Ad Hoc Member Montgomery felt the minutes made spelling out her name and then just naming positions on others listed in Councilmember Coburn's question could make it appear "nefarious" or "sinister" to anyone going back to read the July 9, 2020 minutes; and wanted to make sure they knew there was nothing going on of that nature. Discussion held. Ad Hoc Member Montgomery asked the committee to amend their minutes and suggested only mentioning an Ad Hoc Member and removing her name entirely. Councilmember Guenther asked if making an amendment was legal. Mayor Cahall noted that the committee could amend their minutes if that is what they wished to do. Fiscal Officer Newberry noted that she could amend the minutes to what they wanted as long as it was something that was said in the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting; but not if it was never discussed that night. Councilmember Guenther ask if there was a motion. Fiscal Officer Newberry asked the committee if there was a motion, to be specific to how they wanted the amendment to read. The seventh paragraph under General Business located on page two of the July 9, 2020 Utility Services Committee were read aloud. Mayor Cahall suggested amending the minutes to read; Nancy Montgomery was an Ad Hoc Member but the others were inadvertently not included in the email. Fiscal Officer Newberry noted that Councilmember Coburn's exact question on July 9, 2020 was "why was it sent to Nancy and not to the other Councilmembers". Councilmember Coburn felt he was not degrading or putting Ad Hoc Member Montgomery in a bad light; and only asking a question he wanted an answer on. Ad Hoc Member Montgomery felt that the question was not answered at the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting since no one mentioned that she was attached to the prior email and had been the one talking with Solicitor Braun and Thor Sage. Discussion held that Mayor Cahall did respond to the question in the third sentence of the paragraph being discussed informing the committee that Nancy Montgomery was an Ad Hoc Fiber Optics Committee Member. Mayor Cahall shared that he felt that the minutes were true and was unsure if the minutes could be amended since they were correct. Ad Hoc Member Montgomery agreed the minutes were accurate to what happened at the July 9, 2020 meeting; but felt they were not an accurate representation on what the truth is. Discussion held on the minutes reporting what was said correctly. Ad Hoc Member Montgomery expressed she was still unsure why her name was mentioned, and others were not. Fiscal Officer Newberry noted that even if a person calls the Mayor by name, when abbreviating his name a title of Mayor would always be added out of respect and there was no rhyme or reason to how the individuals were listed. Discussion held. Councilmember Guenther shared he was okay with Fiscal Officer Newberry going back and listening to the recording and seeing if changes could be made. Fiscal Officer Newberry informed the committee that she had listened to the recording again and the only change could be quoting Councilmember Coburn's exact question. Councilmember Coburn felt any amendments would be an indictment of him attempting to disparage Ad Hoc Member Montgomery and that was not the case. Discussion held regarding the minutes of the Ad Hoc Fiber Optics Committee meetings. Ad Hoc Member Montgomery

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## VILLAGE OF GEORGETOWN, OHIO

thought Fiscal Officer Newberry took the Ad Hoc Committee minutes. Fiscal Officer Newberry noted that since she started she was always told that Ad Hoc Committees take care of their own minutes. Discussion held. Mayor Cahall noted that shorthand notes were taken so the members could stay refreshed from meeting to meeting; but no formal minutes to be submitted. Councilmember Guenther shared he didn't think an amendment could be made but assured the committee that this discussion would be in the minutes for tonight and suggested making a note on the last minutes to see further discussion on the next minutes. Discussion held. Fiscal Officer will have this conversation in the minutes clearly showing it is an extended discussion of paragraph seven under the section General Business of the July 9, 2020 Utility Services Committee meeting minutes. There were no motions for an amendment to the minutes.

Administrator Thompson updated the committee on the Station Drive Culvert Repair project. The Village applied for an emergency funding grant through Ohio Public Works Commission and has been approved for approximately \$220,000-\$240,000 in funding. The grant will cover seventy five percent of the project and the Village's estimated share will be around \$75,000. Administrator Thompson is hoping to bring legislation for Council to accept the funding and then Engineers can begin to bid the project out. Mayor Cahall noted that this area is along the abandoned railroad lines by Georgetown Station. Discussion held on using door hangers and making calls to property owners affected. Administrator Thompson shared that the Budget Committee started discussing the water fund and it's declining balance in a five year projection. Discussion held. Councilmember Guenther asked if the water was the first part of the Infrastructure Planning Project. Discussion held that water has had the two major capital projects come up with the emergency culvert repair and then the two water towers needing maintenance over the next two years. Discussion held on rates and waiting as long as possible before implementing an increase. Administrator Thompson will bring the water fund's five year projection to the next meeting. Discussion held that Council had discussed waiting to start the Infrastructure Planning Project. Councilmember Guenther made a motion to vote on the committee's show of support for the Infrastructure Planning Project to be done as whole sooner rather than later with a second from Buddy. Roll call taken with Coburn, Colwell and Guenther voting year. Motion carried.

Mayor Cahall announced that Thor Sage will be getting the Fiber Optics Project ready for bidding. Councilmember Coburn asked when the decision had to be made on the grant. Ad Hoc Fiber Member Montgomery informed the committee that construction had to start within eighteen months of the award date and estimated that the Village was coming close to the one-year mark. Councilmember Coburn wanted to make sure all the numbers were received before running out of time to use the grant funding. Discussion held regarding having more time to read through the Georgetown Fiber Optics Feasibility Study given to the committee. The study was put together by the Ad Hoc Fiber Optics Committee, Doug Moorman and Thor Sage. Councilmember Guenther suggested having an independent study completed. Discussion held that the fiber optic will not make the

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## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

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VILLAGE OF GEORGETOWN, OHIO

Village money for a few years. Ad Hoc Member Montgomery noted that the biggest value is that fiber optics is an economic tool that will attract more businesses. Councilmember Guenther shared that he is still hearing this will bankrupt the town; and thought the Village should be looking at the things wrong on our current infrastructure first. Councilmember Colwell also expressed concerns on the funding. Discussion on the types of businesses that need fiber for daily operations. Mayor Cahall thought it wouldn't be long before Thor Sage had a bid packet put together.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Next Regular Utility Services Committee were set for Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Georgetown Municipal Building, Council Chambers. Councilmember Coburn made a motion to adjourn with a second from Councilmember Colwell. Meeting adjourned.



Georgetown Mayor



Georgetown Fiscal Officer