

**Village of Mount Sterling Council**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday July 25, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Lowell Anderson.

Attending the meeting: Mayor Lowell Anderson, council persons Rebecca Burns, Mary Lou Stiverson-Ratliff, Jim Davis and David Timmons. Diane Spradlin absent, excused with a motion from Mary Lou Stiverson-Ratliff and a second from Rebecca Burns. John Martin, Mark Pitstick, Sheriff Sabin, deputy Jack Dill, other deputies, Bonnie Liff, representative from the Madison Messenger, Dean Shipley of the Madison Press and citizens of the village.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sheriff Sabin: Spoke on the issue with Joe Johnson.

- 30 felony counts
- Range from F5 to F1.
- No bond
- Arraign on Thursday morning
- 01/16 the new administration looked at the records. They suspected illicit activities. Brought to the attention of Sheriff Sabin. The Sheriff went to County prosecutor Steve Pronai. They contacted the Auditor of State to do a financial investigation.
- Ongoing investigation.
- Six months into the investigation Joe Johnson was arrested. Secured assets from him.
- Court trial can be lengthy. If found guilty, will sell the items. Funds will be returned to the village.
- Limited on what can be said. Going to take some time.
- Auditor is full speed ahead.

Sheriff Sabin asked village officials the following questions:

1. How over the years did this happen?

Mark: First: Over the last six months council acted in a way to be proud of.

- Council saw nothing in the reports that were given to them
- Council saw only the bills that were entered into the system.
- Credit card statements were seen by Village Administrator only. They were paid automatically out of the account, without fiscal officer or council knowing.
- UAN system not reconciled for some time.

2. What steps has the Village taken to correct this?

Mark: First there is never a guarantee that such activity will not happen.

- Two signatures on all checks now required.
- Village has no credit cards. We have a credit card policy.
- Three signatures on all purchase orders.

- View all of the bills.
- Organizational chart put in place. Personnel list, time sheets and pay charts.

3. Substantial amount of money was taken, financially how is the village?

Mark: General Fund-\$324,000; Water-\$310,000; Sewer-\$353,000; Permissive Street-\$35,000. Total of \$1,022,000.

Sheriff Sabin: Will continue to read about this in the media. It will be a long ongoing process.

Minutes from the July 11, 2016 meeting were accepted as written with a motion from Jim Davis and a second from David Timmons, all yes.

#### Department Reports:

##### Village Administrator:

###### Waste Water Treatment Plant:

- We are pulling samples to submit to the lab on the bio-solids.
- One interested party who indicates they will take all of the output from the facility.
- Still seeking a contractor to look at several issues at the bio-solids building that we need to have repaired before cold weather.

###### New Water Supply Plant:

- The walls of the holding and break tanks are partially poured and forms are off.

###### Current Water Supply Plant:

- The water plant is operating well with all components in the processing stream are now cleaned and operating.
- The hydrant flow testing and flushing went well.
- The meter replacement program is continuing with new meters being installed and several larger meters son order. 300-325 meters to replace.

###### Hydrant Flushing

- We will continue to monitor the water quality and determine if and/or when we need to flush the system again.

###### Street Signs/Stop Signs/Speed Bumps:

- We continue to replace speed and other signage as needed. (See attached).

David Timmons asked about mosquitos. John advised there are not a lot of reports on mosquitos. Traps are set out and the health department is testing the eggs for ZIKA and West Nile. If we can we will have West Jefferson spray.

#### Committee Reports:

Finance: Had a meeting on Thursday, July 21, 2016. Submitted recommendations. Any recommendation won't require an ordinance or resolution, per Mark.

Bills were all gone through, warrant list OK'd. Jim Davis made a motion to pay the bills with a second from David Timmons. All yes.3

Finance meeting tentatively set for August 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

RITA report: YTD \$406,000. Up from last year.

Parks and Recreation: Football camp was last Saturday. This was offered to ages 8-18. Field looked great. 8-9 OSU players. Heat was a factor. They are excited to come back next year. (See attached.)

Tri County Fire Department: Meeting is Tuesday July 26, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

Sterling Joint Ambulance District: Meeting is set for August 10, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

Pleasant Township: Met on July 18, 2016. Read and approved the minutes, discussed new health insurance policy, road repair, Burr Oaks street signs and paid the warrants.

Festival: Discussed date being closer to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Everyone please fill out the questionnaire on Community Center's website.

Chamber meeting is the third Wednesday in August at the Community Center.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Ord. 2016-23: An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2015-16 by providing supplemental appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Mount Sterling, Madison County, Ohio during the fiscal year ending December 31 2016, and declaring an emergency. First Reading.

Mary Lou Stiverson-Ratliff made a motion to place on first reading with a second from David Timmons. A voice vote was taken; Rebecca Burns-yes; Mary Lou Stiverson-Ratliff-yes; Jim Davis-yes; David Timmons-yes.

Round Table:

David Timmons: Contacted by the International Rock and Roll Trivia Show. May go to Canada next year. Thanked Jack Dill for all the work he has done with the children.

Mary Lou Stiverson-Ratliff: Thanked the Sheriff.

Jim Davis: Thanked the Sheriff and Mark. Appreciates everyone for coming.

Mayor Anderson: Thanked Sheriff and Mark. Appreciates everyone's support and concern.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

---

Bonnie Liff, Clerk of Council

---

Lowell Anderson, Mayor

Minutes were written on Tuesday, July 26, 2016.