

LEESBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL
“SPECIAL MEETING”
October 09, 2018
Mayor Freddie Snyder, Presiding

Mayor Freddie Snyder called the **special** session of the Leesburg Village Council to order on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Leesburg Municipal Building. No invocation was given and Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Mr. John Michael, Ms. Shawn C. Priest, Mr. Chris Runyon, Mr. Morgan Sheppard, and Mr. Scott Willey. Mr. Richard Tolle was absent
Also present: Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans. Police Chief Mr. Shane Nolley and Village Solicitor Fred Beery was absent.

Also attending: Administrator Jason Campbell, Teresa Smith, Keith Lamb, Bob Barrett and Dianna Fordyce.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Personnel Management Authority:

Councilman Morgan Sheppard opened by saying that Council has to remain neutral about the situation that Teresa Smith came forward with at the last meeting, and he asked the Mayor what he was doing about the problem and is it being addressed. Mayor Snyder asked Councilman Sheppard to clarify because he did not understand the question. Councilman Sheppard said Teresa (Smith) came forward with a problem and wants to know if the problem is being addressed and properly handled. Mayor Snyder stated we could not have an employee tattling and carrying tales. Mayor said we have one employee saying one thing and the other employee saying another thing and it was blown out of proportion of what actually happened. Councilman Sheppard asked if Council wanted to go into Executive Session on this matter. Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans stated that Solicitor Beery said if Council wanted to go in to Executive Session, they would have had to advertise it with the meeting notice and they did not. Councilman Sheppard said we have to start doing things the right way and Council cannot be involved in that. The Mayor is the top Administrator and needs to address the situation. Councilwoman Priest asked Mr. Sheppard to be specific as to what he wanted the Mayor to do. Councilwoman Priest stated the chain of command needs to be followed and that Teresa needs to report to Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans, then to the Mayor. If the problem is not corrected, then Teresa needs to come to Council. Councilman Sheppard stated that is what happened. Councilwoman Priest asked Mayor Snyder if Teresa came to him and he stated yes, and that he told her they would talk about it later. That is when Teresa started telling Council. Councilman Sheppard stated that if we are going to go down the route of who is tattling, he received a phone call this week accusing him of trying to overthrow Tracy (Evans) and he has no intentions of overthrowing Tracy. However, I took that call and it was probably caused by other calls so it is not just one-sided tattling. Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans stated if Councilman Sheppard was referring to her tattling, that she reports everything to President Pro Tem of Council (Shawn Priest) and that she reported the same to Councilman Richard Tolle when he was Council President Pro Tem and to the Mayor. Tracy Evans stated that Councilman Chris Runyon requested better

communication between the Council and Administration so she follows the chain of command (after first reporting to the Mayor) she then follows the chain of command and reports to the President Pro Tem of Council. Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans said she then leaves it up to the President Pro Tem to report to their Council if it is an important item. Councilman Sheppard asked then between that call and the other call, how am I getting calls accusing me of trying to over throw you (Tracy)? Councilman Sheppard stated this is total nonsense. In trying to make sure taxpayer's dollars and employees are taken care of does not need to be a personal thing where I am after somebody's job. Councilman Sheppard stated Council does not have a dog in the fight and it is up to the Mayor to handle this and to update Council. Councilwoman Priest then asked again, so what is it the Mayor should be doing? Councilman Sheppard stated the Mayor needs to speak with Teresa to see what her concerns are and there needs to be a final outcome and not leave this hanging and things need to be documented. Councilwoman Priest then asked Mayor Snyder if between now and the next regular meeting he could have a one on one meeting with Utility Clerk Teresa Smith. Mayor Snyder said that he would. Fiscal Officer Tracy Evans stated she felt as if things were finally back to normal in the office and now all of this is coming up again. Councilman Sheppard said he did not know why discussing this would rehash everything again. Councilman John Michael and Councilman Chris Runyon said because he (Morgan Sheppard) brought it all up again. Councilman Runyon said the Mayor should have called and let them know everything was figured out, and that Council should have been kept in the loop. Councilman Sheppard said he is a policy and procedure guy and the Village needs better policies.

Utility Rates: Councilman Sheppard said the entire issue from last meeting was possibly not being able to collect penalties, but the Fire Department has not made a payment on the water for almost two years. Councilman John Michael said that Mr. Sheppard had the wrong information and the Water Department paid their bill. Mr. Sheppard then said he was talking about where the Fire Department is getting water for other people (bulk water). Councilman John Michael stated the Fire Department does not bill or collect for bulk water that is the Villages responsibility. Mr. Michael then said that four or five years ago, the Village stopped giving bulk water because the EPA required they have a back flow preventer on the line and they did not want to do that. The Fire Department volunteered to do this service for the Village and they make no money from this. The Fire Department keeps a log of the person's name, address, and how much water they get. The log is then brought up (to the Village). Councilman Sheppard then asked if we are receiving the logs. Mayor Snyder stated the log was turned in the third day January this year. Councilman Sheppard asked if this is common practice to only do this once a year. Councilman Runyon said we were talking about the late fee's we are losing and this is still water the Village owns. Mayor Snyder said this is bulk water and this was an agreement made between the Village and the Fire Department. Councilman John Michael said he could make a phone call to Chief Stevens and the Fire Department can stop doing this, it is an inconvenience for them to do this. Utility Clerk Teresa Smith said that Chief Stevens sent the log down with Erika Hurless on October 1, 2018. At this time, Ms. Smith calculated the bills (five or six) all totaling \$538 and they were then mailed out. Councilman Michael stated that when they brought the log down to Teresa Smith in January and explained to her what she needed to do, he thought maybe this was something that Becky (the past Utility Clerk) did not train her on since it was only billed

twice a year. After much discussion on what Council should charge and how they should bill on bulk water, they decided to turn this over to the Utility Committee for further review.

Scott Willey moved and Shawn Priest seconded to adjourn at 7:55 PM. Roll call vote 5-0 Meeting adjourned.