Village of South Jacksonville

President Richard Samples	*Trustee J.W. Coleman*	*Trustee Paula Belobrajdic-Stewart*
Acting Village Clerk Mindy Olson	*Trustee Open*	*Trustee Tom Jordan*
Attorney Roland Cross	*Trustee Tom Luber*	*Trustee Steve Retzer*

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday October 17, 2024

Village Hall, 301 Dewey Drive, South Jacksonville, Illinois

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by President Richard Samples.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Attendance: The Roll Call was taken with all Trustees in attendance. Also in attendance were President Richard Samples, Police Chief Eric Hansell, Fire Chief Rich Evans, Code Enforcement Cindy Beddingfield, and Village Clerk and Treasurer Mindy Olson.

Absent from the meeting were Attorney Roland Cross and Public Works Superintendent Brian English.

Approval of Agenda: President Richard Samples asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion to approve by Trustee Stewart, second by Trustee Luber. Roll call was taken approving the agenda as presented unanimously.

Comments from the Floor: None

Discussion Items

1. *Discussion of Tourism Sponsorship for Jacksonville Festival of Lights in the amount of $2,500.00:* President Samples introduced Sarah Shellhammer who was present on behalf of Jacksonville Festival of Lights. Ms. Shellhammer gave an overview of the success of the event last year. There were over 5.,000 cars and 20,000 people who came through the display. President Samples asked if the event made any money. Ms. Shellhammer said the project was $100,000 project and they fell a little short, but the gate made up for the difference. They were able to begin this year with $27,000.00.

The event will be different this year with an all-new light display. There will be booklets distributed throughout the community. All business sponsors will have an ornament with their logo displayed on the path. Ms. Shellhammer said they are hoping to see the number of cars increase by 2,000. President Samples asked if there were any issues during the event. Ms. Shellhammer said there were no major issues. Trustee Stewart asked what the charge for a car to go through was. Ms. Shellhammer said it was $10.00 per car for up to 8 people. The event drew people from Springfield, Virginia, Quincy and many other towns. There were also several party buses that went through the display.

The event will run from November 29, 2024 through December 29, 2024. Ms. Shellhammer said they learned that people were generous and wanted to donate additional funds. They also collected items for Garrison School which they plan to do again this year. They are asking $2,500.00 for a sponsorship but would also take $5,000.00 for the Village to be a major sponsor. There will be a thank you to South Jacksonville on the front page of the booklet. They brought in a lot of traffic through Jacksonville. They are looking into getting light passes for families that cannot afford to go through. President Samples said they will make it an action item on the next meeting.

2. *Presentation and Discussion of Fiscal Year 2024 Audit:* President Samples presented Kristi Corpin from Eck, Schafer & Punke, LLP to present the audit. Ms. Corpin thanked the Board for the opportunity to present their findings for fiscal year 2024. She reviewed the 3 required documents with the Board and reminded the Board that their main requirement is to express an opinion on the financials. Ms. Corpin pointed out their concerns with their internal control findings including the lack of internal control and review of the bank statements and water bill adjustments. Also the issue that was found with a check that was received and deposited into a new account. Trustee Stewart asked if she could elaborate on the account. Treasurer Olson . d there was a check for the Foreign Fire Insurance that was received, and Chief Evans used the check to open a separate account for that fund.

   Ms. Corpin then went on to discuss the financial aspects of the audit. She reported that the assets of the Village were only down about $2,000.00 from the previous year and the liabilities also decreased. The overall net position of the village was up about $103,000.00 from the previous year. Ms. Corpin reported that there was a loss on the government activities before taxes but an overall increase of $103,000.00. She did bring to the Trustees' attention the overall loos in the business type activities and said those funds should be self-sufficient. Overall Ms. Corpin said the audit resulted in an unmodified or clean audit opinion.

   Treasurer Olson told the Board that she has already worked with the auditors and Village staff on the internal control issues noted in the audit. She presented the Trustees with a copy of the correction action letter she submitted to the auditors.

Old Business:

1. *Election:* Trustee Coleman advised the Board that he will not be seeking re-election at this time due to his current medical concerns. He has fully enjoyed his time on the Board. Trustee Stewart said she enjoyed working with him.
2. *South Jacksonville Celebration:* Treasurer Olson presented the Board with a spreadsheet detailing the costs associated with the last Celebration. This can be used as a guide to set the budget for the upcoming celebration.

3. *Jacksonville Festival of Lights:* Trustee Coleman said he does not want to do more than $2,500.00 for the sponsorship. Trustee Retzer said he still feels this does not bring anything to the Village. Trustee Coleman requests this be put on the agenda for $2,500.00 and paid out of tourism. The Board again suggested that the ordinance be reviewed and updated to not include the requirement for overnight stays. Village Clerk Olson said she would add it to the agenda.
4. *Demolition of House:* President Samples said that he and Superintendent English spoke with Rawlings Excavating regarding the demolition of the house at 1515 S. Main Street. The quote was under $20,000.00.
5. *901 Coronado:* President Samples advised the Board that the closing on the property is tomorrow, and we will bid it out for demolition.
6. *Pavillion Roof:* Trustee Coleman asked how the Village came out on the pavilion roof. President Samples said the roof was repaired and the cost was under $6,000.00.

New Business:

1. *Event:* Chief Hansell advised the Board of upcoming events for Halloween and Veterans Day.

Executive Session: President Samples advised there is a no need for an executive session.

Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Trustee Coleman, seconded by Trustee Luber. Roll call was taken with approving the motion unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Richard Samples, Village President

Attest:

Mindy Olson, Village Clerk

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0