

MINUTES
FOX FIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL
Monthly Work Session Agenda
June 27, 2024 ~ 4:30 PM
Village Hall Meeting Room

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Janice Gregorich called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
2. **Members Present:** Mayor Pro Temp Janet Nauman and Councilmembers Mary Gilroy, Warren Morgan, and Don Nelson
3. **Others Present:** Residents of the Village
4. **Discussion Items:**

Councilmember Nelson removed PD & FD Updates from his discussion items and replaced it with *Safety Reminder for July 4th*.

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilmember Gilroy and carried unanimously.

A. Mayor Gregorich

- Approval of Audit Contract with Anderson, Smithe, Wilke

Mayor Gregorich reported she and Councilmember Gilroy will be working with the Village Auditor, Ken Anderson and the CPA, Joyti Singh to complete the 2023-2024 FY Audit. The Village will need to approve the contract with the auditing firm for \$14,000. Councilmember Gilroy added the cost will be split 50/50 between general and water funds.

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to approve the contract with Anderson, Smith, and Wilke, seconded by Councilmember Gilroy and carried unanimously.

- Pinehurst Traffic Circle

Mayor Gregorich asked residents to be aware of changes the DOT is proposing to the Pinehurst Traffic Circle. Even though the traffic circle is not owned by Foxfire, it is still a county issue. Gregorich suggested that residents get involved whether they are in favor or not. Gregorich described some of the proposed changes including taking homes on Midland Road by imminent domain.

- Review of Village Fee Schedules

The council reviewed the current fee schedule and suggested changes to several items. Water rates will be further reviewed before a final fee schedule is adopted.

- Fire Department Contract

The council continued their discussion on the Fire Department Contract. There was extensive discussion regarding the funding and funding rate. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to approve the contract.

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to approve a contract with the West End Fire Department for \$305,000, seconded by Councilmember Morgan. A vote was called and carried by a vote of 3/2.

Gilroy – yes

Nelson-yes

Morgan-yes

Gregorich-no

Nauman-no

Mayor Gregorich asked to be on the record that she feels it's a mistake to fund \$305,000 without knowing their numbers and not at the 8.25 rate.

B. Mayor Pro Temp Nauman

- Bees at the Park

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman reported that Dees Bees were able to remove the queen bee but are still working on removing the remaining bees. She urged park visitors to stay away from the area in the interim.

C. Councilmember Morgan

- Water Conservation

Councilmember Morgan reported the State requires all water providers to submit a Water Shortage Response Plan every 5 years or each time they are updated. The report defines the conservation stages based on the run time of wells. The normal run time for the Village's six wells is 8 hours. During the summer months, irrigation increases, and we are currently pumping an average of 16 hours per day. Based on the response plan, this puts the Village in a Stage 3 restriction status. Non-essential uses of water must cease, and the demand must decrease to avoid pressure loss in the system. The public will be notified of the restrictions and asked to cease running irrigation sprinklers, washing vehicles, sidewalks, exterior buildings, filling of swimming pools, etc. The Fire Department will be asked to cease the flowing of hydrants at this time. There are penalties involved for those who continually violate the restrictions. Morgan added the golf course uses water drafted from their lakes to water the greens. This will not affect the Village system. The Council commended water technician Jesse Southard for the great job he is doing staying on top of the situation.

- Cross Connection Program

Councilmember Morgan explained the purpose of the cross-connection program, which all water providers are required to have in place. This program tracks the devices that homeowners install on the service line to prevent water from their home, swimming pool, or irrigation coming back into and contaminating our water system. Property owners are responsible for the installation and yearly testing of the backflow preventer. The tester must be certified by the State, and results must be forwarded to Foxfire. Our responsibility is to administer the program. Morgan proposes drafting an ordinance for this requirement. He further added there are companies available to administer this program for us, BSI and Aqua Resources. These companies notify the homeowner yearly when testing is required, track results, handle customer inquiries and provide Foxfire with reports. A notice of the requirement was sent out as part of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that was mailed to every water customer in the Village. Morgan will provide additional information at the upcoming July council meeting.

D. Councilmember Nelson

Councilmember Nelson provided police and fire department updates. The police department is getting the Dodge Charger back from the dealership. The department hired Officer Caleb McNeill and will hire James Coughenour once his paperwork comes back from Raleigh. Corporal Kivett will attend a course at Wake County Police Academy and when complete is eligible for promotion to Sergeant.

Nelson reminded residents that fireworks are not permitted in the Village.

5. Public Comments – Items Listed on Agenda Only

Debra Page – 21 S. Shamrock Drive had questions about the watering of her lawn and if she would be penalized for watering. Councilmember Morgan replied he understands that having a green lawn and healthy plants and flowers are desired, it is a non-essential use of water at this time; adding as people conserve and the demand goes down, the restrictions will be eased, but at this time watering is considered non-essential. Mayor Gregorich added if lawns are established, they will not die in a week or two.

Resident (no name provided) of Sunset Lane suggested that the Village require contractors maintain a 15' tree buffer on all new construction. Mayor Gregorich replied the State limits what towns and Village can demand even when it comes to clearing and planting of trees. This resident also suggested placing a message board outside of the Village administration office notifying residents of the water restrictions.

6. Adjournment

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously. The Work Session adjourned at 5:47 PM.



Lisa A. Kivett, MMC, NCCMC, CZO
Village Administrator/Clerk



Janice Gregorich
Mayor