

**Call to Order**

The Regular Session of Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Erwin. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Roll Call was completed by Clerk of Council. The following members were present.

Terry Erwin – P

Judy Neal – P

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

William Thompson – P

Mike McKeehan – P

Paul Zorn – P

Mayor Erwin asked newly elected Council members if they had been sworn in; Terry Erwin responded affirmatively and William Thompson responded he had not been sworn in.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meetings. Motion by Councilwoman Neal to approve the minutes of October 20, 2011, December 13, 2011 and December 28, 2011; Second by Councilman Terry Erwin. All yeas.

Mayor Erwin reported the 2012 Committee chairmen and committee members and advised the description and duties of each office would be made available to the Council members assigned. The Committees are: 1) Street, 2) Police, 3) Beautification, 4) Finance, 5) Business Recruitment, 6) Parks, 7) Building, 8) Health/Education and Welfare, 9) Records, 10) Tax Appeals Board.

**Old/New Business & Reports from Village Officials & Committees**

Isaacs-Niemesh asked if Duke Energy accounts were changed to Duke Retail. The Mayor responded he did not believe anything was done to date by the Administrator and the third reading would be completed this meeting. McKeehan noted the minutes of December 13, 2011 reflected the rules were suspended by Poe and the Resolution passed. Discussion followed. Oda stated the minutes of the meeting were approved with the rules suspended which are now the official record. Action would be required if the record is being challenged. Thompson stated he recalled the motion discussing the highest four electric accounts. The Mayor clarified the only question was whether it was passed on an emergency basis or not and stated he would verify with Poe on the motion. Isaacs-Niemesh expressed concern about the Village of Morrow web site. She stated updates were needed, photos, etc. The Mayor advised the Village recently completed the process required by the current company that oversees the web account; the former web administrator for the Village was removed and the Village Administrator, Rhonda Ward, was assigned as web administrator.

Zorn reported on the Neighborhood Watch Program. He advised he completed training on Cyber Bullying/ Sexting and one person attended the meeting. He advised he advertised it in the Pulse Journal and was very concerned with the low turnout. He reported the next session was planned for April, 2012. The Next Neighborhood Watch meeting was planned for February 9, 2012. The Mayor suggested having high school students pass out literature for the next meeting; it would satisfy their community service requirement. Neal suggested the PTO's assist him. Zorn asked Neal for her help. He advised George Taylor passed and reported he and other Council members attended the funeral. Zorn noted there was another web site for the Village of Morrow that was outdated. The Mayor stated the web site referenced was entered online by a private company the Village contracted several years ago; there were disagreements regarding the terms of the contract. That entity refuses to take that web site down. Zorn also expressed concern about future insurance rates; he felt it may be necessary to have a rider

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to ensure rates don't increase significantly. Isaacs-Niemesh responded and stated she spoke with Derek Pierce who advised he would shop other carriers in March, if necessary, to keep cost down.

Councilman Thompson stated he wanted to set the record straight; regarding the eighteen wheelers that were removed from Morrow Plaza; the credit belonged to Mayor Erwin and thanked him for making that happen. He raised a procedural question regarding not being sworn in previously and asked if the Village controlled that. Mayor Erwin advised he went to the County to be sworn in on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed. Oda discussed the ruling regarding the swearing in of elected individuals; he reported it states one must be sworn in before undertaking the official duties of the office. He did not know if a problem existed due to his swearing in not taking place before the onset of the meeting. Thompson asked Oda if he could be sworn in at that time. Oda administered the oath of office.

Motion by Neal to appoint Councilman McKeehan as Vice-Mayor; Second by Terry Erwin. All yeas by roll call. Motion Carried. McKeehan stated it was an honor and thanked Council members for the opportunity.

Neal applauded Terry Erwin and William Thompson on their elections as new Council members for the Village of Morrow. She also reported she saw the new police cruiser and it was a very nice automobile.

The Mayor completed the second reading of Ordinance #19-11 for 2011 Appropriations and Resolution #21-11, transferring four electric utility accounts to Duke Retail.

Isaac-Niemesh raised a question regarding Resolution #21-11 for Duke Energy. Discussion followed. Oda clarified Council's options regarding the Resolution which reflected the rules suspended in the December 13, 2011 minutes.

Fiscal Officer Kathie Koehler reported all financial records were rolled over for the 2012. She stated the books were in balance and there was a carryover. She advised, at the next meeting, the financial report would be discussed.

Chief Heath Kilburn stated it was good to see Ron Maag and the new Council members at the meeting. He reported he negotiated crime lab costs and they will be the same as 2011 rates, a savings of \$1,800. Kilburn advised the old patrol car was ready for sale on Gov Deals and he is working on the disposition of other vehicles now in the Village garage. The Chief acknowledged a gentleman complained about a broken pole near Centers place. Tim Erwin stated it was cleaned up earlier that day.

Solicitor Oda recommended Council pass and adopt a Resolution on personnel policies for credit card use. McKeehan stated he thought a policy was already in place. Koehler stated it never passed. Koehler also advised State Auditors would be in Morrow near the end of January.

Motion by McKeehan to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #1-12; second by Neal. All yeas by roll call. Motion by Terry Erwin to adopt Resolution #1-12, adopting credit card use policy for Village personnel; second by Neal. All yeas by roll call. Motion carried.

Oda raised a question on the copier contract. The Mayor clarified Comdoc was a new provider with new contract provisions and cost savings. The prior contract would expire in February and the first reading of Resolution #25-11 was completed in December. Kilburn asked if Anderson 2012 (Ohio Rev. Code) was received. Oda stated he would check the month of the prior approval. He advised it was normally April.

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Mayor Erwin completed the second reading of Resolutions #25-11, for Comdoc and #27-11 for the Woodlands Snow Removal.

**Public Forum**

The Mayor opened the floor to the public. No comments were made.

**Approval of Disbursements**

Koehler advised there were no disbursements to submit for approval and she was unable to make payments before rollover. She distributed four Schuerer Trust Fund applications.

Standard Bank Reconciliation Reports by Fund and Fund Summary were provided from December 13, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

Isaacs-Niemesh inquired about progress on the grocery for Morrow. The Mayor reported inspections were completed. He stated another party has stepped in and is in the process of purchasing the Plaza. Zorn asked if the Village was still pursuing an excavator. The Mayor responded.

Motion by McKeehan to approve the Schuerer Relief Fund applications. All yea.

Oda distributed proposed Tax Amnesty Ordinance. Neal and McKeehan wished to move forward with the Tax Amnesty Program. Isaac-Niemesh asked if it would help. Oda stated it was very successful in County four years ago. He explained stipulations included and the Tax Commissioner has the right to disqualify individuals. McKeehan asked if the Village Tax Administrator was aware. Oda advised he spoke with the Tax Administrator the previous year and she was in agreement with a plan of this type.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #1-12; second by McKeehan. Five yea by roll call, one nay by Thompson. Motion by Neal to adopt Ordinance #1-12, adopting Tax Amnesty stipulations for the Village of Morrow for a specified period and declaring an emergency; Second by McKeehan. All yea by roll call. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Motion by McKeehan to adjourn; Second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

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Kathie Koehler, Fiscal Officer

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Mike Erwin, Mayor