

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

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meetings. Motion by Councilwoman Neal to approve the minutes of March 13, 2012; second by Councilman McKeehan. All ye.

The agenda was read by the Mayor. Mayor Erwin discussed engineering items for the Village and reported Morrow made application for a CDGB grant. The grant was awarded for replacement of the water lines, sidewalks, roadwork, drainage and construction. The cost was \$136,500; the County awarded the Village \$124,000 and the Village cost was \$12,500 for the Welch Road Project starting next year. The Water Plant was built in 1947; without upgrades, we are running on one well. We had a failure on Well 2; emergency repairs are underway. The Mayor stated he believed the Village should rebuild the plant with a new water filtration system and perhaps a water softener in the future. He stated the hard water and rust over time posed a hardship on residents. The engineering study will be discussed; he yielded the floor to Shawn Campbell.

Shawn Campbell, Jones-Warner Engineering

Campbell reported an assessment of the Water Plant was made five years ago. He stated he previously discussed the plant with the Mayor and also with the County. He advised an upgrade was done about two years ago with the chlorine room. Campbell stated he and Dick Warner, a partner of the firm met with the Mayor and looked at the plant. He advised facilities should be replaced with a new building in the future; his firm would prepare a proposal and estimate. Campbell stated the cost to rebuild the Water Plant would be very substantial. He advised he would look into grants for assistance and obtaining other funding for the project and loans.

The Mayor stated water rates were not raised for political reasons by prior Councils; if rates were raised periodically, the Village would be in a better situation now. He acknowledged progress was being made on a Capital Improvement Plan with the Fiscal Officer and Financial Committee, looking at a five year plan. The water system would be modular so additions could be made. The engineering study would cost \$4,500. Shawn Campbell advised the Ohio Water Developmental Authority was aware he would approach them later in the year for potential funding for the project. He discussed water rates and future increases. Two documents were provided, one for the engineering study and one for the Highlawn Avenue Project scheduled for 2012. Campbell stated the Highlawn Avenue improvements were made possible through the Community Development Block Grant and will begin once school is dismissed for the summer. Neal pointed out school would reopen after Labor Day. Mayor Erwin stated the Water is an Enterprise Fund and \$4,500 would come from the Water Fund. Councilwoman Niemesh asked how much was in the fund. Fiscal Officer Koehler advised \$403,000. Neal asked Solicitor Oda for clarification on the wording of the motion needed. He stated approval for water system upgrade engineering study for \$4,500 for the Village of Morrow and approval to move forward with construction on the Highlawn Avenue Project.

April 10

12

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #6-12; second by Councilman Zorn. All yea by roll call. Motion by Neal to adopt Ordinance #6-12, authorizing Mayor and Village Administrator to execute an agreement for professional engineering services for Water System upgrade and declaring an emergency for \$4,500; second by Zorn. All yea by roll call.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #7-12; second by Councilman T. Erwin. All yea by roll call. Motion by Neal to adopt Ordinance #7-12 authorizing Mayor or Administrator to execute professional service agreement with Jones Warner Consultants, Inc. for Highlawn Avenue Rehab Project and declaring an emergency; second by Erwin. All yea by roll call.

Isaacs Niemesh asked Campbell what other communities are paying for water. Campbell agreed to provide other area rates.

Committee Reports from Village Officials

Beautification Committee – Councilman Thompson reported on the planting on the bridge over Todd’s Fork. He asked Zoning Administrator Jesse McKeehan to verify everything was okay with ODOT to move forward. He advised the work would be done by volunteers. He referenced a written report of March 27, 2012 to Council and the Mayor (Attachment) which was distributed by Fiscal Officer Koehler to those present at the meeting. Thompson advised he was referring one item to the Parks Committee. He advised Neal previously contacted Sue Ann Nelson who will report to the committee. He reported Rex Parker inquired regarding Christmas decorations on Main Street. Thompson discussed the existing lighting on Main Street and cited an alternative to additional lighting. He advised he considered banners such as those attached to utility poles with bracket sets and would provide more information at a later date.

Police Committee – Neal reported the committee had a recent meeting by phone and the Chief advised everything was working well with the department.

Village Green Space – McKeehan advised new trees were planted in Village green space near Veterans Park; he reported a problem with a few infested older trees in Village green space where box elder bugs are covering a citizen’s house. Niemesh asked if the bugs could be sprayed; McKeehan responded the particular bugs are very hard to exterminate. The Mayor stated he would contact Larry Easterly to take care of the trees. Discussion followed.

Parks Committee – Terry Erwin reported upgrades are completed, work was done on the pines, shrubs were trimmed and pressure washing has been done.

Street Committee – Zorn reported pot holes are being patched.

Koehler reported a 9.8% increase in Health Insurance. She previously estimated a 10% increase when Budget Appropriations were approved. The Mayor asked the total cost of health insurance for the year. Kathie Koehler stated \$68,851.90. Isaacs-Niemesh stated the agent should shop for a better rate and we wait for the results.

Koehler requested a Resolution for \$13,590 in Contractual for the engineering for Highlawn Avenue.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings for Resolution #5-12; second by Terry Erwin. All yea. Motion by Zorn to adopt Resolution #5-12, \$13,590 adjustment in Contractual for engineering for Highlawn Avenue; second by Neal. All yea.

April 10

12

A Resolution was also requested to move funds \$65 in 720, increase appropriations in Police Department for repairs, towing and storage for \$2,479. Koehler advised \$2,000 was reimbursed through insurance; the budget would increase by the amount of the insurance check. She also stated Warren County jail service was higher than anticipated.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #6-12; second by McKeehan. Motion by Zorn to adopt Resolution #6-12, making adjustments to appropriations in Police Fund; second by Neal. All yea.

Zoning - Mayor Erwin stated Jesse McKeehan, the new Zoning Inspector, was doing a good job; he is setting up an office in the building on the southside of Pike Street, across from the Municipal Building. He has submitted a revision of the Zoning Request Form. He stated the new form prepared is more specific regarding requests and associated fees. Jesse McKeehan advised he updated what was in place. He advised a lot of building was done without a permit. The fees recommended, Jesse McKeehan stated, are more in line with the community; the Village is getting pummeled right now. Zorn asked if there were penalties. Jesse McKeehan responded penalties would be assessed by Council. Ordinance 1098 was referenced by the Mayor. Thompson stated, when building, you must get a Zoning Permit from Morrow and Building Permit from Warren County. Jesse McKeehan stated he felt the fees in place were cheap and the Village was losing money. Thompson discussed square footage and fees for building a home; he also inquired as to what Warren County was charging. Jesse McKeehan explained. Discussion continued. Neal inquired about the time limits. Jesse McKeehan advised six months and if the individual or entity reapplied, the fee is reduced to 50%. Isaacs-Niemesh inquired regarding the *Change to Amendment* explanation. Jesse McKeehan explained it is normally \$750, but he reduced it to \$500.

Mayor Erwin stated this is a valuable tool for Council; we don't want to raise taxes. He stated this could be established as a line item at a later date, a revenue stream once determined. Isaacs-Niemesh inquired about public events and the requirement for permits, if any. Jesse McKeehan asked if she was referring to events such as a circus. Councilman McKeehan cited an example such as baseball events. Jesse McKeehan stated Council could waive permit requirement in such cases. Discussion followed. John Poe stated a permit *is* required; the fee could be waived. Oda gave clarification that the only thing being done at this time was establishing a fee for a permit structure already in place. Jesse McKeehan advised most items from the 1986 form required clarification; the zoning code should be posted on the website. The new Zoning Inspector stated he wanted the zoning information to be more accessible. The Mayor asked Council what were their feelings.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #8-12 to accept the fee schedule as presented; second by Terry Erwin. Oda provided language for the motion, to set a schedule for permit fees. Five yea by roll call, one nay by Thompson; he asked Council to look at it further. Isaac-Niemesh asked if the Village would be comparable and if variances were lower than other areas as an example. Jesse McKeehan stated the other areas are comparable and many are the same as Warren County; he pointed out that he reviewed this with Warren County Zoning official Mike Getter.

Motion by Neal to adopt Ordinance #8-12, setting a schedule for Zoning Permit fees; second by Councilman McKeehan. All yea by roll call.

Ordinances/Resolutions

Mayor Erwin advised an Ordinance was needed for the 2012 Ohio Basic Code supplement.

April 10

12

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #9-12; second by Terry Erwin. All yea. Motion by Neal to adopt Ordinance #9-12, adopting the 2012 Ohio Basic Code; second by Zorn. All yea.

Public Forum

Sue Ann Nelson stated a permit was not required to paint the bridge. She reported Keith Smith, the Environmental Engineer, approved the type of paint desired. Mayor Erwin stated he would take Sue Ann Nelson to the Southwest Regional office at Mathers Mill to meet with J. Worley. Nelson stated three funding program applications are required, possibly a grant. She advised Damon Shipley and Friends of Little Miami are being approached. Terry Erwin agreed to help her with the funding project. She advised she needed estimates for the painting. Sue Ann Nelson requested an automated owl for the bridge to control the birds. Zorn will research the costs. Discussion followed. Terry Erwin offered to purchase an owl at Tractor's Supply; he commended Sue Ann Nelson for her efforts.

Approval of Disbursements

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to pay the bills; second by Neal. All yea.

Standard Bank Reconciliation Reports by Fund and Fund Summary were provided from March 1, 2012 to April 2, 2012.

McKeehan reported on the Food Drive. Terry Erwin stated it was appreciated. Neal advised donations are always accepted from individuals and the community at the Food Bank. Jesse McKeehan proposed a Village logo; he felt it would nice for Morrow. Neal agreed. Zorn suggested a contest with recognition; Isaacs-Niemesh stated the school should be involved. Poe agreed young people should be involved; he stated he spoke with a thirteen year old who is interested in getting involved in community activities.

Adjournment

Motion by Neal to adjourn; second by Thompson. All yea.

Kathie Koehler, Fiscal Officer

Mike Erwin, Mayor