

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

Mike McKeehan – A

Judy Neal – P

Terry Erwin– P

William Thompson – P

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

Paul Zorn – P

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of previous meetings. Motion by Councilman Terry Erwin to approve the minutes of the July meetings, 10th and 26th with necessary correction, page 2, paragraph 3 of the Special Meeting; second by Councilwoman Neal. All ye.

Committee Reports from Village Officials

Beautification Committee – Councilman Thompson advised the committee meeting minutes were sent to all committee members. He stated an individual donor recommended perennials for the planter boxes on the bridge. Loveland advised perennials wouldn't do well because air circulates under and over the plants and they would freeze solid. He stated he would follow up with the individual regarding the suggestion. Thompson also stated someone tampered with the flowers; clumps were thrown on the ground. He reported next year the committee will have volunteer organizations participate. He advised 4H expressed interest in participating this year.

Thompson acknowledged Tobler's presence and explained the group got off to a late start on the murals and the work would carry over into the next year. He stated he would review the composite with Mr. Tobler.

Councilwoman Isaacs Niemesh offered suggestions to improve the signage on Village property across from the Municipal Building to advertise meetings and other information. Mayor stated a new sign would be ideal. Thompson suggested the sign might be attached to the building. McKeehan stated it should be near the road for better viewing. Discussion followed. All were in agreement. Isaacs-Niemesh thanked Administrator Rod Smith for the report provided to Council members.

Neal reported the resolution of a concern of one citizen regarding brown water during the recent flushing. She also announced the upcoming Back to School Give-a-Way of school supplies on Saturday, August 31st by the Morrow Church of God. She asked for volunteers, stating more than 200 were serviced in 2011 during the Back to School Give-a-Way.

Neighborhood Watch – Zorn reported a meeting was scheduled for August 31, 2012 at 7pm regarding the police cruiser recall. Zorn reported the Neighborhood Watch Meeting held on Friday, July 13, 2012, at the Masonic Lodge at 7pm, had only one person in attendance.

Councilman McKeehan requested an update on the street project. The Mayor advised the project had not been put out for bid; the County was handling it. The Mayor stated he previously inquired with the County regarding the project. McKeehan pointed out the project was to start in July.

Solicitor Oda advised one Resolution required a motion and asked the Fiscal Officer to clarify. Kathie Koehler advised several line items required adjustments and referred

Council to a memo distributed listing the adjustments and line items. She stated a \$10,500 adjustment was needed from the Woodlands Recruitment Improvement Fund. The Mayor addressed the item during his comments.

The Mayor stated he requested Council approve a one year Rumpke contract extension at the previous meeting. He explained in a recent meeting company representatives offered to roll rates back to 2010 if the Village approved the contract for *two* years. He stated this way resident's rates would not need to be raised. He asked Council to amend the Ordinance.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings to amend Ordinance #15-12; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea. Motion by Neal to adopt the amendment for Ordinance #15-12, extending the Rumpke waste contract for two years; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

Mayor Erwin discussed the water problem causing flooding at Hopkins and Virginia, as well Thompson; he stated water is coming off the subdivision. He advised Salem Township did not want to participate to repair it. Mayor Erwin stated the problem has gone on for 30 years; recently, some of the residents had to replace carpet. He advised the engineers looked at the problem area; work could be completed from the Woodlands Improvement Fund. The Mayor stated the Village would be able to make the repairs for about \$10,000 rather than \$30,000; Chief Kilburn would provide his equipment. Mayor Erwin described the equipment to be used and the repair process. McKeehan asked for the specific location of the catch basin. The Mayor gave the location and stated he felt the repair should be done and advised Thompson Street was a much bigger problem and may require a grant. Discussion followed. Oda advised action would require either a majority vote or a Resolution. Mayor Erwin called for a majority vote. All yea.

The Mayor discussed the restroom at Phegley Park. He stated there was not a restroom on the Bike Trail open year around. More people are gathering in that area on the weekend. He suggested the park restroom be opened year around to attract more people to the area. In order to do this, the restrooms would need to be winterized and heated. Council agreed.

Approval of Disbursements

Fiscal Officer Kathie Koehler distributed one Schuerer Trust Fund application for review. Village disbursements were distributed to Council. Standard Bank Reconciliation Reports by Fund and Fund Summary were provided from July 1, 2012 to August 10, 2012. Koehler advised Council received a copy of the adjustments needed. She explained the Leads invoice increased and a \$300 adjustment was needed; the Feed Holiday credit expired and the cost increased to \$1200.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #13-12; second by Councilman Erwin. All yea. Motion by Neal to adopt Resolution #13-12, approving adjustments to line items in the appropriations as requested; second by T. Erwin. All yea.

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

Committee Reports from Village Officials Cont'd

Village Administrator Rodney Smith discussed the report distributed to Council of projects underway in the Village and gave his reasoning for providing the communication. He advised he would provide a report each month. He highlighted areas where steps were being taken to enhance processes including Record Retention and the Economic Development strategy for the Village. He stated there were a lot of positive comments regarding the flowers along the bridge. Smith asked for questions on the report. McKeehan complimented Smith for the report and inquired about the grant

awarded through the Ohio Attorney General's office to help communities eliminate blighted properties of \$45,000 to the Village. Smith responded. Mayor Erwin described the four targeted properties, 3 on Main Street and one on Mill Street. He provided additional information on *Moving Ohio Forward* and the grant in question. Discussion followed.

The Mayor advised Morrow expressed interest and later applied for the program by the published deadline. He stated Mr. Burris, one of the property owners, agreed to participate. McKeehan expressed concern that the Village would pay to have Burris' properties demolished with Burris retaining the land. The Mayor advised the program to demolish blighted properties was previously discussed in a Council Meeting. The Mayor asked what choice the Village had; thousands of dollars could be spent to get the owners to take action to correct the problems. Neal asked if there was a way to seize the property. Isaacs-Niemesh asked if the money could be used for anything else; she expressed concern that three of the properties were owned by one owner. McKeehan asked what the owners' intents were with regard to the vacant land. Discussion continued. The Mayor explained the funds were coming from the banks due to the real estate debacle. He advised additional funds would be available in the future, but the dollars must be used for properties and uses specified. The Mayor stated the initial amount was \$500,000 divided evenly among communities who expressed interest and applied by the July 30, 2012 deadline. The Village was given ten days to find owners who were willing to participate and list the properties and owners.

The Administrator stated he couldn't imagine anyone would purchase the properties in their current state and advised the vacant land provided economic opportunity for the Village. The Mayor stated this would be a better opportunity. The Mayor advised the lots would be leveled and seeded for grass. He stated there are several nuisance properties in the Village. Isaac-Niemesh asked if the owner of 215 Mill Street agreed to the program. The Mayor responded yes. Smith stated if rebuilding takes place, owners will be required to meet building and zoning codes.

Smith continued his reporting and advised he would like to meet with the Beautification Committee regarding the entrance to Morrow. Regarding Public Affairs, he advised he would publish a weekly electronic newsletter with a community calendar. He stated web site updates would be added soon; additional contact information for the County would also be added during August. Smith highlighted upcoming local events.

Public Forum

Mr. Johnson of 204 Mill Street provided photos of an adjacent property. He discussed the poor conditions, grass, weeds and piles of brush present for three years. He stated he recently filled a wheelbarrow with debris from that property. Johnson also stated a \$60 plant was recently stolen from his front porch. McKeehan asked if the property in question was north or south of Johnson's property. The Mayor advised he would write a certified letter to the bank regarding said property. Discussion followed. The Mayor stated there were several bank-owned properties with tall grass, weeds and debris. McKeehan stated after cutting the grass on one of those properties, the bank sent someone out to cut it the following day. Johnson advised Councilman Thompson made a contact and took care of a problem for him; as a result, the street will be repaired. He expressed his appreciation.

Motion by Erwin to approve Schuerer Trust Fund application; second by Neal. All yea.

Adjournment

Motion by T. Erwin to adjourn; second by Zorn. All yea.

Kathie Koehler, Fiscal Officer

Mike Erwin, Mayor