

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.

Mike McKeehan – P

Judy Neal – P

Terry Erwin– P

William Thompson – P

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

Paul Zorn – P

Mayor Erwin welcomed John Kasper as the incoming Civil Solicitor replacing Solicitor Oda in 2013.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of previous meetings. Motion by Councilwoman Neal to approve the minutes of the November meeting with the necessary correction; second by Councilman Zorn. All ye.

Committee Reports from Village Officials

Beautification Committee – Councilman Thompson reported the warm weather during the week would allow them to proceed with the mural. He stated he would meet with the committee regarding the planters along the bridge.

Neighborhood Watch – Councilman Zorn reported the Neighborhood Watch meeting would be held on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at the Municipal Building; Mr. Ducker advised him Officer Matt Landrum would be available for the meeting. Zorn advised he was setting up a website for VFW Memorial donations. He was exploring the idea of selling bricks to fund the project. The Mayor stated it could be linked to the Village website.

Isaacs-Niemesh reported the local school collected over 1000 items and would not need help from the Village to pick up collections on December 14, 2012. She advised help would be needed on December 20, 2012 following the concert on the 18th and 19th.

Police Committee – Neal reported per the Police Chief, everything is going well with the department. She reported she spoke with Tammy Griffith regarding transportation. Neal also thanked everyone for their kindness to her husband during his illness.

Councilman McKeehan reported he was pleased with how well Ordinance 10-98 was being implemented. He stated there was noticeable improvement at Marshall's; the Mayor helped there and Zoning Inspector Jesse McKeehan also. McKeehan asked Administrator Smith about the repairs to the storm sewer discussed at the last meeting. Smith advised the crew worked on it following the last meeting. The Mayor suggested the box from the repair made on Hopkins be used. The Mayor stated we may want to dig it out and make a permanent repair. Thompson advised the culvert at Hopkins and First needed repair. McKeehan stated a gap still existed at the storm drain. Thompson reported the culvert at Hopkins and First is bent and needs repairing.

The Village Administrator provided a monthly report to Council. He also acknowledged a Comprehensive Plan meeting was scheduled for December 12, 2012 at 6:30pm; he asked representatives from Council to attend. Smith also advised he was working with Ohio Department of Development on a strategy for community reinvestment #08-03; once the Community Reinvestment Act is updated correctly, he will report the information. The Administrator discussed Natural Resources, stating there were ideas for improvements for the parks and grants were being explored for that purpose. He hoped

to have Warren County Parks partner with the Village on grants. He also advised Duke Energy was addressing the leaning poles. Smith stated he was working on two replacements, 158 Thompson and 361 Hopkins; the permits have been approved for change outs. The Administrator also reported Duke Energy was applying for a rate increase with the PUCO.

Smith advised he would attend a conference sponsored by ODOT on December 12th, a free all day workshop on grants. He reported the Village's Engineer would discuss the Welch Road Phase I OPW Project planned for the coming year and the grant awarded. The Administrator thanked Zorn for his idea for the Village Flag and Seal Contest, stating the response from the community was very good. The Little Miami Schools, Pinecrest Nursing Rehab Center, Warren County Historical Society, Warren County Career Center, etc. have provided ideas for the flag; the library is setting up a great display. He stated entry sheets are available; it is an exciting project. The Administrator reported the sign displaying meeting dates should be ready by the next Council Meeting. McKeehan advised he was pleased and asked if Merry Christmas could be added. Smith stated the graphic artist at the sign shop designed it and he would try to email the design to Council.

Regarding the legislative bulletin, the Ohio General Assembly has quite a list to push through this session Smith stated. He asked those present to contact State Representative Maag and voice their opinions.

Shawn Campbell – Jones Warner Engineering

Campbell reported Ohio Public Works Commission approved \$225,975 for the Village. The total project cost is \$327,500. He advised he is attempting to secure a Community Development Block Grant for \$80,000; if successful, the Village share would be smaller. Discussion followed. Campbell advised block grants from HUD are being cut and funds are going to the east coast. Mayor Erwin advised the Village has \$37,000 in savings from receipts from builders earmarked for infrastructure which would be used for the Village contribution portion.

Campbell advised Jerry Haddix who administers grant projects is leaving Warren County at the end of the year and will be sorely missed. He reported he previously spoke with Haddix about the Highlawn Project which is to start in 2013. The Mayor stated the Village may have options such as financing if the Community Block grant is not approved for the new project. Campbell stated the project could be scaled back and not go to Pattison. He stated we had a lot of success in recent years. The Mayor stated Jones Warner was an asset to the Village in getting improvements funded. Shawn stated the infrastructure should be maintained. The Mayor stated all the major arteries will be completed in the near future.

Oda advised a Resolution was needed for Warren County for the CDBG and an Ordinance to enter into the agreement with Jones Warner for the completion of the Welch Road Phase I Project.

Motion by T. Erwin to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #19-12; second by Neal. All yea. Motion by Erwin to approve Resolution #19-12, for CDBG with Warren County for Welch Road Phase I Project; second by Neal. All yea. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Erwin to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #21-12; second by Neal. All yea. Motion by Erwin to adopt Ordinance #21-12, authorizing the Mayor or Village Administrator to enter into agreement with Jones Warner for completion of Welch Road Phase I Project; second by Neal. All yea. Motion carried.

Fiscal Officer Koehler reported an ad would be placed in the paper and a special Meeting scheduled for the Annual Appropriations. Neal suggested a Tuesday meeting. December 19, 2012 at 6:30pm was the consensus. The Mayor stated notices would be sent; the appropriations must be approved.

Ordinances/Resolutions

Fiscal Officer Kathie Koehler provided a list of several appropriation adjustments required. She discussed a Public Employment Retirement System error found of \$1486 which was not paid over 20 years ago. She explained it occurred when Lafollette was Village Clerk and the amount was due toward his retirement. With penalty, the total was \$2,186.14 which included a fine of \$700. Also, funds from the Woodlands for Welch Road Infrastructure Improvement Fund must be moved by increasing and decreasing line items by \$37,809.15. An adjustment was needed to pay the park's janitor. She also stated the homes slated would not be demolished in 2012 and appropriations must be decreased / increased by \$45,000 due to federal inspections and asbestos abatement. Funds (4901) must be moved from 2012 to be added back later. Oda advised a Resolution for enumerated adjustments was needed.

Motion by T. Erwin to suspend the rules and waive the three readings for Resolution #20-12; second by Neal. All yea. Motion by Erwin to adopt Resolution #20-12 to approve enumerated adjustments for specific line items in the appropriations and declaring an emergency; second by Neal. All yea.

Approval of Disbursements

Fiscal Officer Kathy Koehler provided Standard Bank Reconciliation Reports by Fund and Fund Summary were provided from November 1 to December 7, 2012 and distributed Village disbursements to Council members. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to pay the bills; second by Neal. All yea.

Oda advised he prepared a revision of the Western Water agreement provided to Council. He stated he and John Kaspar worked on it to protect the Village's interest. The agreement was shortened to a one year contract that renews automatically. The no assignment language was enhanced. Oda reported the revised agreement would be sent to Western Water for review. Thompson asked who would approve the opening of valves referenced in item #2. If agreement is in place, Oda responded, it would fall under the Village Administrator. Thompson expressed concern regarding the *temporary clause* for thirty days in item #6, inadequate supply/high demand. Oda stated it referred to external event only; internal decisions would not be classified as an emergency. Thompson also questioned the *buying party, etc. rate*. He asked if the Village provided water to Salem Township free for fighting fires in that case. Oda responded yes in emergency situations. Thompson asked for clarification on final line of the agreement which referenced a Board of Trustees. Oda advised he would change it to Village Council. Neal asked if there was only one Master Meter. The Mayor responded yes, it is metered both ways. Mayor Erwin stated Council would discuss it next month. He asked if everyone was fine with the changes noted. There were no objections.

Thompson stated during the April meeting, Campbell advised he would seek funding to rebuild the Water Plant. The Mayor reported he and the Administrator met with Shawn Campbell and they will research it further in 2013 and discuss it next month.

Public Forum

Poe recommended everyone attend the Comprehensive Meeting on December 12, 2012. A citizen commented on the rehab of the property across the way.

Motion by T. Erwin to go into Executive Session at 6:50pm to discuss personnel issue; second by Neal at 6:48pm. All yea. Motion by Erwin to return to Regular Session; second by Neal. All yea.

Regular Session of Village Council

December 11

12

The Mayor stated we discussed bringing Bob Kaufman in as magistrate for the Village. Council made a determination this would be the reasonable thing to do. Oda stated that being said, an Ordinance was needed to hire Kaufman as magistrate.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #22-12; second by Erwin. All yea. Motion by Neal to adopt Ordinance #22-12, to hire Bob Kaufman as Magistrate for the Village of Morrow; second by Zorn. All yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Erwin stated Don Oda is leaving and wished him well. He stated he would miss him; he has been kind and gracious. Oda has worked hard and did a quality job the Mayor stated; he has gone above and beyond. Mayor Erwin stated he has made my experience as Mayor enjoyable; we are proud of the ways things were handled for the Village. McKeehan added Oda has done a fantastic job. Council gave him a round of applause. The Mayor advised he was also looking forward to working with Kasper as Civil Solicitor.

Adjournment

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

Kathie Koehler, Fiscal Officer

Mike Erwin, Mayor