

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 Solicitor Kasper on board. He advised the Vice Mayor position for 2013 required action by Council as a matter of importance.

Motion by Councilman Terry Erwin nominating Councilman McKeehan for Vice Mayor; second by Councilman Zorn. Motion by Councilman Thompson nominating Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh; second by Zorn. The Mayor consulted with the Solicitor. Vote was taken by roll call for Mike McKeehan; five yea, McKeehan abstained. Motion carried. Thompson withdrew the motion to nominate Isaacs-Niemesh as Vice Mayor.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of previous meetings. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to approve the minutes of the December meeting; second by McKeehan. All yea.

Committee Reports from Village Officials

Isaacs-Niemesh requested additional information from Zorn regarding the VFW Memorial and website. Zorn stated an email was provided to Council advising he would schedule a meeting with the committee. He stated he wished to include a photograph; a header was prepared for the Veterans Memorial Fund site; he wished to get estimates of what it would cost to complete the project and get with the committee.

Police Committee – Neal reported all is well with the department. She discussed a depository for the McDonald House at the Village office. Neal reported the Junior High School started a program to collect pop tops and would like to see the Village and the school work together. She requested a container provided for the Village. Administrator Rod Smith advised he would check with Children’s Hospital for one of the houses they distribute for collections.

Beautification Committee – Councilman Thompson acknowledged during the December meeting, he stated he would meet with the committee regarding the planters along the bridge. He reported he pruned the planters in the meantime. He also advised the Woodlands residents were upset they were locked out of Thornton Park; he stated the public should have access. The park is locked at dawn. The Mayor advised he previously met with the Police Chief and it had been resolved; the lock was removed and a Village lock installed.

Thompson discussed Blackhawk Road, stating he was advised by a resident an escrow amount was set up by the developer. He explained capital improvements to the individual. The Mayor referenced the PUD; the road was to be widened when a certain number of homes were built in Phase I according to the agreement. He stated the Allens are responsible. The Mayor also advised the berms were patched last year. Thompson stated he would obtain a copy of the PUD.

Neighborhood Watch – Zorn advised there were no attendees at the last Neighborhood Watch Meeting when Officer Landrum was present. The next Neighborhood Watch

meeting would be held on Thursday, February 7, 2013. Zorn advised the Flag Contest ends February 1st. Smith stated he would see that Council received the entries. The Mayor asked how many entries were received. Zorn was unsure of the number; Smith advised the school was working on entries.

Zorn inquired regarding status of the disposed tire collection. Smith reported Warren County Waste Collection received an EPA grant for tire disposal and 37 tires were disposed of by the County. Zorn asked if the Water Tower would be the location for drop-off. Administrator Smith responded the Public Works Building at 153 Pike Street would be the location.

Councilman McKeehan reported he spoke with the Zoning Inspector and Subway pulled permits. He inquired of Kasper the status of the Western Water agreement. Solicitor Kasper stated he submitted the revision of the agreement to Council via email on January 7, 2013 and did not have any additional information to report. McKeehan advised he wished to discuss raises for employees and the 3.6% appropriated. He stated the maintenance guys do a good job for their pay should be bumped up by \$1.00 an hour. He asked what their current salaries were. Fiscal Officer Koehler advised they were \$11 and \$12 an hour. Isaacs-Niemesh stated the amount is very low and asked how much longer the senior employee had worked for the Village. Discussion followed. Smith stated he would provide a comparison of what other townships are making if desired. McKeehan stated Salem Township employees made \$15 an hour. Smith advised Hanna started in March 2007 and Erwin in May 2003. McKeehan stated \$2,080 annually is what a \$1.00 an hour increase would equal. Thompson inquired about skill levels. Smith stated their skills were basically equal; they complement each other. Koehler advised they were paid out of the Water and Street Fund, 60% and 40% respectively.

McKeehan reiterated his request for the employees in question of \$1.00 per hour increase rather than 3.6%. Neal asked if it was feasible financially. Koehler responded. Isaacs-Niemesh requested the current salary amounts; she stated they are on call and work late and early hours. Salaries were quoted at \$11.26 and \$11.84 hourly by Koehler.

Motion by McKeehan to adopt Resolution #1-13 to increase hourly pay \$1.00 per hour for maintenance crew; second by Zorn. The Mayor asked the Solicitor if the rules should be suspended; he responded no. The vote was taken by roll call. All yeas Motion carried.

Smith requested an amendment be made to the Annual Appropriations to eliminate the 3.6% for the employees affected. The Mayor advised the Fiscal Officer would make an amendment and have it ready at the next meeting.

The Mayor advised he would revamp the committees based on the recommendation from Isaacs-Niemesh. He stated it was a great idea; there would be fewer committees. Mayor Erwin stated the committee list for 2013 would be provided at an upcoming meeting.

Rod Smith urged everyone to attend the Comprehensive Plan Meeting scheduled for January 9, 2013. He advised the Ohio Local Technical Resources Workshop on December 12, 2012 was well attended; several grants were discussed. He plans to pursue grant opportunities available; he asked for ideas from Council. Smith reported signs for Village properties were installed; meeting dates and times would be added at the Municipal Building on January 9th with the exception of the time capsule sign which would be ready later in the month. He joined the Mayor and Council in welcoming John Kasper and advised he looked forward to working with him in the future. He also advised he was appointed to serve on the Rutgers University Public Resource Study and planned to pursue it on his own time.

Smith announced the upcoming birthday of Bill Thompson on January 27th. He acknowledged receipt of a letter from Frank Yonkers, a DEA officer who resided in

Morrow for the past five years, to the Police Department and Village officials; he read the contents of the letter which included a statement regarding the progress development and professionalism of the Police Department. Smith also advised a gentleman called and complimented the courtesy and professionalism of Officer Craig Roberts at a traffic stop.

Ordinances/Resolutions

Fiscal Officer Kathie Koehler discussed year-end wrap-up activities and provided a list of housekeeping appropriations adjustments required with one retroactive to December 26th, 2012 payroll period. She also requested an Ordinance to adopt the Ohio Basic Code.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #2-13; second by Neal. All yea. Motion by Erwin to approve Resolution #2-13, approving enumerated adjustments in appropriations; second by Neal. All yea. Motion carried.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #1-13; second by Erwin. All yea. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to approve Ordinance #1-13, adopting the 2013 Ohio Basic Code; second by Neal. All yea. Motion carried.

Approval of Disbursements

Koehler advised there were no disbursements requiring approval.

Solicitor Kasper stated he appreciated the opportunity to serve the Village. He advised he had additional if needed of revised agreement for Western Water. He stated he was in the process of providing everyone with his contact information. McKeehan stated he wished to wait until the next meeting to act on the agreement, allowing him time to review it.

Koehler advised there were two Schuerer Relief Applications for review.

Motion by Erwin to approve the applications. All yea.

Zorn advised a lady approached him on New Year's Eve regarding a need. On New Year's Day, he provided food from the Village Barrel. He brought bags of food to replenish the stock. He stated the lady lived outside the Village limits. The Mayor applauded him for taking action. Zorn suggested the barrel remain at the Municipal Building for special circumstances.

Public Forum

No comments

Adjournment

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

Kathie Koehler, Fiscal Officer

Mike Erwin, Mayor