

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

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion by Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh to approve the minutes of the March Meeting; second by Councilman Erwin. All ye.

Kyle Vandergriff / Subway Franchise

Mr. Vandergriff reported the new Subway restaurant planned to open the following week. He stated a VIP Night was being planned for the evening before the official opening. He advised the Mayor and Council notification would be given in advance. Kyle Vandergriff expressed his excitement and asked for questions and concerns. Councilwoman Neal stated the new business was a positive addition for the Village. The Mayor expressed appreciation, stating everything looked great and the business would stimulate growth in the Plaza. He commented the new Subway was an asset to the community. The Mayor asked how many jobs would be created. Kyle Vandergriff advised they were presently interviewing and training. He stated they would start with twenty people; normally about 15 would be employed. There would be 3 to 4 full time employees with the balance would be part-time. Councilman Zorn expressed appreciation and welcomed the business to the Village. The Mayor asked about interaction with the Village during the process. Vandergriff stated the permit and zoning went quickly.

Shawn Campbell / Jones Warner Engineering

Campbell provided an update on the Highlawn Avenue Community Development Block Grant; the grant would be submitted to the County in April and awarded in May. He advised the design for the Welch Road Project was completed. He stated he was hopeful the bids would go out in May and awarded in July. Construction would start right away. The project will get close to the school. He stated the result would be really nice.

The Mayor advised he and Administrator Rod Smith attended a meeting with OKI regarding the proposed Bike Trail loop through Johnstown onto the Little Miami Bike Trail; it will start at the Depot and meander through Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. The County is the applicant; several counties are involved. He advised a letter of support which Smith provided needed to be signed in favor of the project and a Resolution prepared. Isaacs-Niemesh asked for clarification. The Mayor stated a meeting was planned for 7:45am on April 10, 2013. The County will fund the property searches. Initial movement is required to get started. The first phases will go to Clarksville and then Wilmington. Solicitor Kaspar stated the Resolution would read *approving a letter of support for OKI Alternative Transportation Program*. Smith elaborated on the project and the Trail. The Mayor stated in the future people using the Trail would utilize Morrow as a meeting place. Poe asked if the County was the lead applicant. The Mayor responded yes. Smith stated it was an opportunity to request grants and a huge win for the Village; it will be a 10 to 14 mile scenic trail and a reason to come to Morrow. The Mayor stated people will park downtown who use the trail. Discussion followed.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #11-13; second by Erwin. Five yea, one nay by Councilman Thompson. Motion by Neal to adopt Resolution #11-13, approving a letter of support for OKI Transportation; second by Erwin. Five yea, one nay by Thompson. Motion carried.

Committee Reports/Legislation from Village Officials

No Committee Reports

Administrator Smith provided a report to Council; he advised Parks and Recreation worked with youth groups who brought numerous volunteers on March 23rd, spreading mulch, cleaning trails, planting flowers, etc. He expressed gratitude. He reported the Easter Egg Hunt held by the Fellowship of Praise Church was very well attended. Smith also reported Public Works personnel made equipment repairs as needed and new swings were installed. He advised the parks are ready for Spring.

Administrator Smith announced the former Solicitor Judge Don Oda would celebrate his birthday on April 14th; Councilman McKeehan's birthday would be celebrated on May 9th and Councilman Zorn's on April 24th. Engineer Shawn Campbell and Clerk of Council Gladys Jackson would celebrate birthdays on May 3rd.

Smith discussed significant water usage by one family. A recent widow, a long time resident of Morrow, lost a significant amount of water due to an exterior faucet. She contacted the Fire Department to shut the water off and subsequently a plumber to make the repair. Smith provided a written request in his report to Council and believed the situation warranted consideration; he recommended a water rate reduction.

Motion by Zorn to allow a reduction in the citizen's water bill referenced; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

The Administrator discussed establishment of a Tree Board for the Village. He advised the legislation had been adopted by 237 communities, maintaining trees, working with utilities and utilizing grant opportunities. Smith explained the reasoning for adopting a Tree Code. He advised he worked with Wendy VanBuren to develop an Ordinance also provided to Council which would be taken to Public Works to establish a tree maintenance plan, provide grants for trees, parks, etc. and provide an opportunity to work on forestry projects with schools. Smith stated Arbor Day was April 26 and early passage would give the Village an opportunity to apply for an award and be designated Tree City USA for 2014. Smith gave the names of three individuals who would serve on the Tree Board, Jan Poe - Chairman, Luanne Cain - Vice Chairman and Janice Zumbro - Secretary with terms of 3 years, 2 years and 1 year, respectively. Council members commented favorably. Thompson stated he was for it; but it was not an emergency. The Solicitor read the proposed Tree Ordinance.

Motion by Councilman McKeehan to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #5-13; second by Erwin. Five yea, one nay by Thompson. Motion by McKeehan to adopt Ordinance #5-13, approving tree legislation for the Village; second by Erwin. Five yea, one nay by Thompson. Motion carried.

Ordinances/Resolutions

Fiscal Officer Koehler suggested the current \$1500 line item for tree maintenance be increased by \$800 for the new Ordinance. McKeehan stated it was not urgent to move funds that evening. Discussion followed. The Mayor commented some of the trees were planted more than 75 years ago.

Public Forum

Zorn requested Mr. Ducker give a report on the Neighborhood Watch. He stated four citizens were in attendance the prior week; he added he would like more participation.

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Ducker reported the Police gave a report on break-ins and discussed more signage in the area. He stated the next meeting would be May 2nd. Neal discussed the vandalism at the cemetery. Chief Kilburn stated he had problems there also. Neal suggested people drive by and keep an eye open. She advised the vases were affixed to the stone on her mother's grave before the damage.

Approval of Disbursements

Disbursements were distributed by Koehler. Standard Bank Reconciliation Reports by Fund and Fund Summary were provided from March 1, 2013 to April 5, 2013.

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

Adjournment

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adjourn; second by Erwin. All yea.

Kathie Koehler, Fiscal Officer

Mike Erwin, Mayor