

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 October 8th Meeting; second by Councilwoman Neal. All ye.

Fred Lafollette / Salem Township Fire Chief

Lafollette reported the annual Christmas Candy Give-a-way was planned for December 22, 2013. He requested \$500 from the Village for that purpose based on the need from the prior years.

Motion by Neal to donate \$500 for Christmas candy; second by Councilman Erwin. All ye.

Committee Reports/Legislation from Village Officials

A packet was distributed to Council members with reports from individual committees. Village Administrator Rod Smith advised he had two pieces of legislation to present. He discussed the Comprehensive Plan; advising after 15 months of meetings with the Morrow Planning Commission and Warren County, the Commission would hear public comments at 6:30pm on November 21, 2013 at the Municipal Building. He stated on December 10, Council would hold a public hearing to consider if the plan should be adopted. Planners from Warren County Regional Planning Commission would be present at the meetings. Beginning January 2014, the Village of Morrow will begin working with the Warren County Regional Planning Commission to update our zoning code. Smith also reported Neal is the chair the Veterans Memorial Project. The first meetings were to organize and strategize; now, the committee will begin working on design, location and later fund raising. He provided the list of committee members, Paul Zorn, Bob Blankenship, Fred Lafollette and Rod Smith.

The Administrator reported on *Christmas on Main* presented by Parks & Recreation Board, Little Miami Area Chamber of Commerce and Morrow of Tomorrow, advising several booths were filled. He reported the group was working with Warren County and other agencies. He stated there was positive press coverage on the event; Cincinnati Magazine, Ohio Magazine, Dayton Daily, Pulse Journal and Cincinnati Enquirer were contacted. Smith also reported the Highlawn and Welch Road Projects would wrap up in a few weeks; he and the Fire Chief were working on minor issues. Smith reported 75 tons of salt from Morton Salt Inc. plus 65 tons from our secondary provider, Warren County Engineers' Office were reserved.

Thompson asked about the Personnel Policy Manual. He addressed tools and machinery and asked the Administrator if the Village policy provided for employees to take them home. Smith advised he was not aware of such policy. The Administrator advised of provisions for certain individuals to take vehicles home, such as the Police Chief and Administrator, advising he and the Chief were working with the Police Sergeant who is not currently taking a vehicle home. Thompson stated he was not aware the Administrator was taking a vehicle home Smith stated we can discuss it in Executive

Session. Thompson stated it could be addressed later when the draft of the policy was provided.

Smith presented a Water Rate Reduction request for a gentleman who lost water due to a break of which he was unaware; he asked that Council allow the reduction in this case.

Motion by Zorn to allow the water reduction. All yea.

The Administrator discussed the electric service rate for the Village. He advised he negotiated with several vendors for a reduced rate. Smith reported he secured the lowest rate from DP&L Energy at 0.469 cents per kilowatt hour if the rate was locked in right away; this rate would save over \$19K in 41 months, a savings of \$400 a month. A copy of the agreement was provided. He advised the current supplier's contract, Duke Energy, would expire in December. He stated they were given an opportunity to compete. McKeehan asked if street lighting was included. Issacs-Niemesh commented negotiating for a better rate was introduced when Poe was on Council previously. She asked if there was a penalty if changes occurred. Smith stated the Village would return to the regular rate. Discussion followed.

Motion by T Erwin to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #9-13; second by Neal. All yea. Motion by Erwin to adopt Ordinance #9-13, authorizing Village Administrator to enter into Mercantile Consumer Supply Agreement when current electric energy agreement expires; second by Neal. All yea. Motion Carried.

The Administrator reported after approval by Council, the Crown Victoria was sold on GovDeals.com after 14 days for \$950. He advised the training required was intense (laborious); the remaining items to be sold will be posted. Zorn asked if one item at a time would be sold. Smith stated one item was recommended initially for the first posting. He also stated the Village offices would be closed 2 days at Thanksgiving, November 28th and 29th.

Fiscal Officer Kathie Koehler submitted two Schuerer Trust Fund applications to Council for review.

Public Forum

Chase Vandergrift reported a hole in the road on Mary Louise Court at the corner of Alpine, the second block. He provided a picture for the Mayor to view. One gentleman advised it could become a sink hole. The Mayor assured it would be looked at the following day.

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

Ordinances/Resolutions

Solicitor Kaspar advised a Resolution was requested by Koehler for appropriation adjustments for office supplies and FEMA increase. Koehler stated line 1000-730-420-000 would decrease and line 1000-790-410-0000 would increase by \$500; line 1000-730-399-0000 would decrease and line 1000-730-399-0034 would increase by \$322. Koehler stated the FEMA increase was 25% and would continue to increase annually. The Mayor commented on the flood occurrences and FEMA Insurance. He stated the Village might want to pay the building off. He asked the Fiscal Officer to look into the feasibility of retiring the debt service. Isaacs-Niemesh questioned the office supplies, stating it was the third time an increase was requested for that purpose during the year. Koehler stated she needed \$300, but added \$200 additional to carry through to the end of the year. Smith advised the increases were necessary to replace a couple computers and printers this year. Kaspar provided the first reading for the Resolution.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #30-13; second by Erwin. All yea. Motion by Neal to adopt Resolution #30-13, approving adjustments to appropriations as specified; second by Erwin. All yea. Motion Carried.

Approval of Disbursements

Koehler provided revenue statistics and a list of disbursements. Checks were unavailable due to the installation of the new UAN computer.

Motion by Neal to pay the bills; second by Zorn. All yea.

Isaacs-Niemesh advised she received an email from Rose Ellis in August regarding trees; she stated it was also sent to Council members McKeehan, Zorn, Neal and Thompson. Isaacs-Niemesh stated Ellis' email referenced a delay in the September meeting minutes being posted and it stated Council voted to remove the trees. Isaacs-Niemesh stated she asked Mrs. Ellis to attend the meeting. Smith stated he was ill during the October meeting, but obtained the minutes from the Clerk the following week and posted them online. He advised the minutes are available for public viewing at the Municipal Building once approved. McKeehan stated Council did not vote to remove the trees; Thompson stated the vote was to fund the project. Smith advised the trees in question were in the right-of-way. Terry Erwin advised the trees were replaced with very nice trees.

Isaacs-Niemesh read a prepared statement. She cited awards presented to Police Chief Kilburn in January, March and September 2013 during Council meetings. She thanked Kilburn for his dedication and presented a card from local businesses. She stated she wanted to go on record that she did not agree with the verbal criticism by the Mayor questioning Kilburn's character and accusing him of making decisions that were bad for Morrow at a meeting and broadcast 1620. She expressed her concern that a Village employee was criticized for an Oath he is sworn to uphold. The Mayor stated for the record his comments reflect the view he has of Kilburn as township trustee. Administrator Rod Smith advised he reported to the Mayor; the Chief and employees report to him. Isaacs-Niemesh stated the Chief should have the freedom to vote his conscience.

Smith stated he would like to restore some normalcy to the Council. He reminded each Council member had a fiduciary responsibility to the Village and took a sworn oath. He advised the Village would never go through what transpired during the recent election period. Neal advised there would be an automatic recount of votes for Council due to the closeness of the election results. She advised the election would be certified on November 21, 2013. Neal congratulated all the newly elected officials. She stated if she loses to McKeehan or Zorn during the recount, she couldn't lose to better people. Yorkie Bryant asked Smith how he would stop what transpired this time from occurring in another election in the Village. Smith stated several agencies have taken a sincere interest in what happens in Morrow. He addressed the image of Morrow and the ethics of this election; he stated there were falsehoods in Thompson's newsletters and incorrect information on Facebook pages. He stated he received inquiries regarding the newsletter. Thompson asked Smith to pick one specific and show him. Smith responded he would. Bryant asked about the signs and defacing of signs during the campaign. Smith stated the signs were in the right-of-way and the Village could take them down. Bryant commented that absentee ballots were submitted three weeks early. Luanne Cain stated clean-up of the signs was needed; discussion followed. Bryant asked about signs on the telephone poles. Smith advised they were the property of the utility company. Discussion followed.

Zorn thanked Dave and Helen Ducker for taking care of the Neighborhood Watch meeting. Thompson congratulated newly elected Council members and Kilburn on being re-elected as Salem Township Trustee and Mr. Niemesh for School Board.

Regular Session of Village Council

November 12

13

Adjournment

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

Kathie Koehler, Fiscal Officer

Mike Erwin, Mayor