

Regular Session of Village Council

February 10, 2015

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 the Clerk of Council. The following members were present.

Judy Neal – P

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

York Bryant – P

John Poe – P

Terry Erwin – P

William Thompson – P

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meetings. Motion by Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2014 Regular Session; second by Councilman Erwin. All yeas. Minutes of the December 30, 2014 Special Meeting were tabled for correction.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials

The Mayor advised Village Administrator Rod Smith was ill. The Administrator's written report was provided to Council, inclusive of the Mayor's Court Report. Mayor Erwin reported a \$250,000 Grant was received from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to purchase real estate at the Fisher Road section to Thornton Park for the Bike Trail. The Mayor advised he also met with a group from Cincinnati who wants to erect a Frisbee Golf Course; he stated they would attend a future Council Meeting. Councilman Thompson asked about Frisbee Golf; the Mayor explained.

Thompson stated he had a question for the Administrator regarding the Personnel Policy, but tabled it for the Administrator. Thompson also advised there was a vacancy on the Tree Board. The Mayor referred him to Administrator Smith. Resident Sue Nelson stated she would like to serve on the Board. The Mayor asked that she contact Smith.

Ordinances/Resolutions

Mayor Erwin introduced pending legislation. The Mayor gave a third reading for Ordinance #19-14 approving delinquent debt collection agreement with OAG. Thompson called for a vote to adopt the Ordinance. Discussion followed whether another motion/vote was needed.

Motion by Councilwoman Neal to adopt Ordinance #19-14; second by Councilman Bryant. All yeas by roll call.

Mayor Erwin noted the Ohio Basic Code represented annual legislation required.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #3-15; second by Erwin. All yeas. Motion by Neal to adopt Ordinance #3-15, adopting 2015 Ohio Basic Code; second by Bryant. All yeas.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials Cont'd

Fiscal Officer Kathie Koehler advised the Villages health insurance was out for bid due to a 50% increase. Neal asked for the deadline on the insurance; Koehler stated it was currently month to month. Isaacs-Niemesh asked for the agent's response regarding the increase. The Fiscal Officer replied. Koehler also advised she prematurely paid a 3% budgeted increase to staff members. She stated she gave the COL increases on the first check of 2015, but later removed the increases from the paychecks after questions were raised regarding the increases. She read the list of payees.

Motion by Neal to adopt the 3% increase; second by Erwin. Thompson stated there were different rates for hourly and salaried the prior year. He added Koehler should not get a raise because she just negotiated an agreement following her retirement and Smith should not get a raise because of his use of the truck. Isaacs Niemesh stated he didn't get his

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Water Operator License. Neal advised you cannot discriminate on Cost of Living increases. Discussion followed. Isaacs-Niemesh stated Mike Hanna is on a course of improvement and has studied for an Operator's License. She stated Hanna should make the same as Tim Erwin regardless of seniority.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to pay Public Works employees the same rate, \$13.84 with no increase for Tim Erwin. Bryant stated let's wait until Tim Erwin comes back to work. Poe asked what is on the table. The Mayor called for a vote on the first motion by Neal by roll call. Three Yea, three nay by Bryant, Isaacs-Niemesh and Thompson; Mayor Erwin abstained from voting to break the tie. He advised Tim Erwin was on earned sick leave. Discussion followed.

Motion by Poe to give a merit increase for Mike Hanna to \$13.84; second by Isaacs Niemesh. All yea by roll call.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to give Chief Kilburn and Matt Landrum a 3% merit increase; second by Thompson. Neal asked if recent performance evaluations were completed for all employees. The Mayor responded affirmatively. All yea by roll call.

Mayor Erwin stated let us be fair; everyone has done a good job. He asked the Fiscal Officer to give the remaining list of personnel one by one.

Motion by Bryant to give Bonnie Campbell a 3% merit increase; second by Poe. All yea.

Motion by Poe to give Gladys Jackson a 3% merit increase; second by Bryant. All yea.

Motion by Erwin to give Rod Smith a 3% merit increase; second by Neal. Thompson requested the total compensation package before the vote. Koehler retrieved the information. Neal advised Smith was studying for the Water Operator test. The Mayor asked citizens if they had an opportunity to meet the Administrator. Discussion followed. Thompson stated only a Class I Operator was needed; the Mayor responded no; a Class III is required for the new plant. Koehler provided salary and insurance amounts. Vote was taken by roll call, 3 yea, 1 nay by Thompson and 2 abstentions by Isaacs-Niemesh and Bryant. Motion carried.

Motion by Neal to give Cindy Wilmot a 3% merit increase; second by Poe. All yea.

Koehler stated Steve Wagner had not previously taken an increase. No action was taken.

Motion by Bryant to give Solicitor Kaspar a 3% COL increase; second by Neal. Five voted yea, one abstention by Isaacs-Niemesh. Motion carried.

Motion by Neal to give Magistrate Kauffman and Prosecutor Amy Tranter a 3% COL increase; second by Bryant. All yea.

Motion by Erwin to give Jesse McKeehan a 3% COL increase; second by Neal. All yea.

Motion by Neal to give Tim Erwin a 3% COL increase; second by Poe. Discussion followed. Two yea, one nay by Thompson and three abstentions by Erwin, Isaacs-Niemesh and Bryant. Motion carried.

Motion by Erwin to give Kathie Koehler a 3% merit increase; second by Bryant. Thompson called for a Point of Order regarding her agreement and retirement. Discussion followed. Five yea, one nay by Thompson. Motion carried.

Motion by Bryant to give Water Operator John Ware a 3% COL increase. Thompson stated he was a recent hire. Bryant withdrew the motion.

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Mayor Erwin advised there is an Ordinance which states the Mayor may have his/her insurance paid by the Village. He stated he never took advantage of the available insurance. The Mayor reported this saved the Village \$144,000. He stated he earned \$22,000 over ten years. Mayor Erwin asked the insurance provision be revoked for elected position.

Motion by Neal to waive three readings and suspend the rules for Ordinance #4-15: second by Erwin. All yea. Motion by Neal to adopt Ordinance #4-15 rescinding paid insurance provision for the elected position of Mayor; second by Poe. All yea.

The Mayor stated he has done his best for the Village. He cited Village improvements, noting Subway and AmeriStop. Mayor Erwin acknowledged this is an election year. He stated if running for office, run on your merit; don't use this format to *cut* others or the good that has been done. The Mayor stated he did not want the town to be distracted and he had nothing to gain to make others look bad. He advised he is trying to live right and won't debate over these last few months. He stated he was concerned about people and businesses in this community.

Isaacs-Niemesh discussed the Schuerer Trust Fund assistance. She stated she feels the cards should be used at Kroger's. Neal stated the Food Pantry would be happy to accept the vouchers; they are open Monday and Friday, 9am to 12pm. The Mayor stated there is not a way to monitor use of the card at Kroger's; beer and cigarette purchases can't be stopped. He gave information regarding misappropriation of the cards in the past by a prior employee. Bryant stated a larger food selection is available at Kroger's. Discussion followed. Jean Rayl stated the Chamber will be requesting donations at events. Thompson stated the matter should be referred back to Solicitor Kaspar for response. T. Erwin stated he wished to speak with Food Pantry regarding availability. Koehler commented on the bookkeeping and control for purchases at the South Lebanon market currently being used.

Public Forum

Joe Stephens wanted to know about a grocery store in Morrow. Bryant stated it's difficult because we are a small town. Discussion followed. Bev Massey noted a client discussed the need for a grocery store earlier in the day. She stated stores like Dollar General sell food products and asked if others were prevented from opening a grocery store in the Plaza. The Mayor responded. He stated there is a glimmer of hope regarding the Plaza; it is currently for sale for \$1.5 Million. He added he spoke with Mr. Stephenson of Kroger's; they have purchased land at the Fifth Third corner at Route 48. He stated he believes within 60 months businesses will populate the area on the east side of Route 48. The Mayor advised Charter Government would be a plus for economic development in Morrow.

Massey discussed concerns regarding the Library. Neal advised the Board should be contacted to address issues described. Several citizens commented on the economics of existing new businesses. Discussion followed. Bev Massey asked about fines for those businesses that were dirty or in ill repair. The Mayor referred to Ordinance #10-98 and advised they were looking into a new Zoning Code. If adopted it would provide a legal mechanism. Massey asked about signs for Pattison to enable fire trucks to get through. Sergeant Landrum advised signs were installed February 9th. LuAnne Cain stated dump trucks approach the hill too fast, a potential for an accident. Sue Nelson stated the railing is falling on the elevated sidewalk on the south side of Pike Street across from the lumber yard. Bryant commented.

The Mayor stated he wishes to address Congress to discuss FEMA Flood Insurance; the subsidy was removed and flood insurance increased substantially. Bryant commented on the affected areas. Poe added the last flood was 1968 in Morrow. Mayor Erwin stated Todd's Fork is susceptible for flooding and advised the Village needs relief. Discussion continued.

Approval of Disbursements

Revenue Status by Fund Summary and disbursements were provided. Koehler provided two Schuerer Trust Fund applications for review.

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Motion by Neal to approve the applications; second by Thompson. All yea.

Adjournment

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

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Kathie Koehler, Fiscal Officer

Mike Erwin, Mayor