

## Regular Session of Village Council

April 14, 2015

### **Call to Order**

The Regular Session of Council was called to order by Vice Mayor York Bryant. 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.

York Bryant – P

Judy Neal – P

Terry Erwin – P

John Poe – P

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

William Thompson – P

### **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Council reviewed the minutes of previous meeting. Motion by Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2015 Regular Session; second by Councilwoman Neal. All ye.

### **Reports / Legislation from Village Officials**

Village Administrator Rod Smith reported Mike Hanna resigned to work with a neighboring jurisdiction. He asked Council to consider Maintenance Worker I and II positions for Public Works. He stated he recommends \$13.50 and \$17.50 respectively with an Ohio EPA Water I Certificate for the Maintenance Worker II position. The Administrator stated this would eliminate the need for a contractual engineer. Smith stated twenty-six applications have been received to date with some strong candidates. Councilman Thompson asked if requiring a Water I Certificate from the Maintenance Worker position meant Administrator Smith would not pursue a Water Operator's license. Smith advised he was continuing to work towards it but stated it would take time to complete. He reported Kathie Koehler's last day would be April 29th; she is currently working twenty-five hours per week, 11:30 to 4:30. He advised new Fiscal Officer Nichole Knell received the first training required effective March 25, 2015 for Fiscal Officers by House Bill 10, Continuing Education. Thompson commented.

Smith advised the Tree Board will receive its second Tree City USA Award in a ceremony on Friday. He stated the Veterans Memorial Committee received the first order of 87 engraved pavers which will be installed soon. Neal commented after Memorial Day but before Labor Day the second group would be installed. The Administrator stated a number of beautification projects were completed, flower beds were improved, etc. by the Parks & Recreation Committee volunteers. Smith reported the Village grant application for Phegley Park improvements received the highest rating by the Warren County Chamber Alliance.

Administrator Smith acknowledged receipt of a letter of commendation from Hamilton Township Police Department on April 4th for assistance provided by Police Chief Heath Kilburn and Sergeant Matt Landrum from John Wheeler, Hamilton Township. The letter was read by Rod Smith. The Administrator's written report was provided to Council, inclusive of the Mayor's Court Report and Court Bank Reconciliation. A question was posed by Thompson regarding the Personnel Policy update. Smith responded. Solicitor Kaspar advised Executive Session would be appropriate to discuss the Ordinance he was working on with Rod Smith for a Special Meeting on April 20th. The Administrator advised the meeting time was changed to 7pm at Jones Warner's request. Smith provided Special Dates, birthdays on April 24th, Former Councilman Paul Zorn; May 3rd, Clerk of Council Gladys Jackson and Village Engineer Shawn Campbell; May 5th, Police Officer Joel Warshaw; May 7th, Mayor's Court Magistrate Rob Hoffman and May 9th, Former Councilman Mike McKeehan.

The new Fiscal Officer Nichole Knell introduced herself. Retired Fiscal Officer Kathie referred Council to written reports, Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank reconciliation and disbursements and a request for adjustments. Koehler explained. Isaacs-Niemesh and Thompson posed a question regarding annexation. Smith explained payment was for the attorney to represent the Village in the annexation of 60 acres, Brown Farm/Wilder property.

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Councilman Bryant stated Pierce received annexation letter also. Smith was unable to provide any information for the opposite side of the road. The Administrator advised Katherine Cunningham was the attorney; three property owners want to be annexed to Morrow. Discussion followed. Isaacs-Niemesh asked if there was a cost for annexation other than attorney fee. Administrator Smith advised the County must approve; we must state service to be provided. He stated the southside is not impacted. Thompson requested a copy of the additional information. Smith stated he would provide the additional information.

Koehler requested a Resolution for adjustments in appropriations. She provided explanation of line items and adjustments requested to include Permissive funds, CVT from Warren County. Koehler advised checks would be in their mailbox on April 15, 2015.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #2-15; second by Erwin. All yea. Motion by Neal to adopt Resolution #2-15, approving miscellaneous adjustments in Appropriations Budget; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

Thompson requested clarification on personnel action, reading a letter from the Village Administrator. He stated Kaspar made it clear the legislature speaks to no passage of Resolutions/Ordinances in Executive Session. Thompson stated no vote was taken on the termination of Tim Erwin, Public Works. Vice Mayor Bryant asked if this discussion should be continued outside of Executive Session. Solicitor Kaspar cautioned against it and referenced *privileged communication* addressing Thompson's question.

Isaacs-Niemesh advised Mr. Hostetter wanted to thank the Village for the signs and prompt action on his request. She also addressed the Plaza and debris blowing down the river. Smith commented on the situation. Bryant stated a ticket is in order for Dollar General. Isaacs-Niemesh reported her village email is not working on 1 and 1. She stated gmail was free and Village should get that. Neal expressed problems. Thompson stated current email works most of the time, but attachments don't print directly from the email; he sends them to his personal email for printing. Isaacs-Niemesh expressed concern with communication, requesting the meeting packet one day before the Council meeting. The Village Administrator stated perhaps the Friday before the meeting; he would look into it.

Councilman Poe asked where the Voucher issue stands; and what is needed to act. He asked if Council was talking to the Food Pantry. Kaspar advised he reviewed the Schuerer Trust and found no issue with respect to changing the voucher system. Bryant stated he preferred Krogers over the Pantry. Isaacs-Niemesh asked if milk, eggs, meat, etc., could be obtained from the pantry. With a response of yes, the Councilwoman stated she had no problem with the Pantry. Discussion followed. Neal offered to make contact with the Pantry and Krogers on April 15th. All were affirmative.

### **Public Forum**

Bev Massey stated there was dumping at the Plaza. She stated clean-up was needed on the streets. She asked if the offenders could be used for the clean-up. T. Erwin advised in 2014 Administrator Smith used work release previously and would do that again. Bryant provided information on past incidents, injury and law suit. Massey stated the area near Hahn's and Drive-Thru needed attention.. Smith stated the storm drain collapsed and we are working on it now; it leads back to Mill Street and Pike where it originated.

Dave Ducker stated the street sweeper did a good job last year and asked if the Village could get it this year. Bryant suggested early signage. Discussion followed. Thompson asked citizens to bring complaints but stated the clean-up is Smith's responsibility. Massey referenced Bruce Miller's Village website and new resident comment. Isaacs-Niemesh suggested Smith check with High School; they have community service requirement.

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Motion by Councilman Neal to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 7:40pm; second by Thompson. All yea. Motion by Neal to return to Regular Session at 8:05pm; second by Thompson. All yea.

**Adjournment**

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

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Nichole Knell, Fiscal Officer

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Mike Erwin, Mayor