

## Regular Session of Village Council

May 12, 2015

### **Call to Order**

The Regular Session of Council was called to order by Vice Mayor York Bryant in Mayor Erwin's absence. 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 meetings. Motion by Councilwoman Neal to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 Regular Session; second by Councilman Erwin. Councilman Thompson stated his objection. Discussion followed. Solicitor Kaspar advised there was a motion on the floor. Three yea by roll call; two nay by Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh and Thompson. Thompson gave a statement of dissent for record. Motion by Erwin to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2015 Special Session; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

### **Shawn Campbell/Jones Warner Engineering**

Campbell stated he wished to follow up on the Special Meeting of April 20, 2015. He addressed the water treatment previously suggested by Isaacs-Niemesh. He stated it was a preventative and not a treatment. He stated with regard to distribution, many entities were using it. It would need to be determined if EPA would approve it for use in the distribution phase. Isaacs-Niemesh noted the cost of the Vulcan was very low. He discussed the payback on the Loan. Water rates were recapped; Campbell advised a total increase of \$3.38 was needed to satisfy the Water Plant Rehabilitation Proposal. Discussion continued. Isaacs-Niemesh asked about the loan or grant approved. Campbell addressed her question. It was clarified the Village was ranked high for grant funding the following year. Isaacs-Niemesh stated Western Water's rate was \$6.00. Campbell stated there was no softening, the water is hard. Dick Warner concurred. Councilman Poe asked how the rate increase would affect the Village in its ability to get grants, etc. Campbell stated the OPWC does not take rates into consideration in their scoring of a project. USDA Rural Development will not consider Morrow because of your rates and because you have Regional Water available. He added the aquifer-well production is excellent. Poe stated we will need at least \$6.00 + to get the ball rolling and seek an interest free loan. Campbell stated we are starting the treatment; we haven't touched the piping, millions of dollars. The increase allowed you to increase Capital reserves to address grant dollars. He stated a \$7.89 rate was a \$3.38 increase. Campbell advised the \$1.67 he suggested was 50% of what is needed. Smith asked Campbell what he recommended as an increase for Bulk Water. He stated if you are going to increase bulk water that you use a percentage basis. Neal stated the water increase would cost her \$12 if rates were increased by \$1.67.

Thompson asked about the USDA Rural Development grant, stating Campbell advised we couldn't get USDA. Campbell advised there were three sources to look at OPWC, USDA and Ohio EPA with OPWC being most lenient; the USDA has rate criteria, with no regional availability. Campbell advised this is why they would not approve. Isaacs-Niemesh asked if we receive the 0% loan, what saving we would have. Isaacs-Niemesh asked Administrator Smith what South Lebanon pays for their water. She stated Western Water gets water from Cincinnati. Discussion followed. Bryant commented on the increase. Campbell stated you don't have time to wait; you don't want to give up your water. Erwin stated we raised rates only 50 cents per 1000 gallons over the past 13 years. Isaacs-Niemesh commented concerning the 18 cents over Western Water. T. Erwin stated the 18 cents would allow us to keep our water plant. Discussion followed. Campbell stated we will continue to work with you to get enhanced scoring.

Regular Session of Village Council

May 12, 2015

Isaacs-Niemesh asked Smith if this was the one and only bid for this job. Smith responded. Campbell stated we gave you three options. Thompson stated this is not a bid; it is a proposal. Thompson stated the engineering is being done without a bid. Campbell discussed the engineering and useful life for the water plant. Neal asked the Solicitor regarding the legislation needed. Solicitor Kaspar advised an Ordinance was required for the rate increase with rate per 1000 gallons the Village would charge for bulk water tokens. Bryant commented. Discussion followed.

Motion by Poe to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #8-15; second by Neal. Thompson called for a point of order. Kaspar advised. Discussion followed. Three yea by Erwin, Neal and Poe, two nay by Isaacs-Niemesh and Thompson.

Motion by Poe to adopt Ordinance #8-15 to increase water rates by 50%, a \$1.67 increase per 1000 gallons and 50% increase for bulk water; second by Neal.

Kaspar pointed out there is still a motion on the floor for the rate increase. Isaacs-Niemesh asked that comments be allowed by citizens who live in the Village before the vote. Luanne Cain commented just get it done. Mr. Ducker stated he did not mind paying \$6.18 for a better quality of water; it's been many years since rates were increased. He stated we need we need to get this done. He stated it was discussed at previous meetings. Thompson commented. Mr. Ducker replied. Discussion followed. Luanne Cain stated if everyone here wants to keep their wells, they need to find a resolution and get it done or get water from Western Water or Warren County; make a decision one way or the other to. T. Erwin commented on the benefits. Isaacs-Niemesh asked when the rates would go into effect. The Village Administrator responded and stated EPA gave us an alternative one year ago.

Kaspar gave the first reading of Ordinance #8-15, the motion on the floor. All yea by roll call. Motion carried.

Neal asked if Option 3 could be passed at that time. Campbell asked if that included execution of the design. Smith stated they are one in the same. Campbell commented and stated Monroe needed an answer and discussed other matters at hand.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #9-15; second by Erwin. All yea. Motion by Neal to approve Ordinance #9-15, to execute Option 3, Water Plant Rehabilitation as set forth by Jones Warner Engineering; second by Erwin. All yea by roll call. Motion carried.

**Warren County Drug Task Force**

Major John Burke reported the Task Force started in 1999 with Lieutenant Arrasmith, himself and one fax machine and has grown over time. He stated they were assisted by grants and donations from agencies and villages. He addressed HIDTA, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area; he listed the jurisdictions involved. He added one gentleman handles prescription drug abuse investigations and one who handles financial crimes. Burke stated the Task Force pursues offenders in local and federal court. Burke advised he is retiring in October after 16 years in the position. A number of large cases, such as bath salts are now reduced considerably. He stated they started a Highway Intradiction Group with drug canines who remain on the highways; motor vehicles transport drugs via the highway. Task Force One Group is funded by the Attorney General's Office, intercepting cash. He added Mexico is a source. He stated hitting them via the money hurts worse. Burke added Meth Labs still exist and are still dangerous; Arrasmith runs this program. He stated we have a 25,000 square feet warehouse in Lebanon and our budget involves mostly personnel. Burke advised heroin overdoses increased 50%. Burke stated he's often asked what we are doing. Forfeiture funds go to education and rehabilitation. Clinics have been around for a while but injections are now available for addiction through a \$1Million grant; the result is 100% abstinence and works for 30 days with 12 to 18 month sessions.

## Regular Session of Village Council

May 12, 2015

Now, there is a new product is in the experimental phase and is very expensive. He advised collaborative damage is caused; deaths are heartbreaking. He stated they uncover one meth lab per month; we received 598 tips from the public and followed up on every one.

New Major Arrasmith, now Lieutenant, after 23 years with the Sheriff's office will take over on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Burke stated they have been very successful with funding, grants and support from Villages. The target is middle to upper level drug traffickers. He thanked the Village of Morrow for all their support and asked for questions. Arrasmith introduced himself and highlighted his work. Erwin and Smith gave positive comments. Bryant shared a loss he experienced as a result of heroin. Isaacs-Niemesh asked about education on the subject. Arrasmith advised Kim Sellars does presentations to schools through donations from the Drug Task Force, also School Resource Officers. Bryant discussed a large arrest by Officer Hunt, over \$.5Million. Discussion followed. Mr. Ducker asked for the web page for the Drug Task Force. Arrasmith reported a new web page is being developed and will be launched soon. Business cards were made available. Arrasmith referred those present to the Warren County web site for additional information.

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

Village Administrator Rod Smith read excerpts from Zoning Ordinance Section 23.06 for appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. A full six year term is to be filled. He advised the Mayor requested Luanne Cain be appointed. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to confirm the appointment; second by Neal. All yea by roll call.

Smith reported 38 applications were received for the Maintenance Worker I position. Gary Johnson, a Lebanon resident, was hired to fill the position. Smith advised 100 people turned out for the Tree Board's celebration of Arbor Day at Salem Elementary; the Tree Board also worked with the Urban Forrester, Wendy Vanburen, resulting in a well attended presentation on tree Care at the Library. He stated the Veterans Memorial's first order of 87 engraved pavers were set two weeks ago; several positive comments were received. He also reported the Historical Society made a presentation at the Library on Abe Lincoln's stop in Morrow. Smith stated currently, there are three reservations for use of the Shelter at Phegley Park, a National Multiple Sclerosis 92 mile bike ride event, a ½ mile marathon and a picnic.

The Administrator Smith noted Morrow's Mayor's Court Report and Bank Reconciliation were included in his report to Council. He advised the past month was a busy one for Public Works, citing a number of completed projects to include filter media replacement in Bed I. Smith stated bush hogging was quite an adventure. He thanked Fiscal Officer Nichole Knell; he stated she found money from three past due invoices and will take the lead on finding health insurance providing for the Village. Smith advised Fire Chief LaFollette will celebrate his birthday on May 22nd; LaFollette will be retiring at the end of the month.

The Fiscal Officer provided written reports, Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements and discussed a Resolution needed to pay a contractor for work completed, increasing and decreasing appropriations for street repairs, increasing appropriations for Police Cruiser insurance claim for a total of \$3,000 being moved. Payment was received from the insurance company. She also advised payment was received for salt sales. She advised the credit card did not have available funds to pay the invoice; she suggested the limit should be increased. Discussion followed regarding the Police Cruiser incident.

Motion by Erwin to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #3-15; second by Neal. Motion by Erwin to adopt Resolution #3-15, approving miscellaneous adjustments in Appropriations Budget; second by Poe. All yea by roll call.

Bryant read the listed Resolution. Smith explained the purchase agreement and process. Isaacs-Niemesh asked the price of the salt. Administrator Smith provided the information, noting a significant decrease in costs at \$77 a ton.

Regular Session of Village Council

May 12, 2015

Motion by Poe to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #4-15; second by Erwin. Motion by Poe to adopt Resolution #4-15, authorizing the Administrator enter into an agreement with Warren County for 100 tons of road salt for 2015-2016; second by Erwin. All yea by roll call.

Neal asked if Council should look at the Village credit card and increase the limit. Motion by Neal to increase the credit card limit to \$10,000; second by Erwin. All yea.

Bryant asked about the school's purchase of salt from the Village. Smith stated the school had an emergency for the salt. They paid the Village for the salt. He also discussed the Thornton Park Lease, commenting it was previously \$1. Thompson stated the lease was for five years and expired in April. Erwin stated they did a good job with the park. Kaspar read the Ordinance. Ducker commented on the Lease and meetings, asking if the group would have control. They will be able to approve with Council's approval. Rod Smith explained the procedures for use/improvements. He stated regarding the Frisbee Golf Course, the citizens who prepared the proposal moved out of town. Thompson stated Little Miami has control over the park when an event is scheduled; they can exclude people from the area they are using. Administrator Smith stated the group also maintains the park's 58 acres. Thompson asked if the same conditions were in the new lease. Discussion followed. Thompson gave clarification on locks.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #10-15; second by Erwin. All yea. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Ordinance #10-15, approving the Lease Agreement for Phegley Park with Little Miami Panther Football and the Village of Morrow; second by Erwin. All yea.

Bryant read the next agenda item. Rod Smith provided additional information. Discussion followed. Kaspar responded.

Motion by Erwin to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #11-15; second by Neal. All yea. Motion by Erwin to adopt Ordinance #11-15, approving increase in Mayor's Court Costs from \$95 to \$110; second by Neal. All yea.

Thompson advised his daughter from California, Becky, watered and planted flowers on the bridge on Saturday, May 10th and he watered them. Several commented positively on the lovely flowers.

Neal advised she followed up with Krogers and the Pantry. She stated since the Kroger stickers can easily be removed, the return of a receipt to the Village be required. Without a receipt on record, a subsequent voucher would not be authorized through the Schuerer Trust Fund. Poe asked if the Pantry was being considered. He stated they are our neighbors, in our back yard. Neal stated she learned they don't always have milk and eggs. Krogers was recommended. All were in agreement.

**Public Forum**

Mr. Gary Nelson provided a photo showing erosion, stating the basin continues to cave in, now it is a large opening. He stated the worker put a grate over it. Smith stated is a catch basin. Nelson wanted to put decorative brick on it. Smith stated he would have an engineer come out and give a solution so it can be repaired properly. Discussion followed. Erwin pointed out a street light was out at Center and Miami. Bryant stated a bulb was out on the other side of the street and five on Main Street.

**Adjournment**

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

---

Nichole Knell, Fiscal Officer

---

Mike Erwin, Mayor