

Regular Session of Village Council

June 9, 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 Mayor. The following members were present.

York Bryant – P

Judy Neal – P

Terry Erwin – P

John Poe – P

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – A

William Thompson – P

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Council reviewed the minutes of previous meeting. Motion by Councilwoman Neal to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2015 Regular Session; second by Councilman Bryant. All yea.

**Reports / Legislation from Village Officials**

Mayor Erwin advised Council the Village Administrator in his absence provided a written report and requested a water bill adjustment for a consumer on Melford Drive. He stated the average usage was 24,500 gallons of water which increased to 32,400 gallons; the adjustment requested would reduce the bill from \$243.81 to \$107.60. Mayor Erwin stated the request met the six criteria of the Ordinance for credit.

Motion by Neal to approve the reduction; second by Councilman Poe. All yea.

Police Chief Kilburn advised the department was in the process of requalifying. He stated the Village would receive an invoice for ammunition later in the month. Neal inquired about the location and if range fees were also due. Kilburn stated Hamilton Township permitted the use of their facility without a range fee to the Morrow Police Department for the past ten years; previously, the department used Butler Tech and paid a range fee.

Fiscal Officer Nichole Knell referred to written reports provided, Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements and discussed a Resolution needed increasing appropriations for River Corridor grant contribution, \$9,000 and \$2,400 for significant pot hole repairs, the first portion of engineering services for Water Plant Upgrade of \$50,000 and \$60,000 for Monroe water equipment dismantle and delivery, increasing and decreasing appropriation line items. Solicitor John Kaspar provided the reading for the Resolution.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #5-15; second by Councilman Erwin. Councilman Thompson asked a question about the River Corridor Project; the Mayor responded a 2” cap on 2 connector roads to Rt. 22 & 3. All yea. Motion by Neal to adopt Resolution #5-15, approving miscellaneous adjustments in Appropriations Budget; second by Erwin. All yea.

Knell stated she was shopping for health insurance, advising she had one meeting earlier in the day and a couple outstanding offers. She stated the Village may be able to save as much as \$3,000 a month but the liability may cut into the savings. The Fiscal Officer stated she was checking further and would provide a spreadsheet at the next meeting. Poe asked if there was a life for the contract. Mayor Erwin wanted to maintain a quality level of insurance. Knell advised the current carrier was getting out of the healthcare business; rates will go up, but 35% for the company was the highest she found. Discussion followed.

The Mayor reported Blackhawk Road is in terrible shape; we will apply for a grant. He stated the road will need full reclamation; the berms are gone and it’s about a \$300,000 project. He stated we spent \$11,000 two years ago for a temporary fix. Mayor Erwin stated it’s been patched several times and there’s no drainage. There is not a likelihood of the

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Woodlands building out fast enough to take care of the problem. He stated an OPWC grant should be available. Discussion followed.

The Solicitor stated there was an outstanding Ordinance which required a third reading for the water rate increase. He also advised he was in receipt of a request from the Village Administrator by Jones Warner for authorization from Council to submit application for funding to OPWC on behalf of the Village for Morrow Blackhawk Road improvements. Kaspar stated per Mr. Campbell application was needed by June 10, 2015. Thompson asked if Jones Warner applied for all infrastructure grants. The Mayor stated they apply for many of them. The Solicitor advised authority was requested on an emergency basis.

Motion by Poe to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #6-15; second by Erwin. All yea. Motion by Poe to adopt Resolution #6-15, authorizing OPWC grant application submission for Morrow Blackhawk Road improvements; second by Erwin. All yea. Kaspar provided further detail on processing Resolution.

Solicitor Kaspar gave the third reading of Ordinance #8-15. Motion to adopt Ordinance #8-15 by Neal (initial unanimous vote to adopt 5-12-15 at first reading); second by Erwin. Thompson called for a point of order; he asked if it would be appropriate to wait until Isaacs-Niemesh was back. The Mayor stated we have a quorum. The Mayor requested a roll call, three yea, two nay from Thompson and Bryant.

Thompson stated he read ORC #731.17 regarding Passage of Ordinances/Resolutions regarding municipalities. He stated there was language included about emergency and other legislation and provided a conclusion. Thompson stated he would wait until Kaspar reviewed the code and advised regarding the vote.

Knell asked for clarification on signature required on grant documents verifying funds. The Mayor explained regarding the Village contribution when grants funding was approved.

### **Public Forum**

Mr. Donald Johnson expressed concerns of bad eye sores in the community. He cited locations where problems were perpetual. He stated he tried to help one of his neighbors. Johnson stated Administrator Smith looked at the problem. He stated he previously approached Chief Kilburn. Mr. Johnson reiterated clean-up was needed in town. Mayor Erwin stated to Mr. Johnson he understood his concern and advised currently the Village was short an employee in Public Works. Bryant stated we have no power on Council other than pass laws. The Administrator directs the employees. Discussion followed. Mr. Johnson stated he would not return to discuss the matter again.

Mr. George Bocklett stated he saw the new employee spraying grass/weeds with poisoning along the Bike Trail, a watershed for Little Miami River. He also asked about the progress on charter government. The Mayor stated we only use EPA approved methods. Ms. Luanne Cain stated Warren County sprayed at the Bike Trail. Chief Kilburn concurred the County sprayed a couple weeks prior. Mr. Bocklett stated he was concerned about poisoning getting into the river and insisted it was the new Village employee who sprayed. Fiscal Officer Knell stated the employee was working nights flushing hydrants the prior week. Discussion followed. Thompson stated three committee members were present to respond to the question on charter government.

Poe stated there is little or no activity right now. Thompson asked Poe if they were doing petitions this year. Poe stated he wanted to see Council work together to make things happen; support is needed. He stated we have two sides on Council. He said the water system is very important and we must work together. He stated committees went away when he missed one meeting. Ms. Bev Massey asked a question correlating charter government with weeds getting cleaned up in community. The Mayor responded; we are short one employee. He stated a prior employee picked up trash every morning and the town looked good. We are trying to hire someone; it is a hard job and people are not willing to do it.

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The Mayor stated infrastructure must be repaired and in good shape. When you have grid lock, you can't move forward. We had a lot of momentum. We are still fiscally responsible; we're still in the black. Mayor Erwin stated it's disheartening to see Mr. Johnson leave in disgust. Discussion followed. The Mayor advised we'll get things done, grass mowed, etc. It's June; we lost two seasoned employees. Our new employees will do a good job. Everything in town is not bad.

Thompson apologized to Poe for taking the vote referenced when he was gone. Neal stated she is also anti-chemical, trying to avoid chemicals whenever possible. Thompson commented regarding polluting the river. Bryant asked if another employee had been hired. He stated Council should ask Mike Hannah to come back and give him money. Discussion followed. The Mayor asked to go into Executive Session to discuss the personnel matter.

Motion by Neal to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:42pm; second by Bryant. All yea.  
Motion by Neal to return to Regular Session at 6:57pm; second by Bryant. All yea.

Luanne Cain asked if the trash receptacle next to the Veterans Memorial could be moved. Discussion followed. The Mayor stated we'll take care of it.

**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