

Regular Session of Village Council

October 13, 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

Tony Niemesh / Board of Little Miami Local School District

Mr. Niemesh provided literature to Council members. He discussed the prior operating levy and millage. He advised a levy renewal was on the ballot; no additional tax dollars were requested. Niemesh stated the last payment of the \$11,000,000 was made to the State earlier this year; this levy is a \$0 tax increase. We are proud of our progress. There is one year left on the current levy and an additional five years is requested. It is a good value for the dollars. Twenty percent of students are achieving in the top 20% in the State, spending \$9,500 per student per year. We are requesting the support of the community; let's look forward. We have five functioning board members currently. He opened the floor for questions. Councilman Thompson asked about the performance. Niemesh stated through tests scores and student achievement, the school ranked in the top 20% in the State. He discussed the first levy, stating they were able to upgrade curriculum; there are over 200 new students enrolled this year. Mr. Ducker asked if any programs were cut. Niemesh advised the school board was previously required to make cuts, but since that time they have been able to add programs back. He stated the levy is 25% of our total budget. Councilman Poe asked if the growth was in the younger age groups. Niemesh stated there are 50 to 60 new high school students, but the kindergarten had the greatest growth. Mrs. Massey asked how many levies citizens were paying on. Niemesh advised building funds are different; he stated he would check on the total number of levies and millage. He stated only one levy was up for vote. Discussion followed. Thompson stated with regard to hiring more teachers, can we be assured new personnel are teachers rather than administrators. Niemesh responded the ratio is low compared to the State; the average class size varied 22 to 30 students. Discussion followed.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of previous meeting. Motion by Councilwoman Niemesh to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2015 Regular Session and September 29, 2015 Special Session; second by Councilwoman Neal. Five yea by roll call.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials

Neal stated at 3:30pm when school lets out, people are stopping on Welch Road close to the sign and buses can't turn the corner. Niemesh advised October 21, 2015 is *Meet the Candidates Night* in the basement of the Morrow Masonic Lodge at 120 Highlawn Avenue.

William Harrison / Morrow/Salem Fire Department Chief

Harrison stated he was promoted to Chief on July 31, 2015 when LaFollette retired. He noted Salem Township meets on the same evening as Morrow's Council. He stated he wants to meet with Morrow quarterly and hear from the community. He advised the Fire Department also has a contract with Washington Township. Harrison reported through September 30, 2015, the department responded to 20 auto accidents, 225 fire rescue runs, 502 emergency medical service runs, a total of 727 runs for the year. He stated Wednesday is their heaviest day.

Harrison discussed a recent training activity at the Purple Boulder Farm; a house scheduled for demolition was used for training purposes. He advised portions of the well-built house took more than three hours to extinguish and it took quite a long time to get up the beautiful circular stairway. The firemen were trained on putting holes in the slate on the roof. The

Regular Session of Village Council

October 13, 2015

first day was rescue and salvage. He stated we had a lot of help; fifty participated from Clinton, Warren, Harlem Chester, Turtlecreek, Carlisle Townships, Union, Hamilton, Lebanon, etc.; several positive remarks were made. Bryant stated there were 362 acres at the property and he didn't understand the desire to demolish the home. Harrison explained the property was scheduled for demolition. He advised three hours of training a month was required; four full time officers were trained in the house. Discussion followed. The Chief requested funds for Christmas Candy for November 28, 2015 for *Christmas on Main*. He stated the Fire Trucks would be in place. He credited Bev Massey with the *Trunk or Treat* idea for October 25th and advised the department would be present.

Motion by Neal to fund the purchase for the annual Christmas Candy distribution, providing the same amount as 2014; second by Councilman Erwin. All yeas by roll call.

Erwin stated he was pleased that Harrison was Fire Chief; he stated he appreciated his service over the years. Harrison stated he is trying to get more volunteers; some are coming from other communities, a few from Morrow. We work a 70 hour week now; staff is low. Neal asked if they were planning to put a levy on the ballot. He responded we may need to do it in May 2016 or later. Councilman Poe commended the Fire Department's response at shift change to PineRidge to transport his mother-in-law; he stated they were professional, a great crew. Harrison noted the firemen were wearing pink shirts in October for breast cancer awareness. Bruce Miller noted extra effort was made with Dalton Cross previously. Mrs. LuAnne Cain also commented positively concerning the Fire Department. Mrs. Merilene Skaggs stated she needed the department's help for the Christmas Dinner on December 12, 2015 from 11am to 5pm.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials Cont'd

Bryant called for Village Administrator Rod Smith who was called away for an emergency. The Administrator's written report was provided to Council, along with an attached Mayor's Court Report and Bank Reconciliation.

Solicitor Kaspar discussed the General Assembly Tax Code, a Supreme Court decision HB5. He stated municipalities must be in compliance. Proactive measures must be taken to comply before January 2016. Thompson asked if it was written and in place. Kaspar responded affirmatively.

Fiscal Officer Nichole Knell requested approval to move funds between training accounts, Administrator's to Fiscal Officer's, stating interest rates could be improved following this training. She stated unemployment payments required adjustment in Water and Street appropriation line items. Thompson asked a question regarding the unemployment payment. Knell stated the total for Jobs and Family Services was noted in the written report provided which included Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements; she stated the Village's liable amount will be reduced if employment is secured. Thompson asked if the Village was writing a check to Jobs and Family Services for disbursement. Niemesh asked for the total unemployment amount. Knell replied \$7,401.00. Discussion followed. She added there was also a small annexation legal fee. Niemesh asked for the total annexation fee. Knell stated communication, phone calls and reviewing annexation materials were billed; she stated she was optimistic it was done and fees for filing were paid. Knell stated money has come into the Village, tap-in fees, etc. as a result of the annexation. Council was referred to the breakdown provided. Discussion followed.

Knell requested an increase in appropriations for Zoning, permits and OPERS and appropriation for the ODNR grant for the Bike Trail; she stated the Village would be reimbursed for project in stages. Niemesh asked where the Bike Trail was going. A few Council members responded the old railroad track. Niemesh asked to be refreshed on the origin of the Ordinance. Erwin responded and the State is working on it. Knell stated the grant is \$247,000. Niemesh asked what was the cost to taxpayers. Discussion followed. Bev Massey asked if the money must be used on the Bike Trail; she stated there are other

Regular Session of Village Council

October 13, 2015

needs. Vice Mayor Bryant stated we must use the funds for the Bike Trail. He asked who had the plan. Knell stated the Mayor and the Administrator. Poe stated he believed part of the grant was for planning; he attended meetings with the City of Wilmington, another route for Ohio to Erie trail. He advised tourism was the ultimate plan; the grant gets the ball rolling and gives access to the Park, getting to the center of town. Thompson stated if we had the grant application in front of us it would help. Discussion followed. Thompson commented on grants and stated he wanted to look at the minutes. Kaspar provided the reading for the proposed Resolution.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #16-15; second by Councilman Erwin. All yea. Motion by Neal to adopt Resolution #16-15, approving miscellaneous adjustments in appropriations; second by Erwin. All yea by roll call.

The Fiscal Officer discussed the legal level of control for moving money, asking Council if they would rather move it to a program level rather than object level. Kaspar stated Council must consider the political accountability, stating it was a circular issue of enforcement and oversight. He advised the Budget passed with line item amounts; she is asking if you are comfortable with a certain level in which the Fiscal Officer would report on a quarterly rather than monthly basis, referring to Chapter 700 of the Ohio Revised Code; he stated it deserves more scrutiny and some caretaking is involved. Knell stated she wants checks and balances. Discussion followed.

Knell advised the new insurance was in effect. She stated a Rock Salt settlement was received for \$500, a new cell phone provider netted savings over the prior carrier and the new copier in place will save \$55.00 monthly.

Solicitor Kaspar completed the second reading of Resolution #14-15, approving Water Operator/Maintenance Worker II rate of pay. He expounded on Municipal Income Tax House Bill 5 from the Ordinance details, recommending adoption.

Motion by Neal to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #14-15; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea by roll call. Motion by Neal to adopt Ordinance #14-15, approving amendment of Municipal Income Tax HB5; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea by roll call.

Public Forum

Bev Massey stated there has been good response for Trunk or Treat. She advised Bruce Miller was running it on his web site. She asked the Council members to be present for the activity. Thompson stated *Morrow for Tomorrow* would be there and set up. Mrs., Massey stated it was for the kids. She stated she would like to have a sign to display. Bruce Miller stated he had a banner, 8' long by 3' wide. Discussion followed.

LuAnne Cain requested the Resolution number for the grant discussed. Resolution #34-13 was provided. Mr. Miller stated he requests a Deer Crossing sign on Morrow-Rossburg at Morrow Meadows. Police Chief Kilburn advised it was a county road; he should contact the County Engineer.

Adjournment

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

Nichole Knell, Fiscal Officer

Mike Erwin, Mayor