

Regular Session of Village Council

March 8, 2016

Call to Order

The Regular Session of Council was called to order by 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.

Kiley Dane – P

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

Judy Neal – P

John Poe – P

Benjamin Steiner – 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 February 9, 2016 Regular Session and the February 1, 2016 Special Session; second by Councilman Steiner. All yeas by roll call.

Magistrate Andrew Sievers / Candidate Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge

Magistrate Sievers stated he was a candidate for the General Division Common Pleas Court Judge seat vacated by Judge Flannery. He stated he attended school in Lebanon, met his wife, attended college and became interested in public service as a fireman. He stated he pursued a degree in Criminal Justice and later served as a policeman in Huber Heights for 5 years. Sievers advised he practiced law and joined the Warren County Prosecutor's Office; moved to the Criminal Division and currently serves as Magistrate in Probate Court.

The Magistrate advised public service has been his main interest to help people. Formerly a Defense Attorney, he stated from 2000 to 2010 he prosecuted two capital cases, murder, drug, serial rape and arson cases; he also practiced law in civil cases. He added he is involved in Big Brothers, Big Sisters Board, etc. He referred to his web page and Facebook page and asked for questions.

Laura Curliss / Trail and Grant Consultant

Laura Curliss advised the Todd's Fork Trail, Morrow Project started two years ago; Ohio created the Trails Plan but local jurisdiction must follow through. She referred to page 2, Local Planning Support, of the presentation pamphlet distributed to Mayor and Council members. She stated people who use bike trails on an average spend \$17.47 in the community while cycling according to a 1999 OKI Study of Economic Development Projects. The trail is planned from Morrow to Clarksville, a 9.7 mile corridor along Little Miami River. She added the old Cincinnati, Wilmington, Zanesville Railroad was that spur. Curliss reported a \$247,000 grant received from the Clean Ohio Trail Fund was awarded to Morrow. She stated the Clinton Ohio Trails group purchased the corridor to make regional connections possible; Southwest Ohio is the most impressive interconnection. Morrow will be connected. The Consultant referred to a map on page 9 showing the Community Snapshot and the miles from Washington Courthouse to Chillicothe already built, stating they are currently working on Sabina, once connected to a 100 mile loop called the Century Loop to Franklin County. Curliss referred to the map on page 3 of the material distributed.

Curliss reported the Speaker of the House, Cliff Rosenberger, advised he wanted to put the bike trail in the Capital budget. Clinton Trails, 7 miles, is already secured. She advised if the landowner is willing, we purchase the land with certified appraisal, no eminent domain. The reimbursement grant, \$50,000 churning money, is for a multi-phase project; there is no Ohio Division of Trails. The 2013 Morrow Comprehensive Plan submitted to the State of Ohio was included in part in the packet provided. She stated the Comprehensive Plan was fabulous; she referred to pages 12 and 13. Curliss acknowledged she understood the fiscal concerns. Councilman Thompson stated on page 9, there were two proposed trails leaving from the Depot in Morrow. He stated one crosses where the bridge once was and asked which would be used. Curliss stated both were included in place; referring to the green spur, if one is eliminated, it could save money. Mayor Bryant asked about Thornton Park. She

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responded it would be great to connect to the park somehow because people will walk a mile for ice cream. The Mayor raised a concern with regard to Todd's Fork. Curliss gave an example of the bridge across Interstate 675 at Wright State University. She asked Brian Housh to address Economic Development.

Brian K Housh, Policy Manager Midwest Regional Office of *rails-to-trails conservancy* advised he was a Yellow Springs Council member. He referred to the International Trails Symposium in Dayton in 2016. He advised Dayton has the longest paved trail network. Housh discussed the benefits of having bike trails and how they complement a community; business around the trails will increase. Morrow is on the Ohio Erie Trail and has regional connectivity which improves economic development and health benefits. Improved signage gets people into the area. Housh cited his experiences with improved infrastructure. Neal asked what Morrow could expect, requesting statistics on economic impact. Housh advised communities can expect repeat visits 5 to 10 times a month per a recent OKI study; business benefits, riders spend money, stay in region and look for other things to do to return. Councilman Poe discussed return business. He stated *SQUARE* has a great reporting system and added the Bike Path has impacted his business. He also commented on Valley Vineyards being impacted by the Bike Path. Poe added Morrow doesn't offer lodging but 12 bikes were present today. Housh advised Minneapolis has the most activity. He stated funding is available for signage, listing sources. Laura Curliss referenced American Greenways.org, advising studies show real estate values go up near bike trails.

Thomas & Beth Hawk / Hawk Foundation

Thomas Hawk stated he and his wife owned an insurance agency and started a 501C3 charitable foundation providing scholarships. He discussed an Easter Egg Hunt being planned with 4,000 eggs. Mayor Bryant stated *Morrow of Tomorrow* donated eggs. Beth Hawk stated the community had been very helpful in making preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Hawk provided a poster and asked for questions. He advised the event was planned for 2pm at Phegley Park on March 26th. Discussion followed. The Mayor stated Trunk or Treat started by Bev Massey was very successful. He added a Pine tree in the park would be removed before the upcoming event.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials

Thompson reported on the Water Plant Distribution System, referencing Well #2. He stated March 21st was scheduled for the next step to be taken on Well #1 which has been rehabbed; Thompson added this was a short term approach to help the Village water problem. Thompson advised a meeting was planned to discuss improvements/flush valves, etc. and advise EPA of the progress before Well #2 goes down.

Mayor Bryant addressed the water fountain request for Veterans Park. Isaacs-Niemesh thanked him for his help. The Mayor presented a stake to Isaacs-Niemesh to place in the ground at the park and described the 3 tier fountain to be installed. He advised Hanna would help with the installation, the tap. Mayor Bryant said he is also working with Warren County to get a regular bathroom installed.

The Mayor displayed a piece of equipment, stating it was purchased two years ago. Thompson stated it had magnets and was used to track a vehicle and notify movement via phone alert; the cost was \$2,756 with the \$600 fee expiring in September. Bruce Miller stated the administration was spying on personnel. Thompson advised Chief Kilburn obtained codes for access to information. Discussion followed. Thompson gave details, stating equipment was found on Village vehicle M02 and no fault was found with use of the vehicle; the device was removed in October. The Mayor stated he planned to dismantle the contract in August 2016. Thompson stated he found it in the Administrator's office and made the inquiry. Discussion followed. Bev Massey asked if there was any criminal charge that could be filed. Solicitor Kaspar said he would have to look into it. Thompson advised the equipment was used on a Village vehicle. Bruce Miller asked the Solicitor where it was in the ORC that money could be spent without Council's approval. The Solicitor stated ORC 731.141; he read the ordinance to clarify the spending issue. Thompson commented on Budget Appropriations.

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Poe asked for the date of the water meeting. Thompson responded. Fiscal Officer Nichole Knell requested a Resolution for adjustments in appropriations. She stated there were 7 taps at the Woodlands year-to-date and that fund balance was \$52,000. Knell advised a \$29,000 increase was needed to fulfill engineering contract for the Morrow Blackhawk Road project, which will come back to the Village in grant money if approved. She stated \$1,567 from the Street Fund and Water Fund was needed to cover Unemployment Compensation which was not included in the 2016 budget. She discussed a \$375 adjustment needed to cover the bi-annual training expense for the Mayor's Court Clerk.

Motion by Poe to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #5-16; second by Neal. All yea. Motion by Poe to approve Resolution #5-16, increasing appropriations as requested; second by Neal. All yea by roll call.

The Fiscal Officer advised the 2015 data needed to be processed and reviewed; the Ohio Checkbook will go live after that process is completed. Thompson discussed the process linked to UAN. Bruce Miller commented it will allow everyone to see everything that is spent. Discussion followed.

Reports were provided to Council to include Mayor's Court Report and Bank Reconciliation, Village Fiscal Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements.

Public Forum

Bev Massey asked if an Administrator is hired, would the Village have the ability to prevent \$50,000 in spending. The response given was we cannot, based on ORC. Discussion followed. Councilwoman Dane questioned if the Village could put something in the contract for the Administrator. Kaspar responded, referring to budget line items allocated. Mayor Bryant commented.

Bruce Miller stated he made a request for Public Records in February. Kaspar stated he would review the request with the Mayor. He asked if the web site could be updated with a Water Quality Report because of what happened in Flint, Michigan. Neal commented residents receive that information in the mail annually. Thompson said he would look into it. Discussion followed. Miller asked if the Village had enough money to work on pot holes. The Mayor stated Cold Patch was received; the asphalt plants open in late March. Chief Kilburn advised ODOT has a *Hot Box* loaded on the river; Morrow doesn't have the ability to get hot patch early. Kilburn stated we will use cold patch until the plant opens. Mayor Bryant explained further.

Kilburn announced the Fire Department's Fish Fry to support the fireman would be held March 18, 2016 from 4:30pm to 8pm.

Adjournment

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adjourn; second by Neal. All yea.

Nichole Knell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor