

Regular Session of Village Council

March 14, 2017

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
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 the previous meetings. Motion by Councilman Thompson to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2017 Regular Session and the February 28, 2017 Special Session; second by Councilwoman Neal. All yeas by roll call.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials

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

The Mayor reported the Plaza Shopping Center was under contract with a new owner. Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh asked what the new owner's plans were for the property. Discussion followed. The Mayor stated improvements are needed; the new owner plans to renovate starting with a new roof. Mayor Bryant stated if growth continues, hopefully a grocery store will open.

Councilwoman Dane advised she received a report of a junk car on Penders near the park for several weeks with a flat tire and garbage. The Mayor stated it would be addressed. He reported a swing was purchased for the park and will be installed when the weather permits. Isaacs-Niemesh stated the rear of the Plaza looked better. Mayor Bryant advised the Zoning Inspector was working on it. He also reported the metal plate on State Route 123 will be addressed when road work is done, weather permitting.

Thompson discussed the Annual Meeting of the District Advisory Council for Warren County Health District. He stated Council members received minutes of the meeting by email. He also discussed the Village Personnel Policy. He referenced the prior pending Ordinance #3-16, regarding the draft of the document which was withdrawn before adoption. Solicitor Kaspar provided the reading for the pending legislation.

Motion by Thompson to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #8-17; second by Neal. Motion by Thompson to adopt Resolution #8-17, approving and adopting the new Village Employee Handbook; second by Neal. All yeas by roll call.

Neal reported there were new businesses in the Village, a new Aroma Shop next to the Nursing Home and a Security Systems Shop where the former Chubby's Pizza was located. Thompson commented on a Facebook posting for the Aroma Shop. Councilman Poe inquired if the Fiscal Officer received a response from the State on the Water Plant correspondence. Knell stated her contact provided an update on the status of the document needed regarding the Water Plant. Discussion followed.

Thompson advised everyone there would be twice as much effort in maintaining the Water Plant when the new plant opens; the plant will require a periodic back flush. He asked if the Water Operator could flush both at the same time. Thompson stated there is a cost with that. Mr. Ducker stated regarding the back flush, he asked if it could be set up on a timer or was it manual. Thompson responded it is not currently automated to that degree; he explained. Discussion followed.

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Mayor Bryant requested a motion on the 2017 Ohio Basic Code. The Solicitor provided the reading for the pending Ordinance.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #1-17; second by Neal. All yea by roll call. Motion by Thompson to adopt Ordinance #1-17, approving, adopting and enacting the 2017 American Legal Publishing Basic Code; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea by roll call.

Fiscal Officer Nichole Knell explained Mike Bryant and Easton Vonholle received 80 hours of vacation in 2016. She explained a Resolution was needed retroactively for vacation pay.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #6-17; second by Neal. All yea by roll call. Motion by Poe to adopt Resolution #6-17, approving retroactive vacation for Bryant and VonHolle; second by Isaacs Niemesh. All yea by roll call.

Solicitor Kaspar provided the Second Reading for Resolution #1-17, establishing ODOT Bike Trail Signage. Thompson expounded on it for citizens present. Discussion followed.

Knell discussed roofing estimates she received, stating there were two quotes for the garage bay only at \$13,656 and \$11,664. In addition, bids were received for the Municipal Building offices; the lowest bid was an additional \$2,700 above the quote for the bay. She also discussed upcoming training she wished to attend which would require a two day hotel stay. Knell stated this would exceed her training budget by \$40. All were in agreement with the budget overage for the training costs. Discussion followed.

Motion by Poe to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #7-17; second by Neal. All yea by roll call. Motion by Poe to adopt Resolution #7-17, approving roofing repairs for Municipal Building and bay at \$14,354; second by Neal. All yea by roll call.

Kaspar reported her communicated with the Cain's attorney. He stated the Petition and Notice would be posted for six weeks prior to a public meeting and advised the Clerk of Council to prepare said posting.

Linda Oda / Warren County Recorder

Oda advised in her fifth year as Warren County Recorder, she handles land records only. She stated in the U.S., democracy works; we keep tract of lands records and gave an analogy, discussing the disparity with poor developing countries. The County Recorder advised the Ohio Revised Code requires she provide an annual report and distributed a copy of the report for Council and community members. This year in January 1300 documents were recorded, up from 2016 by approximately 100 documents. She advised property values will go up by about 10% by 2019.

Oda reported she is also assigned by the General Assembly to keep track of where all Veterans whose home was in Warren County are buried. She advised two interns were hired in her office and all records were converted to Excel within the last two years; the information was provided to Veteran Service Commission for flags at Veterans Day. Veterans may file DD214 documents and have them recorded and certified by her office; she provides a State ID Card and Honor Rewards Card. Businesses who participate in the program are shown on the County web site.

Referring to the graph provided in the report, Oda discussed 2016 revenue, \$2.4M. She advised \$1.2M was sent to the State; in 1999 the Recorder Fee doubled at the request of the Ohio General Assembly. The County sent half of its receipts to the State and the State would send funds, half back to the County. The County received money back in 2013, but has not received any money to benefit the County since that time. Discussion followed.

Judge Don Oda stated he was glad he had an opportunity to attend the meeting and connect with people he previously worked with in the Village. He advised he stopped practicing law

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in 2012 and was pleased to have served the Village of Morrow as Solicitor for more than twelve years. The Mayor commented, thanking him for great service to the Village.

Public Forum

Mr. Phillip Williams asked the status of the requested Stop Sign at Anna Marie and Daniel, stating there was a need for it. He stated kids are playing in the street; the sign is needed for safety. Knell stated she was advised there was already a sign there. Discussion followed. Councilwoman Dane provided specifics regarding the desired location for the sign. Ducker stated people are speeding and residents are ignoring Stop Signs, especially after school. Poe asked if the traffic was coming up the hill. Discussion followed. The Mayor stated they would take care of it.

Ducker mentioned a company sign on property that belonged to the Village and was concerned that garage sales and other such signs might be placed there. The Mayor stated the individual got a permit but he didn't realize it was Village property. Ducker advised the property was donated to the Village. Mayor Bryant thanked him for bringing it to the attention of Council. Discussion followed.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Steiner to adjourn; second by Thompson. All yea.

Nichole Knell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor