

Regular Session of Village Council

December 12, 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 Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2017 Regular Session; second by Councilwoman Neal. All yeas by roll call.

Randy Osborn / Zoning Inspector

Inspector Osborn advised Shirley and Krista Popkins filed application for property rezoning after annexation by the Village. They are now requesting a refund of the application fee of \$400. He advised 17 acres and 16 acres were owned between the two individuals. No reason was given for the rezoning request or what was planned for the property after several meetings with the Planning Commission. Kaspar commented. Isaacs-Niemesh questioned the reason for the refund. Councilman Poe advised the property was originally in Salem Township and zoned commercial before annexation. He stated a plan or PUD was needed from the applicant but never received. Morrow has incurred costs during the process. Jim Frederick commented the first 500' was commercial along Route 22 and 3, the other 500 residential prior to the annexation. Discussion followed. Neal expressed concern with regard to returning money. Osborn stated the Planning Commission's recommendation was for refund because no PUD was supplied. Poe stated we are not in the business of taking advantage of people or being taken advantage of. He asked if the costs for posting her requests were available. Thompson stated we need to get that cost and get back to the applicant. Councilwoman Dane asked if she filed a permit to erect the fence but didn't build it, would she get her fee back. The response was no.

Osborn stated the applicant is frustrated; the property must remain residential unless we get a Planned Unit Development. Dane advised she would like to hear from the applicant in the way of a written request and reasoning. Discussion followed.

Isaacs-Niemesh inquired regarding a marijuana zoning issue a citizen approached her about. She was not certain of Salem Township stance on the matter. Mayor Bryant commented. Isaacs-Niemesh stated we need to get in front of it before anything transpires; refer to Salem Township's regulations. The Mayor also commented on Harlan Township's policy.

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.

Mayor Bryant advised Christmas on Main was a great success, many children present and dinner was great. He stated tonight is Judy Neal and John Poe's last official meeting. We've had good working relations; Paul Zorn will be a new Council member for 2018. He announced Maag's Senior Citizen's Bingo would be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 and all are welcome.

Poe asked about the contract for Trailworks. Solicitor Kaspar responded he requested clarification with minor changes and one issue. As agent for the Village (similar to malpractice insurance), is additional insurance needed? Poe commented and asked if a rewrite could be done. Kaspar stated he would rewrite; he referenced Chapter 731, stating

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the Mayor could sign once revised. Poe added for thirty years he has been in Public Service, initially receiving a letter from the State Representative addressing him as honorable. He said it was indeed an honor. Thompson complimented the outgoing Council members whose terms expire at the end of the month.

Neal advised she assumed her first elected position in 1987. She stated she will serve on the Tree Board which she finds interesting. She discussed a goal she had when she was elected to Council, a grocery store in the Village. The Mayor stated when the car count is right, the grocery store will come; there is some action in Rochester and new businesses are coming to the Village. Thompson advised he spent the last few weeks creating a floor plan of the Depot.

Councilman Steiner thanked the Village for the opportunity to serve. He stated he enjoyed his time on Council. Dane requested a left turn arrow at the Route 123 and Route 22 and 3 intersection for traffic from Wilmington and Rochester. The Mayor stated we will contact the State of Ohio regarding the Turn signal.

Solicitor Kaspar discussed the pending Resolution #19-17 for a Community Development Block Grant application for the Hazen / Thompson paving and drainage project. He read the Resolution in its entirety authorizing Jones Warner to make application on behalf of the Village of Morrow and declaring it an emergency. Council members raised questions regarding specifics of the project and Resolution. Thompson commented. Discussion followed. Action was tabled.

Kaspar gave the 2nd Readings for Ordinances #5-17, waiving residency requirement for the Fiscal Officer and Ordinance #6-17 Water Rate Increase, replace and improve Water Fund for new Water Plant construction. He also requested a Resolution for adjustments in appropriations. Fiscal Officer Tina Powell explained the line item adjustments requested, moving funds from State Highway Fund to Water Fund for new water treatment plant to 2018. She added funds were being moved to cover flood insurance, moving funds from annexation, to cover garbage bill and reducing capital projects due to police cruiser financing. This is needed for the end of the year balancing. Kaspar read the pending Resolution.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #20-17; second by Neal. All yea by roll call. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to approve Resolution #20-17, to approve adjustments in appropriations; second by Neal. All yea by roll call.

Thompson stated two new Council members were present. He summarized the needs for the water rate increase recently passed. The Mayor advised the Village is still \$36 a month cheaper than North Lebanon.

Public Forum

Bruce Miller asked the purpose of the Special Meeting scheduled in January. The Mayor responded. He also asked if the Village was going to do anything about a Village Administrator; he asked who is running the Village. He stated we must be in compliance with the State. The Mayor responded. He stated funds were set aside in the budget for the Administrator. Discussion followed. Several Council members clarified Village operations and procedure.

West and Michael of Choice One Engineering of Loveland described services their company provides. Michael advised they have 40 employees, in business since 1994 performing sanitary sewer, water line installation, transportation, traffic services, etc. He stated they are the engineers for Loveland and South Lebanon and would love to meet with the Village. The firm passed out their business cards to those present.

Thompson advised Paul Zorn the mailbox at the Plaza was full, allowing people to be able to reach in and pull out mail left by others on the weekend. Zorn advised he received a certificate from the Board of Elections and asked if he should turn it in to Council.

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Reports / Legislation from Village Officials Cont'd

Fiscal Officer Tina Powell discussed the 2018 Appropriations Budget. She stated operating expense, supplies and equipment were increased; a little was added in annexation, a 3% increase was included for employee raises and \$24,000 for an Administrator. Thompson stated the County uses State agency data for population information; we may need to increase the Tree Maintenance Budget. Powell advised we increased it because of the new homes built. She advised 75% from General Fund and 25% from Water Fund was used for the Administrator. She stated the Water Plant is the biggest expense the Village has. Powell advised the budget is good; the Village will be \$20,000 over if everything goes as planned.

The General Fund totals were viewed via overhead projection. The Fiscal Officer advised the Street Budget projected very few changes. The Village is very dependent on its water. Powell stated we are able to afford an Administrator because of the increase in Income Tax receipts. Isaacs-Niemesh stated the last school levy failed badly in our area; the school being built was in Morrow which would have been a big boost for the Village income taxes. One citizen asked if the loss of the medical building revenue for Morrow was due to the Administrators moving to the Medical building. Isaacs-Niemesh advised many administrators were already gone. The space was needed. Powell stated she would send the full budget detail to Council members.

Jim Frederick stated could not find the Zoning Code on the Village website. Bruce Miller stated it was not user friendly. Luanne Cain commented she was able to locate what she wanted on the site after contacting the Village office. Discussion followed.

Kaspar read the pending Resolution.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #21-17; second by Steiner. All yea by roll call. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to approve Resolution #21-17, adopting Temporary 2018 Tax Budget; second by Steiner. All yea by roll call.

The Morrow To Tomorrow asset gift, dissolving and divesting their assets to the local government, the Village of Morrow was explained by the Solicitor. He advised it was a non-taxable event with recording fees and other minimal expenses. Kaspar stated the Mayor is authorized to execute an asset transfer agreement for assets and land, the Railroad Depot and Caboose. He advised Council must approve an Ordinance to be closed by year end, a condition of the transfer. Kaspar stated he reviewed the documents provided by Bruce McGary, attorney for Morrow To Tomorrow. Kaspar stated his only concern was many citizens have a relationship with Morrow To Tomorrow to include Thompson. Thompson clarified he resigned from the organization two months prior. Kaspar read the pending Ordinance.

Motion by Poe to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #7-17; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea by roll call. Motion by Poe to approve Ordinance #7-17, authorizing Mayor to execute asset transfer agreement for Railroad Depot and Caboose from Morrow To Tomorrow to the Village of Morrow; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea by roll call.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor