

Regular Session of Village Council

January 9, 2018

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

Michael McKeehan – P

William Thompson – P

Clarissa Walls-Parker – P

Paul Zorn – P

Motion by Councilwoman Dane nominating Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh as Vice Mayor; second by Councilwoman Clarissa Walls-Parker. By roll call, five yea, one abstention by Isaacs-Niemesh. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion by Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2017 Regular Session and December 26, 2017 Special Session; second by Councilwoman Dane. All yea 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.

Mayor Bryant appointed Jesse McKeehan to fill a Planning Commission vacancy for a full term ending in 2021 and Councilman Thompson to complete John Poe's term on the Planning Commission ending in 2019. All Council members were in agreement. Thompson acknowledged the Zoning Inspector serves until termination or resignation.

The Mayor discussed drug overdoses in the community. He also reported four new businesses opened in 2017 in the Village. He advised the Village of Morrow operated in the Black during the fiscal year.

McKeehan stated he served eight years previously and was glad to be back on Village Council. Councilman Zorn stated he was previously appointed to and served on Village Council and was also glad to be back. He advised he received a complaint regarding the slope where Houston Avenue dead ends onto Highlawn; salting was needed. He gave an award to Bruce Miller entitled the Community Builders Award for his participation. Walls-Parker reported a citizen who lived in the area advised Swigart Road in front of Sugar Run was not plowed this year.

Thompson provided a floor plan for the Depot to Council members. He also discussed a list of issues that need to be addressed over time; among them were parking, signage, handicap access, lighting, alarm system, internet, etc. He stated we must verify which walls are load bearing. Bruce Miller noted there were no extinguishers there. Zorn recommended sprinklers be added to the list. Thompson advised if we move forward, we must determine what would happen to the current Village offices. He asked Council to review the information provided and give their input.

Walls-Parker acknowledged as a new Council member, she was pleased to work with the community and serve on the Village Council. Isaacs-Niemesh reported the area behind Vitales was very bad. The Mayor advised he met with Police Chief Kilburn several days prior and believed some debris was blowing out of the containers when Rumpke dumps the trash into its truck. Zorn added there are trees growing in the building behind Vitales.

Solicitor Kaspar completed the third reading of Ordinance #5-17, waiving residency requirement for the Fiscal Officer and Ordinance #6-17, approving Water Fund fee for new

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Water Plant construction, replacement and improvement. There were no adjustments in appropriations requested.

Public Forum

Shirley Popkins discussed a zoning change application and request for refund of fee payment. She stated she purchased the property after the Village annexed the acreage. Dane asked for clarification on the timeline. Popkins discussed information provided by Interim Zoning Inspector Wilmot and subsequent new Zoning Inspector Osborn, stating it was misleading. She stated she made her application for the zoning change in August 2017. Dane stated if someone made a zoning request for a fence and changed their mind later, would the fee be refunded. The consensus was no. Based on Mrs. Popkins comments, McKeehan stated it was not entirely her fault and he was inclined to vote to refund her money. Poe stated she did not listen to the Planning Commission during three separate meetings and conversations. She didn't supply information needed; the group also suggested previously if she wasn't going to use or keep the property and provided a bill of sale, the Planning Commission would consider a refund. Isaacs-Niemesh questioned the expense, effort and time afforded by the Village to the zoning request. Walls-Parker asked if she used a realtor. She responded yes, but didn't know what she was going to do with the property. Mrs. Popkins showed carbon copies from two separate checks from her account. Village records show two land owners, made a land purchase in September 2015 and the other February 2016, two separate applications and payment receipts for the zoning change request. Discussion followed. The Mayor asked that a determination of the Village's expense in handling the issue be provided at the next meeting.

Adam and Tracey Shump, owners of Mom's Antiques, introduced themselves. Tracy Shump asked about the Morrow Comprehensive Plan from 2013. She stated she obtained the booklet on line and would like to utilize it, tax incentives, etc. Poe discussed the work done by the University of Cincinnati and the Land Use Plan Development filed with Warren County Community Reinvestment Area. Shump asked how she would take advantage of the CRA. Poe acknowledged the Village Zoning Code required changes to match the Comprehensive Plan. He referred the Shumps to Matt Nolan, Auditor at Warren County to obtain a form.

Poe stated Choice One Engineering asked to have a meeting with the Village. Jim Snyder told him a portion of the grant for the Bike Trail needs to be filled out and sent back. He asked the fiscal Officer if she had a copy of the grant. Discussion followed regarding DNR conversation. Poe stated he was pushing for answers; he wanted to know who was on the committee. Thompson responded. Mrs. Shump asked to serve on the study group along with the Mayor, Thompson and Poe. Bruce Miller stated Jones Warner needs to be involved.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor