

Regular Session of Village Council

February 13, 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

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 January 9, 2018 Regular Session; second by Councilman McKeehan. All yea by roll call.

Matt Nolan / Warren County Auditor

The Auditor discussed his involvement with economic development and the function and flexibility of the CRA program with income producing businesses. He advised all of Morrow may constitute the Community Reinvest Area for the Village. Nolan stated when a building is purchased if the value increases, taxes increase; people are encouraged to put money in. Under the CRA, the increased value is lessened for a number of years; taxes are reduced for the investment. Taxes are collected on the original value, not the increased tax value. Nolan advised the schools are very supportive of CRA; with a large residential base, the school suffers. Commercial and industrial growth is encouraged; if a business is within your vision as a community, you would approve CRA participation. He cited Harveysburg and their CRA past experience. The Mayor commented on increased Morrow taxes. Councilman Thompson commented on the 2013 Comprehensive Plan. McKeehan stated the Village Council was involved at the onset. Nolan advised CRA activity must be generated by Council, the taxes and years to be processed. He stated Solicitor Kaspar and Fiscal Officer Powell would also need to be involved. He offered his help to Morrow with the CRA program and whomever the Village assigns. He discussed the brochure prepared in 2013.

Motion by Thompson to begin the CRA process; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

Shawn Campbell / Jones Warner Consulting

Campbell advised bids for the Water Plant were opened on January 19th; one bid was received from Danis which exceeded the project budget. He advised he met with Danis and Smith Corporations. A report was done by a geo-technical firm. Automation costs are up over the last three years. Full automation is very expensive. For treatment process and softness, valves won't be automatic. He advised certain equipment is being reused. Questions were raised regarding manual valve; Campbell explained, discussing new filters and backwash. He advised more automation would occur later. Discussion followed. Thompson discussed the sand filter that solidified several years ago and caused real problems. Campbell stated an upgrade was done on variable frequency drives a few years ago. He stated the booster station is okay; alarms are working fine. He advised the initial bid must be rejected to allow us to accept bids at this time.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #3-18; second by Thompson. All yea. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Resolution #3-18, rejecting submitted Water Plant construction bid and authorizing Jones Warner to advertise new bid request notification; second by Thompson. All yea by roll call. Motion carried.

Mayor Bryant stated he has not received calls for red water issues since 2016 or earlier. Campbell and the Mayor commented further. Discussion followed.

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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 discussed funds turned over to the Village from Morrow to Morrow. He stated following the transaction, he received bills for brick paver orders requested several months prior for John Holley and Cecil Brush for \$66.19 each. He stated he previously paid for one of the pavers and requested reimbursement; the bill was now also due for the remaining paver. McKeehan suggested the Village pay for both pavers, reimbursing the Mayor and making payment for the second paver.

Motion by McKeehan to refund payment to Mayor and issue payment for the second paver; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

Mayor discussed the recent water main break which caused 20 shut-offs with 3 meters blown out of the ground. He stated we should have done a better job and we apologize. Thompson provided Warren County Public Health Services Booklets to Council members and urged all to get Flu shots there from Lorie Smyth, the Director of Nursing.

Councilman Zorn advised the 2017 repaving of US 22 & 3 caused damage to 412, 416 and 420 at the top of the hill by the State of Ohio. Zorn stated heavy equipment rode on top of the sidewalk which is cracked and broken. He stated a pedestrian crosswalk sign is needed at Subway and the Plaza area because seniors from the Maag Center and others are crossing the highway there. Luanne Cain asked her property be added; Zorn stated there was a problem also at Sunoco. Isaacs Niemesh requested information. Discussion followed. Shawn Campbell advised there is a one year maintenance bond on work performed. He also advised there was an agreement with the State Highway Fund and urged the Village to check.

The Fiscal Officer Powell advised she contacted ODOT regarding the traffic light at Route 122 & 3 and was advised several steps would need to be taken. Timing could be adjusted. Our contact suggested the Village do a study. She stated there is a permit that would be issued.

Powell presented 2 leak adjustment requests. In each case, the usage qualified for the 5 *times over average usage* rule. One property was vacant since August 2015 at 251 Pike Street, \$370.30 adjustment due. An average of three 3 previous statements before the leak occurred were used in determining eligibility. The Mayor and McKeehan commented. The second property at 168 State Route 123 used 164,900 gallons due to an underground leak. This property was vacant and a shut-off was requested. The property was not winterized and Warren County is not going to bill the sewer portion to the customer. Concerns were raised as to why the meter could not be located. Chief Kilburn commented. Discussion followed. The Mayor advised the meter was in the garage; the owner provided a key later. Councilwoman Dane asked for clarification on attempts to shut the water off.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to approve the water adjustments; second by McKeehan. All yea by roll call.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #1-18; second by Dane. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to approve Ordinance #1-18, purchasing and adopting the 2018 Basic Code; second by Zorn. All yea by roll call.

Kaspar read the pending Resolution for Adjustments in Appropriations. Powell explained the necessity for moving funds, \$9,779.64 due to the donation from Morrow to Morrow.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #4-18; second by Thompson. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to approve Resolution #4-18, adjustments in appropriations; second by Dane. All yea.

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Solicitor Kaspar read the pending Resolutions for the Annual Appropriations Budget and Employee pay increases.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #1-18; second by McKeehan. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to approve Resolution #1-18, 2018 Annual Appropriations Budget; second by Councilwoman Walls-Parker. All yea.

Motion by Thompson to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #2-18; second by McKeehan. Motion by McKeehan to adopt Resolution #2-18, 2018, approving pay increases for employees, 3% for full time employees, 1% for part-time employees and 3% for clerk of Council and Prosecutor; second by Zorn. All yea.

Public Forum

Tracy Shump with Mom's Antiques advised planning was underway for a Village-wide garage sale on May 5, 2018. She requested that more parking spaces are blocked off on that day. Mr. Shump stated 3 Cincinnati trucks have contacted their business. Mrs. Shump stated room must be left for the Fire Truck. Isaacs-Niemesh stated the Bike Trail must be maintained. Isaacs-Niemesh advised the neighborhood needs to be notified. The Shumps indicated only Main Street would be involved from Miranda Street back to the bridge.

Motion by Zorn to approve the parking space for the garage sale; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All Council members were in agreement.

Shirley Popkins discussed a zoning change application and request for refund of fee payment. She stated she was told she could come back and pick up her check at the February 13th meeting. Mayor Bryant clarified what she was told at the prior meeting and advised the refund was not previously approved. Isaacs-Niemesh and McKeehan commented. Discussion followed. Powell cited expense incurred by the Village regarding the matter.

Motion by McKeehan to refund the difference of the initial zoning fees minus expenses to the parties withdrawing applications for rezoning said properties; second by Thompson. Isaacs-Niemesh commented. Discussion followed. Popkins commented further. Three yea and 3 nay by Dane, Walls-Parker and Isaacs-Niemesh. The Mayor broke the tie with a yea vote. Motion carried.

Kaspar provided the reading for the pending Resolution.

Motion by Zorn to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #5-18; second by McKeehan. Motion by McKeehan to adopt Resolution #5-18, 2018, approving adjustment in appropriations for payment of the refund; second by Zorn. All yea.

Swigert resident reported trash located in back of a vacant lot for 5 weeks, two couches and a full size mattress. She stated items are not wrapped and are on a lady's property who is not responsible for the dumping. The Police Chief advised it would be handled.

Bruce Miller stated he wants to return posters to the children who made the pictures of trains originally that hang on the walls of the Depot; he did not want to see them thrown away. Isaacs-Niemesh suggested he take charge of locating the children.

Motion by Thompson to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a legal issue; second by Zorn. All yea. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to return to Regular Session at 9:00pm; second by Zorn. All yea.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor