

Regular Session of Village Council

April 10, 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

Mike McKeehan – P

Clarissa Walls-Parker – P

Paul Zorn – P

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion by Councilman McKeehan to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2018 Regular Session with the necessary correction; second by Councilman Zorn. Four yea by roll call and one abstention by Isaacs-Niemesh.

Mayor Bryant advised William Thompson resigned as Councilman effective March 31, 2018 to become the Village Zoning Inspector, following Randy Osborn's resignation. The Mayor stated he would like Ben Steiner to serve the balance of Thompson's term on Council.

Motion by Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh nominating Ben Steiner to serve as Council member; second by Councilwoman Dane. All yea by roll call.

Larry Sims / Warren County Sheriff

Sheriff Sims provided the year-end report for Warren County. He provided statistics for the services his office provides. The report was distributed to Council and all citizens present. He stated there were three drug related murders in 2017, one in South Lebanon, one in Carlisle and one in Deerfield Township. Sims advised the Deputy Sheriff, starting in February, is carrying Narcom; fifty-four were served; some were repeat offenders. One canine retired in 2017.

Sheriff Sims discussed the new Jail Project approved with Sales Tax approved at ¼ %. The project will be complete in two years. He advised the architect has been chosen; the new facility will have 460 to 470 beds compared to the current 280 beds. Sims stated people are released to allow room for more serious criminals. The Sheriff's office handled 69,000 calls in 2017, up from 2016. A canine was added to the jail in 2017 which has been very successful.

Morrow resident Bruce Miller asked what would happen to the plans for the old jail. Sims responded two housing units for the old jail are being used and other uses are being considered. McKeehan inquired about of the money seized and how it is divided. The Sheriff advised the law has changed; the funds have slowed down. A percentage of the money comes back slowly and the majority goes back to the Drug Task Force. Ten percent must go to education and prevention. Sheriff Sims commented Morrow's Council meeting was the best attended in the County.

Mark Sousa / President Little Miami Business Advisory Council

Sousa advised the Council met regularly to look at financial issues. He stated he served as President for a year and has a banking and finance background. The Advisory Council President stated Little Miami was one of the largest schools with 4900 students and 4950 seats in the district. The Council was started 2 years ago and interviewed vendors to look at growth for 20 years. He advised one new building is planned for Pre-K/Kindergarten and First Grade. The Junior High building gets an addition for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The building houses 1000 students. Those present viewed the aerial layout of the buildings via overhead projection. Sousa stated the cost is estimated at \$2.60 a square foot, a \$64.6

Regular Session of Village Council

April 11, 2018

million project collected over a 7 year period. *What are we getting from the State*, Sousa asked? He advised Morrow won't get tapped for 3 years, ELPP reimbursement. Little Miami School District is 35th in the State for median income. Among the challenges for 2018-19, Art classes will need to give up their classroom, Music will come to students on a cart and 8th graders may be split, some to the high school, etc. Slides were provided to illustrate recent issues. Sousa stated the Bond was down this year; he discussed each slide to compare the growth impact, 35% of assessed value over 5 years. He discussed the local impact. Sousa advised *we feel it is important to have a school in Morrow behind the existing Salem Elementary*. The existing school would become an Intermediate School.

The Mayor asked *what if the School Board changes its mind*. Sousa responded we will need the community to back it. We are at step one. Randy Haas advised it's returned to the voter to approve the Bond Levy. He stated everything is out, architect's plan and costs. Before any other decisions are made, we must come to the voter/community. Sousa stated we will co-fund. McKeekan stated Little Miami is one of the largest in the State and should carry clout. In 5 years, the District will be at 5,000. Randy Haas advised we must accept the children; the State has a cap. McKeehan asked why the Sales Tax can't be increased to add to the homeowner's tax expense. Sousa suggested owners contact their politicians to give voice to the situation. Randy Haas stated there are two issues, the political climate's will to change, the support is not there; and only a portion out of every dollar that goes to the State, 26 cents or so, comes back. The cost, at 17%, is lowest in the State per child. Sousa quoted the Governor's stance on funding. Bobbie Bright asked residents to write a letter to their politician. Luanne Cain asked the School Board to provide a generic letter for citizens. Mr. Shump commented. The District's operating budget is the greater of the two. Bond Millage at ½ % earnings tax will allow us to grow.

Jessie McKeehan commented on property tax. Bruce Miller requested an update on the building on Route 22 and 3. Sousa stated vendors estimated \$7-8 Million in value, \$140-\$150 a square foot. The building is 100 years old. Three million dollars was the sale price, but the property was up for auction. The Studio is occupying ½ of the building; rent will pay for the building with additional people moving into it.

Solicitor Kasper performed the swearing in of Councilman Ben Steiner.

Shawn Campbell / Jones Warner Consultants Inc.

Campbell reported Smith Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio was the lowest bidder, coming in under Danis Corporation. The contract will be recommended at the May 8th Council Meeting. He also reported on the curve at Morrow Blackhawk Road. He stated the eroding bank was getting closer to the resident's driveway. Campbell stated the road was closed 2 weeks ago; we have lost one more underpinning. Campbell stated he contacted a geo-technical sub-surface firm out of Cincinnati. They provided a \$6750 proposal to drill corners, analyze soil and make recommendations. We want to continue sub surface investigation, checking easement, etc. Teracon recommends approval of a study for the curve. The Blackhawk Road drainage issues are coming from the Woodlands. They started on the tension pond and didn't complete it. Campbell provided a drawing of the Pond and illustrated water not being captured. He advised he met with the developer and insisted they address the drainage issues. Campbell stated the outfalls were cleaned out 5 to 6 years ago. He met with Mr. Allen's son-in-law and walked the Morrow Blackhawk site; the pond was to be dammed up. Campbell verified on 4/11/18 they had begun the process. It is to be completed as it was designed. Campbell brought the drawings; he referred to the PUD, stating when they reached 150 homes, they were to do improvements.

Starting 4/12/18, one lane of Blackhawk Road will be closed to traffic, redeveloping the drainage swell with 5 culvert crossings and putting down stone. Once the pond is completed, the problem will go away. Campbell advised the culverts will be at the developments expense. Work was slated to begin today, pond, berm, rip rap stone, etc. He thanked Mike Hanna of Public Works for the work he has done, photos, contacts; he stated Hanna filled pot holes that day. Campbell advised Mr. Dan Fisher would come to the May

Regular Session of Village Council

April 11, 2018

meeting. He has fault with the contractor. When work is complete, Mike will advise. Campbell requested authorization for the \$6750 subsurface investigation; Teracon will need 30 to 45 days to do the work. The road would be closed for safety. Kaspar commented. Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh asked if it would come out of Fund 2011. Police Chief Kilburn asked questions regarding the investigation costs. Campbell responded. Kilburn commented do we have the money to fix the road. McKeehan advised the testing must be done first. Campbell stated he grant dollars are available; \$70,000 local share is required. The project is \$300,000. Blanton gave the cost for 1 ½ inches of pipe. Shawn stated costs at \$12 a square yard. Kilburn expressed his dissatisfaction with a study. Poe expressed his concern. Shawn Campbell advised it would cost \$35K for the design, etc. if the grant was approved. Poe stated he was told a \$700,000 grant was re-appropriated from the Bike Trail. He stated Hensley owns some of the acreage. Campbell advised as professional engineers, we must give you the best recommendation. Jesse McKeehan commented the only alternative is to move it over. Money is needed. Councilwoman Dane asked a question regarding the study. Campbell responded, describing the process. The Mayor stated water will continue to erode the area. Isaacs-Niemesh commented. Dane asked about the funds. Resident Jim Frederick commented. A second citizen commented. Kilburn stated thank you to Jones Warner for work done over last few days.

Judy Neal / Tree Board

Neal advised the State Awards Ceremony was scheduled for April 20th. April 27th at 2pm will be the Arbor Day planting for Morrow; the committee wished to plant a tree at the Depot by the Caboose. The Mayor advised there were cinder ash/ants there and it is hard to get trees to grow. Bruce Miller stated there is no dirt there, all cinder. The Mayor suggested the right corner near the lumber company for planting. Isaacs-Niemesh stated plant the tree. Neal advised a Council member is required at the ceremony. The question was asked how Morrow got the award. Neal responded Fiscal Officer Powell worked diligently with the State. She asked Councilman Zorn to be present at the tree planting and stated the Mayor needed to also be present to sign the document. Neal stated Barbara Thompson and Agnes McIntosh donated trees for planting. She asked for the names of those who would like trees. Neal advised a few shingles are missing from the Gazebo next to the Municipal Building. The Mayor asked about the cost to repair. McKeehan responded.

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 recommended Caroline Whitacre for the position of Village Administrator. He advised the position would be part-time for a salary of \$20,000 with no benefits. He stated she is willing to accept the position.

Motion by Issacs-Niemesh to hire Caroline Whitacre as Village Administrator; second by Councilwoman Walls-Parker. All yea by roll call.

Councilman Steiner thanked the Mayor and Council members for inviting him back to serve the Village. Walls-Parker advised the resident on Swigart Road requested a street sign; deliveries, etc. are a problem. The Mayor stated it is a dead-end; we don't own the road according to the map. McKeehan deferred the matter to the new Administrator to get a sign. Zorn stated you can get street/house numbers at the Fire Department.

Zorn questioned the cost of Blackhawk Road. He stated the Nelson's are impacted; they asked for permission to fix it themselves. He brought up the need for a crosswalk sign at the Plaza. The Fiscal Officer advised the crosswalk was discussed with ODOT and Engineering. Campbell commented on the State and safety regulations.

Councilman McKeehan discussed banners for light posts/poles for the Village. He estimated 22 to 30 would be needed at a cost of \$100. He recommended a banner for every

Regular Session of Village Council

April 11, 2018

third pole, with approximately 10 needed. The type of banner could be seasonal or another theme. Walls-Parker suggested Administrator Whitacre check for a possible grant. Jesse McKeehan suggested the number of donors needed be determined; people may want to participate with donations. Whitacre commented on the crowd funding suggestion.

Ralph Blanton / Vine Street

Ralph Blanton discussed the Vine Street concern regarding the alley. He reported on the records researched and the findings. He advised 1992, 1993 and 1995 bore certain information. In 1995, Gossman presented a bid which included removing the pavement from said alley. The Village prepared the alley with the intention of vacating it, but failed to follow through with legislation. The Mayor stated he recalled the alley being vacated. Blanton stated the formal process needs to be started. Kaspar advised based on the status, a petition was needed; if contiguous consent of the owners is obtained, 3 property owners, the process may be possible. He advised he would need to look into the matter. Blanton stated Parker built a garage 25 years ago; the southwest corner of the garage is over the property line. Encroachments need to be cleared. He stated the property is sold but can't close. McKeehan stated the paperwork was not filed with Warren County. Bruce Miller stated surveys are needed. Kaspar commented on replating the property. Blanton discussed the description, stating the legal description needs to be changed. Bruce Miller stated Water Street is a problem; it was not followed through years ago. Isaacs-Niemesh stated owners are not paying riverfront tax. The Mayor stated Water Street is now under water. Miller stated the Point was transferred and has now been surveyed. Dane asked that Vine Street be discussed.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials Reports Cont'd

Kaspar read a pending Resolution for the purchase of Rock Salt for the coming season as emergency legislation.

Motion by McKeehan to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #6-18; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yeas by roll call. Motion to adopt Resolution #6-18, authorizing the purchase of rock salt from Warren County for 2018 to 2019; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yeas by roll call.

Kaspar read a pending Resolution to renew a contract with Rumpke Waste & Recycling, stating the current contract expired. Discussion followed. The Resolution was tabled.

Public Forum

Miller stated pot holes are worse. He asked how much money is budgeted. The Mayor responded money is budgeted for Cold Patch; more will be purchased this week. The Mayor advised the Village was \$122,000 under budget compared to last year. Miller stated the flag at the Depot needs to be replaced. Mayor Bryant instructed the Public Works team to take the flag down by the end of the week. Miller stated Memorial Day is approaching. Mayor Bryant advised we were to order flags last year. Miller stated yard signs should be up for a Community Yard Sale. Miller asked to reserve space for the Car Show sign up; the Car Show is May 26th from 11am to 3pm. Discussion followed.

Jesse McKeehan asked if the Woodlands Devethe General Fund for many areas. Jesse McKeehan stated a lot of time was put into the Comprehensive Plan; after information was gathered, what has been done. You should talk with business owners; what does the Village want to see? He explained what he understood; discussed the fish hatchery and problems. Jesse McKeehan discussed Loveland and how they executed their plan. Mrs. Shump interjected she's working with Nolan in Warren County on the CRA. Jesse McKeehan, former Zoning Inspector, discussed B-2 Zoning and the storage facility on the old bar property. He added his concern regarding Flood Plane Management; will it raise the flow? He posed a question to Kaspar.

Mr. Shump advised he took old signs down and put up new ones around the Village. He asked the Mayor for the Morrow signs he took down at the Depot. The Mayor responded no.

Regular Session of Village Council

April 11, 2018

Shump discussed a Bed Race he wished to hold in the Village; he distributed brochures to Council and all present in attendance. He stated he wished permission for Main Street to be shut down for the Bed Race after the Car Show at 4pm. Kaspar stated information included in the brochure needed to be changed, release and waiver discussed. The Mayor stated he was okay with closing Main Street for the Bed Race.

Motion by McKeehan to close Main Street for a Bed Race on May 26th; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

Diane Schroer requested a No Outlet sign for the road where she resided. The Police Chief advised the Village could put up a sign. Schroer expressed concern about the road repair and closure; she discussed Thornton Park Traffic and the single lane.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials Reports Cont'd

Fiscal Officer Tina Powell instructed newer Council members to stop at the local bank and sign a signature card for the Village's checking account. Thompson stated a Council member was needed to replace him as an alternate on Warren County's Regional Planning Commission. Zorn advised he would like to serve as the alternate.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to appoint Zorn to serve as the alternate for the WCRPC; second by Steiner. All yea.

Public Forum Cont'd

Poe asked if the Council is willing to purchase the property for the Bike Trail. He questioned Council's commitment. He commented on the funding. He stated he was frustrated about losing the Bike Trail Grant. Isaacs-Niemesh responded she would work with the new Administrator to help with the project. She stated she understood and was trying and doing the best she could.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor