

Regular Session of Village Council

September 11, 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 – A

Ben Steiner – P

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

Clarissa Walls-Parker – P

Mike McKeehan – P

Paul Zorn – P

Mayor Bryant called for a Moment of Silence for the victims of the 911 terrorist attacks and tragedy at the World Trade Center.

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 August 14, 2018 Regular Session; second by Councilman Steiner. 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.

Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre reported she met with Fire Chief William Harrison regarding the fire and fire hydrant at 107 Flora Drive; she stated she learned the fire hydrant was working at the time of the fire. The Chief advised the fireman on duty weren't familiar with that type hydrant, threaded backwards. Whitacre advised a training solution was being sought. The property in question had smoke damage; but, the water on the fire truck was sufficient to extinguish the fire.

The Administrator reported the meter was moved on Jodi Williams' property. She stated paving has also begun in the Woodlands; when the equipment is present, the Village will pave. Southgate Avenue and Center Street represent candidates for paving. Councilman McKeehan stated Hamlin Street was in bad shape and needed to be patched.

Whitacre discussed a request received to purchase four water tanks located near the fence at the Water Plant. She advised Mitch Fry wished to purchase the tanks for an exhibit and feature Morrow with plaques for the tanks. She asked if Council concurred. She recommended selling the tanks if not needed for Water Plant reconstruction. Mayor Bryant commented. She advised Shawn Campbell of Jones Warner Consultants is checking on the contract for the Water Plant.

Information for three candidates for the position of Zoning Inspector were provided to Council for review. Administrator Whitacre advised all three were experienced in zoning, engineering or construction. She recommended the candidate identified by #2. Whitacre stated she interviewed all three candidates. Isaacs-Niemesh asked about commission paid to the Zoning Inspector. Mayor Bryant advised the salary was \$259.00 a month. Councilwoman Walls-Parker asked if the Administrator met with all three candidates; she asked if number #2 was retired and terms of the recent employment. Solicitor Kaspar responded. The Mayor recommended candidate number 2.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to offer the position of Zoning Inspector to candidate #2; second by Walls-Parker. All yeas by roll call.

Isaacs-Niemesh reported she received a resignation letter from Councilwoman Dane issued on September 11, 2018. She asked if the matter of the vacant seat on Council could be tabled until the next meeting.

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Walls Parker discussed criminal activity on the Bike Trail. She stated there were 3 or 4 tents in the woods, beer cans and trash receptacles overflowing. McKeehan asked if the location was inside the Village. Isaacs-Niemesh advised it was in her back yard and Chief Kilburn was aware of the situation. Discussion followed. Councilman Zorn asked if the individuals were homeless Veterans. Walls-Parker stated the area needs to be cleaned up. Discussion followed. The Mayor stated the Administrator would look into it. He believed he knew who was there in the woods.

Steiner advised citizens have approached him about the garbage can at Veterans Park. McKeehan stated that was the responsibility of Warren County. Mayor Bryant advised the grills are in and ready to be installed at Phegley Park.

Solicitor Kaspar advised a Resolution was needed for adjustments in appropriations for \$11,840. Fiscal Officer Tina Powell explained Mayor's Court and Zoning adjustments. Solicitor Kaspar provided the reading for the proposed Resolution.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #15-18; second by Steiner. All yeas by roll call. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Resolution #15-18, authorizing the adjustments in appropriations for \$11,840; second by Walls-Parker. All yeas by roll call.

Public Forum

Wes Walters of Choice One Engineering, a civil engineering firm in Lebanon stated his firm had been in business since 1994. He advised they handle traffic, infrastructure, water mains, site plans and funding. He asked what was underway in Morrow. The Administrator stated we have a Water Plant project with OPWC grant and infrastructure funding. He asked if the Village was under contract with an engineering firm. Whitacre replied yes, Jones Warner. Isaacs-Niemesh asked for a business card; Walters stated they have 40 people in their firm.

The Administrator introduced Dan and Pam Pilgrim. The couple advised they wished to turn the Depot into a Coffee Bar, roasting coffee, Artisan Coffee. They want to sell bags of coffee and provide Wi-Fi. They stated they could not pay rent. Dan Pilgrim stated it would be a community service space. Pam Pilgrim stated the Village doesn't have a place for people to congregate; the space could be used for yoga, meetings and weddings. Zorn asked if they were for profit or a 501C3 organization. The Pilgrims advised for profit, artwork. McKeehan stated you run a business and want space rent free. Dan Pilgrim advised they are a start-up business and would revisit that when they begin to make a profit. Isaacs-Niemesh stated that is unfair to other business owners. Bev Massey stated many of her clients asked about the donation of the building to the Village. Discussion followed. The Administrator stated the heating and electric bills were greater than the Village could afford. We are offering stewardship. Kaspar advised a proposal from the Pilgrims would be required for further discussion; it may be submitted to the Village Administrator.

Bev Massey discussed Trunk or Treat planned for October 21st. She stated there will be free hot dogs and asked all to attend..

Judge Gary Loxley & Judge Robert Fischer / Warren County Court

Judge Loxley advised he joined the unit four years ago and it serves Area 1, four townships to the north and Area 2. He advised he and Judge Fischer work as a team. They currently have a staff of seven, hiring a new Probation Clerk last week. Judge Loxley advised Sam Garner was the bailiff for four years and Rick Logan, retired Sergeant, is the new bailiff. He stated there was an increase in traffic citations in 2017. They are busy with 7500 cases in Court every year. Marcy's Law passed in November, approved with 83% of the vote. They are reviewing it now, but have not changed their routine. Victims are notified of all proceedings. Judge Loxley referenced Bail Reform, Maureen O'Connor. He advised in the March 2017 Report, recommendations were made. He discussed the Bond Schedule, advising all courts not uniform, each having its own schedule. Some may not be able to pay.

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The Judge discussed time, money and bail reform. He advised with the new program, on the first and third Wednesdays, Veterans can opt to go to the specialized team for the regular docket; the Treatment Team does a great job. The citizens formed a nonprofit enterprise; four graduation ceremonies have been conducted. The Mayor commented on cost to run the court.

Judge Fischer stated his staff pared the system down to \$30K from \$80K. He advised the Ohio Supreme Court gave them a grant along with two new grants from OAG for \$6900 for Veterans Court plus the mental health docket. People can focus on treatment. He gave an example. Scott Lipps was instrumental in getting the grant. They're trying to take the stigma away from mental health; six have graduated from the program. Judge Fischer advised Kaspar has represented a lot of people going through the revolving docket. He discussed Issue I on drugs, advising the judiciary is not in favor of Issue I. He explained the effect of the Constitutional Amendment if possession becomes a misdemeanor and not a felony. Zorn asked if people who are already charged will get pardoned. Judge Loxley responded to the question. Judge Fischer stated the State is changing dockets and how we deal with drugs. He stated we don't need the Constitutional Amendment.

Judge Fischer advised he would move to Morrow this year. He stated this meeting was the largest audience he and Judge Loxley had for their presentations. Discussion followed. Mr. and Mrs. Shump stated they used Veteran Transport and were very pleased with it. Judge Fischer commented.

Luanne Cain asked who was the new Zoning Inspector. Whitacre replied Ron Kilburn. Tracy Shump stated the Morrow Revitalization Effort was underway. She stated 70 people were part of the group. The Mayor inquired; she advised the number of people referred to was the size of the contact list. She stated she wanted to form a 501C3 where people might donate to the effort. She advised a community meeting is scheduled for September 24th from 6pm to 8pm. She asked if they could use the Depot for the meeting. Walls-Parker inquired if the Depot had accommodations, tables and chairs. Isaacs-Niemesh asked where the previous meetings were held. Tracy Shump stated the prior meetings were held at Mom's Antiques. Discussion followed. Kaspar asked what was the group's status? He advised against having the meeting at the Depot. Mrs. Shump referenced the Chamber of Commerce and Christmas on Main. She asked about the status of the 1098 Committee. McKeehan advised there has never been a committee. Isaacs-Niemesh advised the 1098 Ordinance is best handled by the Zoning Inspector and the Police Chief. McKeehan explained.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor