

Regular Session of Village Council

October 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.

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P
Mike McKeehan – P
Ben Steiner – 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 September 11, 2018 Regular Session and September 27, 2018 Special Session; second by Councilman McKeehan. All yeas by roll call.

Mayor Bryant stated letters of interest and resumes were received from three members of the community for the vacated seat of former Council member Kiley Dane. The Mayor granted each an opportunity to address Council and citizens present regarding their preparedness and desire to serve on the Village Council.

David Dillon advised he was a recent resident in Morrow after retirement from the Airforce where he served 31 years. He stated he currently teaches at the local High School and loves and enjoys the community. He highlighted his accomplishments and willingness to serve.

The Mayor commented on construction at his new residence. He stated he appreciated him fixing up the property. McKeehan and the Mayor thanked him for his service. Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre asked Dillon what contribution he expected to make as a member of Council. He stated he wanted to plug into the community and help to build economic stability in the area.

Jim Frederick stated he resided at the top of the hill for the last three years and raises goats. He advised he has been in the area for 20 years and served as Treasurer for Little Miami Youth Panther Volleyball Program for the past 10 years. Frederick stated he worked with his family business, Blinds Plus for the past 25 years and served as President for 10 years. He stated he was interested in being a Council member because he'd like to serve the people and would like to be a part of the budgeting process for the Village. He sees a bright future for the community. Frederick thanked Dillon for his service in the Airforce.

Jessica Smothers stated she was a 15 year resident of the Village and resides on Kibbey Avenue. She has participated in many local activities and is offering her help. Smothers stated she would like to be a Council member. McKeehan asked how she would hold up under the pressure. She responded she would do well; she has hope. She stated she was formerly a pre-school teacher and has attended a number of Council meetings.

McKeehan commented on politics; he stated Morrow's Council works together, not political. Discussion followed. The Mayor stated he had never worked with such nice people. Isaacs-Niemesh advised she would like to table filling the vacant seat until the next meeting. The Mayor stated let's table it for a few days. Zorn concurred, stating he was afraid the choice would be difficult; all are good candidates. Discussion followed. The Mayor commented; the selection was tabled.

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 he had been ill and in the hospital. He discussed the new builds in the area, the Woodlands. He advised the Village would need to bring on another policeman

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in the Spring. He stated there weren't any thefts this year in the Village, but domestic calls have escalated. The Mayor stated we have been lenient on tickets/citations.

Administrator Whitacre reported two new grills for Phegley Park are installed. She reported on the Blackhawk Road emergency project; we took the lowest bid. Due to the weather, it was necessary to act with urgency; the project must be completed by the end of December. Shawn Campbell has been coordinating with JK Meurer; there will be a pre-construction meeting next week. Work will commence the week of October 29, 2018; there will be significant work ongoing on Blackhawk Road to rebuild the curve and pave from Morrow Woodville to Alpine Heights Drive. Demolition of Plant 1 at the Water Plant starts next week; bulk water will be shut down October 12th.

Originally, we did not score high on the grant pre-application with FEMA for Storm Water Management, Thompson and Virginia Street flooding. They have contacted us and we will be able to put in an application for a grant and a Resolution will be needed. The project is about \$30,000. The Community Development Block Grant is open and applications are due in January. Whitacre introduced the new Zoning Inspector, Ron Kilburn, who started on October 1, 2018. She stated they are diligently working together on a number of things. Ron Kilburn stated he was diligently working on the backlog and leftover items and correspondence. He advised he would respond and give an honest opinion.

The Mayor stated we took the lowest bid for the Blackhawk Road project. He advised it is not mandatory that we take the lowest bid. The Administrator commented on the company selected for the project and the bids. McKeehan advised during the years he served on Council, we didn't always take the lowest bid; we took the best bid.

Councilman Zorn stated a Resolution is needed to be able to take a meeting by conference call. Discussion followed. Solicitor Kaspar stated notice should be made to a specific media outlet; he said Ohio Revised Code should be followed. He advised retroactive approval /ratification would be needed.

Zorn reported he attended the Warren County Regional Planning Commission Meeting which is in the process of appointing an Expert Storm Water Runoff Control Regulator. He stated organization of the 2020 census was discussed. Zorn commented regarding policing and suggested Coffee with a Cop could be done in Morrow. Discussion followed. Zorn stated Judy Neal contacted him regarding a Veterans Day Parade starting at 2pm with cookies and drinks here at the Municipal Building. The Mayor advised planning is ongoing for that event. Zorn welcomed people to participate and line up at 1pm. He also asked if any analysis was done on the flood plain. Whitacre responded maps were provided and she met with Shawn Campbell and Mike Hanna to review. Walls-Parker asked if FEMA would notify homeowners of any changes. Discussion followed. McKeehan advised a survey was done at cost years ago. Discussion followed. He stated he never had water intrusion because of Caesar's Creek. Zorn stated there was a public meeting in Harlan Township regarding sewage. He offered a copy of the notice to anyone who was interested.

McKeehan commended the Administrator and Village staff members; he stated they are the glue that keeps Council together. He added since Whitacre took over as Village Administrator, she has been out there working and getting grants to resolve water issues. McKeehan stated we don't have industry like many larger communities for additional tax receipts; we work with what we have. He discussed historical challenges and the improvement made. Council gets the Atta boy; the staff keeps us together. The Mayor commended the Administrator and staff and discussed savings during the period the Village was without an Administrator and other budgeting efforts. McKeehan stated we must spend on our infrastructure. He advised we must take baby steps.

Walls Parker cited questions from Mandy Beamer of Bryson's, a local business, regarding the condition of the Plaza. She stated citizens have posted on a Facebook site that the Plaza

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looked like a rundown truck stop. Whitacre stated the business proprietor has been talking with Mr. Marcus, the owner.

Isaacs-Niemesh advised she would like to look at another engineering firm, another avenue, when the situation arises; she stated we have been with Jones Warner for years. She also wanted to look into the bio-solids, requesting a 30 day rule/legislation. Kaspar discussed preemption because EPA has ruled upon the matter. We don't want our action/Resolution to be null. Discussion followed. Kaspar offered to work with the Administrator to resolve the issue. McKeehan advised he knew Powell well and will try to work something out by reasoning with him. He will try to get it moved or stored somewhere else. Isaacs-Niemesh asked if anyone spoke with Jergusen. McKeehan agreed it is an additional avenue. Isaacs-Niemesh stated the Fire Chief discussed the situation, which has lasted 5 months, with her. Kaspar advised the Village could pass legislation; EPA rule overrides Village legislation. He stated if the farmer meets EPA guidelines, there is nothing we can do. Discussion followed.

Isaacs-Niemesh stated an email was sent to Powell some time ago. She advised she would try to locate the email. Whitacre stated a housing development lies between the waste and the school. Kaspar recommended a different approach, contacting EPA. McKeehan stated he would make contact.

Kaspar provided the reading for a pending Resolution for adjustments in appropriations quoting the affected line items, an increase of \$52,703.50. The Fiscal Officer discussed the Street Fund line item, paving streets and the emergency of moving funds.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #18-18; second by Walls Parker. All yea by roll call. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Resolution #18-18, authorizing the adjustments in appropriations for \$52,703.50; second by Walls Parker. All yea by roll call.

Solicitor Kaspar discussed the Blackhawk Road bid authorization and the Budget Commission Amounts and Rates adoption. He advised Council to ratify both Resolutions. The Mayor and McKeehan commented on standards regarding Special Sessions.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #16-18; second by Walls-Parker. All yea by roll call. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Resolution #16-18, approving the amounts and rates of the Budget Commission and tax levies authorized by the County Auditor; second by Walls-Parker. All yea by roll call.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #17-18; second by Councilman Steiner. All yea by roll call. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Resolution #17-18, authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with JK Meurer for \$276,796 for the Blackhawk Road Project; second by Steiner. All yea by roll call.

Public Forum

Mr. Frederick asked if the Water Plant would be shut down and advisories required. Whitacre and Mayor Bryant responded only Plant 1, the remainder of the plant would be operational and services ongoing.

Frederick asked if discussions were ongoing with the Woodlands with regard to contribution to Blackhawk Road; Whitacre advised turn lanes would be installed by the development. She stated talks are underway; Mary Allen is working collaboratively with us. Frederick also stated the Revitalization Committee posted a notice for a meeting at Joshua Place.

Mrs. Cain asked if a flood plain map was available on the FEMA website. Whitacre stated she would place a link on the Village website.

Isaacs-Niemesh discussed the Council Meeting start time of 7pm. She reminded members the meetings were formerly at 6pm and asked if they could be moved back to that hour.

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Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to change the regular monthly Council Meetings to 6pm effective November 13, 2018; second by McKeehan. All yeas by roll call.

The Mayor stated a Morrow Business owner advised him he planned to meet with the President on Friday regarding the drug problem in the Cincinnati area.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor