

Regular Session of Village Council

November 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.

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P
Mike McKeehan – P
Jessica Smothers – 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 October 9, 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.

Mayor Bryant acknowledged the new Council member Jessica Smothers. He advised there was a close vote for all applicants; all were excellent candidates. He stated he made the selection and appointment. The Mayor also advised the Chief of Police had returned from vacation.

Administrator Caroline Whitacre reported a new roof was installed on the Gazebo in Bishop Park. She advised the Village purchased the material and Troy Gaddis provided the labor. Fiscal Officer Tina Powell stated Gaddis provided his service at no cost to the Village. The Administrator reported two sounds were needed for the siren, a chemical alert and a regular weather siren. She advised the siren needed programming. She stated the Fiscal Officer Tina Powell contacted a company and received a quote for \$260.00.

Whitacre discussed Warren County's new rules and regulations. She stated for the Village water system, the meter reader computer chip is out of date and the water meter needs to be raised. Hand held readers need to be purchased at a cost of \$17,000.00; no formal deadline was given. She stated Hanna obtained an estimate; it is our worst case scenario. The Administrator stated in December a Resolution will be needed and matching funds provided; a portion of that cost may be covered by a grant. The Mayor asked about the hand held device. Powell explained the new hand held is the same concept as the existing reader but has a new chip. Most of the new meters are going to be installed in the Woodlands. Discussion followed. The Administrator stated this process will be more economical. Councilman Zorn asked if a lawn mower hit the meter, would it affect it in any way. Discussion followed. Councilman McKeehan responded the reading would not be affected. The Mayor commented a fire hydrant was hit in the Woodlands by Rousch.

The Administrator advised a pre-application for a grant would be submitted on Friday for two new catch basins for the east end of Morrow to divert water from Route 22 and 3 into a larger culvert then into the river.

McKeehan advised he contacted the farmer regarding the fertilizer and Powell stated he was too busy and did not have time to speak. Steiner advised the fertilizer has been spread; it was there longer than 90 days. Isaacs-Niemesh stated she wanted the owner contacted before next summer. The Administrator stated she would make the contact.

Zorn thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing the use of the Municipal Building for the Veterans Day activity. Senator Steve Wilson spoke. He stated Judy Neal should be commended for her efforts. He stated giant poppies were distributed to Veterans. He distributed the Salem Township zoning fees list, etc. for discussion. He then read Ordinance

Regular Session of Village Council

November 13, 2018

10-98 and stated he wanted to reactivate it. The Mayor stated it is covered by Zoning and advised an additional committee was not needed. Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Walls-Parker stated people could bring items to the Zoning Inspector. Isaacs-Niemesh stated in the past we had problems with a committee. Chief Kilburn stated we have a three man committee. Kilburn stated he provided numerous photos of violations to Poe who became ill at the time. Heath commented the Ordinance is still active. Poe commented on what Ordinance 10-98 covers and asked when it was taken off the books. Kilburn stated it has never been taken off the books. Kilburn stated it is a problematic job to have. He advised many don't have resources to make repairs. Poe stated he was involved with the process a long time and he provided lists requiring action under Bob Brown and no action was taken when people came before him in Court. Mayor Bryant commented. Discussion followed. Isaacs-Niemesh asked how long the current Zoning Inspector had been on the job. She stated let us give him a chance. Discussion followed.

McKeehan gave scenarios of citizens being brought into Mayor's Court. He asked what action would be taken if citizens do not have money to make repairs. Discussion followed. He advised the Ordinance 10-98 should stay on the books; some things can be addressed, certainly trash, etc; he wants the community to look good. Kilburn stated what if people are told to put in new sidewalks. Luanne Cain commented on sidewalks and stated she wanted the Village to obtain grant/funding to do the sidewalks because many people need new sidewalks. Discussion followed. The Mayor stated please bring issues to our attention.

Walls-Parker reported Mrs. Demmitt stated street light bulbs were out on Main Street. Mayor Bryant advised 7 bulbs were out on Main Street and 2 near the Depot. Poe stated there was caution tape around each light that is out on Main Street. Walls-Parker also discussed *Christmas on Main* scheduled for Saturday, November 24th. She stated she was trying to put a parade together and wanted Council to walk in the parade. Walls-Parker stated the owner of Dane's Custom Cars would loan a golf cart to the Village for the parade. The Mayor complimented her efforts. Walls-Parker stated the parade line-up would be at 5pm; she gave the route for the parade. Mayor Bryant stated Mrs. Ducker would donate large stuffed animals for the children and had done so for the last three years. Discussion followed.

Isaacs-Niemesh complimented the organizers and the community on *Trunk or Treat*. She discussed an anonymous complaint to the Warren County Board of Elections stating she does not live in the Village. She stated she resides in the Village and has paid taxes for 15 years. She urged Council to come to the Community Christmas Dinner on December 8th and help the Firemen, Warren County Sheriff, etc. serve. She stated she delivered dinners last year. The Mayor advised there would be horses and a buggy and dinner at the old VFW. He advised there would be a meeting at 5pm on Thursday to coordinate activities. The Mayor asked citizens to help. He advised Isaacs-Niemesh would offer the prayer, Agnes McIntosh would cook the side items, Warren County Career Center would cook the turkeys and he would get the hogs and have them roasted. The Mayor stated donations were still being accepted. Discussion followed.

Isaacs-Niemesh referenced Ordinance 10-98 and stated some people are not able to make repairs and are doing the best they can. She advised assistance was provided by school Counselors and the Nurse who delivered winter clothing to families in need. The Mayor cited an example of help provided by the Depot a few winters earlier in the way of coats for a family in need.

The Administrator read a Resolution for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program/Storm Water Management. She stated it allows the Village to apply for a \$32,000 grant, 75% from FEMA with the maximum match of \$8,000 and it may be possible to get half of the match covered through other State funding.

Regular Session of Village Council

November 13, 2018

Motion by Zorn to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #19-18; second by McKeehan. All yea by roll call. Motion by Zorn to adopt Resolution #19-18, authorizing Hazard Mitigation Program grant application submission and participation; second by McKeehan. All yea by roll call.

Police Chief Kilburn advised early in 2018, he applied for a \$50,000 sign grant for Salem Township and included the Village of Morrow. The grant was approved and signs are on the way. He stated thanks are due to Ralph Blanton and Susan Ramsey of Salem Township. The Chief would like the two municipalities to work together cooperatively.

Public Forum

Bev Massey inquired about the Cross Walk on Route 22 and 3. The Administrator stated a Permit application was submitted for the crossings and the Village is waiting for a response. Zorn also commented. A question was posed by Massey regarding the Zoning Inspector and asked if he wanted three people to assist him or is he handling it himself. She discussed the Plaza and the condition. Poe commented we should use our head and heart when making a decision. The Mayor commented the Zoning Inspector is working on the situation at the Plaza; it needs work, but he noticed some clean-up was done.

Poe asked who was asking questions about the Isaacs-Niemesh's residence. Isaacs-Niemesh explained a letter was also received by the Village last month. Discussion followed. Poe also asked about the status of the Water Plant and the wells. The Mayor advised 2 tanks were taken out for rehab and cleaning. Whitacre responded work has started; Plant 1 would be shut down in a few days.

Mrs. Cain thanked Administrator Whitacre for her work on obtaining grants and asked about the two catch basins on Route 22 and 3. She asked what would happen to the storm drain in front of the Church and the water flow. The Administrator explained 2 new catch basins would be installed, one at the bottom of the hill and one on Route 22 and 3 on the other side of the road near her property in the area of Virginia and Thompson. Whitacre stated the application is being prepared.

Jodi Williams discussed her water bills and asked for help with the large bill, several thousand dollars. Discussion followed. Adjustment credit was discussed and the Fiscal Officer explained how the credit was calculated initially. Williams stated the County would help with another credit on the sewer portion of the bill. The Fiscal Officer explained how the credit worked. The Mayor commented. She advised she spent \$6,500.00 for plumbing with Nixco for moving water lines. McKeehan commented on the Village contribution to move the water meter. He stated this was due to a property dispute. Williams stated she was denied access to her meter. Discussion followed. The Mayor asked the amount of the water bill prior to the leak. Williams responded. The Fiscal Officer explained how the credit was calculated. Discussion followed.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to allow an additional water credit for Williams; second by McKeehan. All yea by roll call.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials Cont'd

Fiscal Officer Powell advised the bank deposited the Mayor's Court Petty Cash; the \$19 Petty Cash fund is needed. We need to write a check to get the petty cash back.

Motion by McKeehan to make the necessary adjustment of \$19 for Petty Cash. All Council was in agreement.

Powell discussed the Special Public Meeting for the 2019 Appropriations Budget in December. She requested it be held at 7pm on December 11, 2018 following the Regular Council Meeting. All were in agreement.

Regular Session of Village Council

November 13, 2018

Motion by Zorn to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel matters; second by Steiner. Mayor requested the Administrator and Fiscal Officer join the Executive Session. Motion by McKeehan to return to Regular Session; second by Steiner. All yea.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to change the Personnel Policy of 40 hours of unused vacation payout to 80 hours; second by McKeehan. All yea by roll call.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilwoman Smothers to adjourn; second by Walls-Parker. All yea.

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor