

Regular Session of Village Council

March 12, 2019

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 – A
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 Councilman Steiner to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2019 Regular Session; second by Councilwoman Walls-Parker. 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 advised work would be done on the parks this summer. He stated there are overgrown trees on Main Street that need to be removed and new trees planted in their place on Main Street. The Mayor advised Phegley Park needs to be roofed.

Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre reported on the Water Plant and the new 23 ton industrial Salt Brine Tank, showing an illustration of the tank. She stated it was in place now, but would not be operational for a few months. Whitacre advised two grants were submitted, one for GIS system mapping for water mains and one for drainage on Thompson Street, diversion structuring. The GIS mapping was previously approved. She advised the Village did not get the second grant for the drainage project. Because the drainage of water is such a problem, the Village will plan to take care of it, installing catch basins, etc. The Mayor commented on the 6" pipe at the Pinecrest Nursing Home which was tied into the drainage ditch some time ago. He advised we will get the drainage work done on Thompson. The Mayor also stated Public Works picked up twigs after the run-off from the heavy rains recently. Jim Frederick asked if the Village would be doing the work or hiring it out for the Virginia and Thompson Street project. Mayor Bryant responded bids would be sought.

The Administrator stated Solicitor Kaspar and Councilwoman Smothers had information on the dedication of Todd's Fork Reserve. Kaspar stated Chief Kilburn provided information. He discussed the Tract Survey and advised information was sought out by Kilburn, Smothers and Whitacre. He discussed the Plot Plan. He said once we confirm it's been dedicated, there will be a solution by Council. McKeehan questioned the time period of 1980 and dedication. Kaspar responded; he stated he was not aware of a Performance Bond, etc. The Administrator stated there has been an evaluation of the road and a few areas need attention; we wish to propose the three areas are milled and built back up with a layer of leveling and asphalt, describing the process of leveling asphalt with a 2" layer on top of the road, 2000 linear feet. She advised the entire road doesn't need to be taken down. Discussion followed. Dan Bryant commented. The Administrator discussed the feathering in of the road with the individual driveways. The Administrator advised bids were being sought.

Councilman Zorn advised the Historical Society, a 501C3 organization, started a registration drive. He encouraged everyone to attend their next meeting at the Library on March 19th at 6:30pm. Zorn explained how Warren County got its name and stated there is a lot to learn about the area. Zorn also advised ODOT would install both Deer Crossing signs at both ends of town. He made reference to 1st Friday Festivals in July, August and September at the Plaza. He commented on the alternate representative for the Warren County Regional

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Planning Commission, advising the quarterly meetings are at 5:30pm; the next meeting is April 9th. Whitacre stated previously Randy Osborn volunteered as the alternate. Zorn asked if the April Council Meeting could be moved to 7pm. Discussion followed. All were in agreement. Zorn also complimented the Police for meeting with a resident to help the son, a Cub Scout, with a project.

The Mayor explained a telephone pole with a wire down required an emergency repair at a charge of \$3,000 to the Village by Capital Electric. Bev Massey inquired about the trees at the Plaza, stating they were in bad shape. The Mayor commented the owner who is incorporated is responsible, not the Village. Discussion followed. Zorn commented on Prospect Road; it looks like a waterfall coming out of the brick wall at the top of the hill at the Art Center; the wall may collapse. Discussion followed. Mayor Bryant asked Zorn to meet with Public Works personnel and show them the location.

Fiscal Officer Tina Powell advised she obtained two proposals for the streetlight at the corner of Highlawn and Houston which is outdated, one for LED at \$693.73 and \$555.98 for HPS lens. The Mayor stated the current light was dim and was concerned about feedback regarding the brightness of a new light. Zorn commented. The Mayor asked the Administrator to have Public Works check the lights after dark and provide pole numbers. Discussion followed. Mayor Bryant advised painting for crosswalk could be done in May.

Solicitor Kaspar discussed an increase in appropriations needed for contractor JK Meurer for Morrow Blackhawk project by emergency; the additional funds, \$37,694, were at the direction of the engineer. He read the pending Resolution. Councilman McKeehan asked

Motion by McKeehan to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #2-19; second by Zorn. Motion by McKeehan to adopt Resolution #2-19, approving \$37,694 appropriation increase for Morrow Blackhawk Safety Improvement Project; second by Zorn. All yea by roll call.

Kaspar read an Ordinance requested by Warren County for the 2019 appropriation budget, previously approved and submitted. The County requested a specific Ordinance be provided.

Motion by McKeehan to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #3-19; second by Steiner. Motion by McKeehan to approving Ordinance #3-19, for the 2019 Appropriation Budget; second by Steiner. All yea by roll call.

Public Forum

Tracey Shump of Mom's Antiques advised of a newly formed revitalization organization called Memorable Morrow. She stated there were 11 board members, provided the EIN number, list of board members and contact information. She stated the focus is on the Bike Trails and parks and needed improvements to help Morrow flourish. Shump stated the organization would like to have a representative come to the next meeting to offer ideas and request volunteers. She stated on July 18, the Cincinnati Food Truck Association wants to have a Food Truck Rally from 4pm to 9pm on Main Street. Shump presented a form to the Village Solicitor, stating the Village of Morrow would need to sign it for approval for the Food Truck Rally. She then discussed an event on September 28-29, the 40th Anniversary of Little Miami State Park and asked if Morrow would host a lunch to help with the Festival at the Pit Stop. She stated there is a charge of \$5 to bike riders. Mayor Bryant stated we currently have a Marathon each year for runners. Discussion followed. Jim Frederick asked about the status of the 501C3. Shump stated she filed with IRS. Councilwoman Walls-Parker discussed Porta-Potties and parking and asked who the contact person was for the Marathon last year. She discussed the parking and advised the new owners were unaware.

Luanne Cain stated she has been a resident of the Village since 2010; many issues are being addressed throughout the Village, one is the flooding. She stated drainage to the property

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from Thompson and Virginia Street is being addressed. She discussed the park adjacent to her property, stating she has researched and it does not have a Zoning Permit. She advised her attorney bill was very high and she needs answers. The Mayor commented about the water at the property. Mrs. Cain responded. Discussion followed. She commented on a sign that was removed at the car wash, stating Bill Thompson, a former Zoning Inspector, approved the same type of sign for the church that was removed at the car wash. The Mayor stated the Village doesn't have the power to put up a fence down at the park; it belongs to the County. Discussion followed. The Administrator stated she prepared a letter of response to Mrs. Cain which she had not yet received. McKeehan stated he misunderstood, he thought her concern was vacating the alley, not the parking. Cain stated she had no egress from her property. She wanted to put up a fence; she didn't care about the rest of it. McKeehan quoted the other owner's concerns and asked if it was always a parking lot issue. Cain advised the church has built into the alley and provided a drawing to McKeehan and stated if she installed a fence, she would have no egress and has no parking. She stated she and her husband worked with the Village. The Mayor commented. Cain advised she would file a lawsuit. Discussion followed.

Jeff Potts advised a Prom Extravaganza was held the prior weekend by Tabatha's Closet. Over 150 dresses were donated, beautiful dresses for the young ladies. Extravaganza is planned for Friday, April 5th. The event will be on Social media. Walls-Parker asked if donations are yet being accepted and stated she would get the word out at the High School.

John Poe asked when the Water Plant was slated for completion. The Mayor responded. Questions were raised regarding soft water for the Village. Discussion followed. Mandy Beamer advised bags were needed for the Food Pantry; the pantry is located at 4766 Whitaker Drive.

Jeff Potts asked who he could speak with to get the water hardness numbers for the area. The Fiscal Officer responded Warren County Water and provided contact information.

Motion by Zorn to adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel Issues; second by Steiner. Motion by McKeehan to return to Regular Session at 6:51pm; second by Zorn. All yea.

Adjournment

Motion by Steiner to adjourn; second by McKeehan. All yea by roll call.

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor