

Regular Session of Village Council

April 9, 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 – 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 Smothers to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2019 Regular Session; second by Councilman Zorn. Five yeas by roll call and one abstention due to absence.

Major Arrasmith / Warren County Drug Task Force

The Judge provided a printed Annual Report for 2018. He described the Drug Task Force as the only multi-jurisdictional full time unit with 15 employees, a part of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDA), a federal program. It is a great collaboration, all under one roof for Warren County. The policy board, which consists of prosecutors, sheriff and police chiefs, holds monthly meetings. Judge Arrasmith reported they have 23 full time personnel from 23 law enforcement agencies, a six person highway patrol and the Ohio National Guard. He advised funding is inconsistent; grants, contributions from counties and communities are appreciated. He thanked the Village for their support. There has been a shift from heroine, a 142% increase in crystal methamphetamine and fentanyl seizures. Heroin seizures decreased; there was a reduction in deaths in 2018 down to 48. Increased enforcement and treatment, education and prevention, increased Narcoma use, etc. impacted overdoses. We are between 2 metropolitan areas locally. Warren County had 768 cases, 300 felony arrests, 0 meth labs, 125 search warrants and seized 85 firearms. Councilman Zorn asked for web site information. The Judge referred him to the website, wcdtf.org

Shawn Campbell / Jones Warner Consultants

Campbell advised Administrator Whitacre has photographs for the Water Plant. He reported one new filter and softening unit rehabbed from Monroe was installed in Plant 1. He discussed the Pine Ridge storm; he advised a contractor who looked at the site brought unknown information from old pipes. Campbell stated that design is being adjusted. He advised in reviewing specifications with regard to the developments specs and standards for PVC water mains, there is no notation requiring (solid copper coated tracer wire) locator. Going forward with regard to new ductile iron pipe, all iron should be poly wrapped to help with corrosion. The cost is about \$3 a foot to protect water systems. He advised they have seen more corrosion in the ground. Isaacs-Niemesh inquired about the number of feet. Campbell stated new developments being brought online would comply, not existing water mains. Mr. Shump asked about the cost of wrap rather than cathodic protection. Campbell responded. McKeehan asked for the diameter. Campbell responded 8'; he discussed the pricing which includes labor, etc. The Mayor asked Campbell to bring him up to date on Thompson Street (Pine Ridge). Mayor Bryant asked Campbell to advise him when the project was put out for bid. Mr. Fitzgerald asked about the road to the Water Plant. Campbell advised the parking area is included but not the road. Discussion followed. Mrs. Massey asked about red water at her son's home. Isaacs-Niemesh commented regarding a current water main break in front of her home. Campbell explained residual build up; he stated the Village will plan a system-wide flush. The Mayor commented. Poe asked about the schedule for the Water Plant.

Tom Curran / D R Horton for Nathaniel Development

Dan Fisher made the introduction of D.R. Horton, a new client who will be starting at the Woodlands and Tom Curran, division president for DR Horton, previously Westport Homes. Curran advised D.R. Horton is the largest builder in U.S. in 24 states. They purchased

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26 lots, 5 homes under construction now. He stated there are 60 more lots coming on later this year; they are now building on left over lots. The homes range from \$229,000 to \$249,000. Councilman McKeehan inquired about the types of homes being built. Horton advised the large ranch is 1400+ square feet around Alpine Heights and the 2 story is around 2400 square feet. There are 23 additional lots, and there will be a model home. They build specification homes.

Andy McMahon / Little Miami Youth Football & Cheer Organization

McMahon, representing the board, discussed Thornton Park maintenance, regular mowing, clearing, regrading, gutters, power washing, cleaning and gravel parking. He advised they wish to upgrade bleachers, steps, toilets, fencing and playground next year and lighting. The board wants to extend the lease to 5-10 years to justify \$30,000 in spending for the Little Miami Youth Football and Cheer. The land belongs to the Village and is rented by Little Miami Youth Football and Cheer for \$1 per year. The Mayor stated concerns were raised about fishing at the park; gates were locked and one resident's car was locked inside. He stated he would like to have Public Works crew open the gates in the morning and the Police lock them at night. McMahon stated they had a concern due to vandalism; he stated furniture and othe trash was dropped off. The Mayor stated the Village would work on catching dumpers. Mayor Bryant stated a lot of elderly persons want to fish there. Poe asked if the group wanted to extend the original lease or write a new one. Discussion followed. McMahon stated reseeding the fields is a cost and theft, a liability. Solicitor Kaspar stated he would like to work on it with the Administrator and report back. Isaacs-Niemesh asked if the organization had security. McMahon responded. Discussion followed.

JoAnn Rizhallah & Dick Feldman / Friends of Little Miami State Park

Feldman stated he was a board member of Friends of Little Miami State Park, and was working with the Village Administrator regarding painting lines on the Bike Trail at Mill Street and Front Street. Administrator stated Route 123 (Mill Street) is very dangerous for bikers and needs striping and a sign indicating Bike Crossing. Mayor Bryant commented. Village Administrator Whitacre stated she was concerned about drivers and riders. Discussion followed.

Joann reported on the 40th Anniversary of the Little Miami State Park event taking place on September 28-29, 2019. The Bike Ride starts in Cincinnati to Xenia and return. Morrow is a mid-point for the ride and is being asked to serve as a lunch stop on Saturday. In Morrow, vendors would be along the Bike Trail; she stated she was looking at something healthy and environmental. Tracy Shump stated she was looking at a box lunch for Saturday. Sunday's activities will be at Morgan's. The Mayor advised the Village would help as much as it could. Rizhallah asked about sanitation. The Mayor stated we have restrooms and drinking fountains. Rizhallah advised there would be a planning meeting at Sugar Run Grill at 5pm to 7pm the following Thursday (April 18) and provided a flyer. Councilwoman Walls-Parker asked what vendors were planned. Feldman mentioned sports and environmental. He stated the police should be included for road safety. Discussion followed. The website for the organization is www.littlemiamistatepark.org.

Melissa Clark / Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Clark introduced herself as the Park Manager for Little Miami State Park. She stated Morrow is a central spot on the trail and clean up and sprucing is needed. Clark advised she met with local folks regarding clean up and is willing to provide supplies for a community clean-up. Trees are damaging the pavement. Isaacs-Niemesh asked which trees, the ones we just trimmed. Clark stated the pear trees need to be removed; she will work with the Tree Board to help make decisions. Mayor Bryant inquired about the bridge painting. Clark stated at Mile Marker 29, repair is starting in two weeks. They are taking care of it. Mayor Bryant explained the pear trees were donated and advised who donated them. Isaacs-Niemesh asked who will pay to replace new trees. Clark stated she will work with the Village; there are 50 trees. Police Chief Kilburn advised he donated his service previously and dug every hole for those trees. Administrator Whitacre stated ODNR wouldn't pay for the bricks. Clark stated ODNR would help with tree replacement. Mrs. Massey asked if a

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specialist was consulted. Mrs. Shump stated several trees were buckling the pavement. Chief Kilburn stated ODNR hasn't come to do maintenance in the past. Poe commented on Public Works employees' time spent weeding. Clark advised the surface condition is her concern; she will work with the Village. Discussion followed regarding blacktop repair and the pear trees.

Judy Neal advised the Tree Board met on April 8, 2019 with the Village Administrator. We will be planting a new tree at Veterans Park on April 11, 2019. She reported Tree City Awards Ceremony will be held in Centerville on April 26. Neal stated the Tree Board recommends the trees in question stay. She advised she walked the trail and asphalt is cracking. Clark asked if there was an agreement in place when the trees were planted. Zorn commented regarding the pear trees and the blacktop repair. He asked if the Village had a say in the replacement. Clark responded yes.

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 reported the Village does not yet have a new police officer. We may have a new officer in May after the Chief's approval of good candidate.

Councilwoman Jessica Smothers thanked Walls-Parker for Hawk Foundation doing the Easter Egg Hunt. She stated she would like to try a free book library in the park and described how it would appear. She stated she would take care of the registration after input from Council. Smothers stated there are grants available.

Walls-Parker discussed Community Service. She advised she talked with David Patton with the Christian Community Fellowship Church about staining the flower pots. Pastor David Patton stated the church would love to help with chores and donate. He requested a to-do list. Mayor Bryant stated he didn't know if Thompson planned to work on the flower pots this year. The Mayor spoke of the rear of the Plaza Shopping Center.

Isaacs-Niemesh stated the road could be restriped for more parking near Poe's and Bocklett's where the triangles are near the bike racks. Poe explained the original reasoning for the parking. Shawn Campbell advised the angled parking kept you from backing out in front of a street. Poe stated the bike rack was installed to protect the posts for a reason. The Mayor stated the junk cars on Main Street should be moved. Discussion followed.

Administrator Caroline Whitacre reported a grant for Knollwood and Radford was submitted for \$198,000. She advised it's a small government grant and the competition is statewide. Regarding Todd's Fork Reserve, she stated Campbell of Jones Warner got some bids. Discussion followed. Councilman Steiner asked if one of the companies did the work on the curve on Blackhawk Road. Walls-Parker and Isaacs-Niemesh commented on the work. Campbell advised the Village has a one year maintenance agreement on that work. Whitacre asked if Council wished to move ahead. Campbell advised the company can improve and rework the road in question; the time of year and bad weather caused the current problem. Steiner asked if a bid could be secured from Mt. Pleasant. McKeehan recommended 1 1/2" rather than 2" because of the grinding needed at the driveways. Campbell commented on the 3 driveways. Discussion followed. Isaacs-Niemesh wished to get a bid from a fourth company. Campbell discussed Cox Paving, now Fillmore Construction. He advised he would secure another bid. Isaacs-Niemesh requested the matter tabled. He advised he would take a look at it. Discussion followed.

Mayor Bryant stated we have created a swamp between Morrow Blackhawk and Todd's Fork; it needs draining. Campbell stated he would look into it and talk with the developer. He advised they have been responding well. He stated he would speak with Dan Fisher. He advised one culvert was replaced.

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Zorn advised the Warren Council Regional Planning Commission had a short meeting that evening. He provided copies from the meeting to Council members. He stated WCRPC donated \$288,000 for Morrow Blackhawk Road. He advised there wasn't a stop sign at the end of Miranda for cars going north at the Bike Trail. Discussion followed. He also commented a broken telephone pole previously reported has been repaired. Zorn stated a trash can was needed at the gazebo at Bishop Park. Chief Kilburn advised he would take care of it the following day as well as the stop sign.

Mayor Bryant advised blacktop was needed at the Car Wash. He advised the Village owns the adjacent alley; gravel was installed previously. The Mayor stated the business owner is planning to open a Dairy Queen. Discussion followed. The Mayor observed the Schuerer Trust Fund requests were not being presented at Council Meetings in recent months. Discussion followed.

Campbell followed up on a previous question regarding the surface of Blackhawk Road and advised the base was rebuilt, asphalt over concrete; the road makes a humming noise. He discussed full depth reclamation, an expensive process. Fredericks stated he was looking at the gaps. Campbell explained this would continue, freeze and thaw effect. The front of Rivers Edge is fine. Campbell stated the noise would remain. He discussed the process in detail.

Fiscal Officer Tina Powell requested a leak adjustment for \$190.90. She provided the circumstances and normal usage pattern. All yea by Council.

Kaspar stated he was approached by *Memorable Morrow* regarding a July 18th event on Main Street. The group requests authorization for food trucks. He stated the group will add the Village of Morrow on the agreement they provided as insured for the event.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #3-19; second by Zorn. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Resolution #3-19, approving the Mayor execute agreement approving food trucks on Main Street for a July 18, 2019 event; second by Zorn. All yea by roll call.

Motion by Smothers to adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel Matters at 8:59pm; second by Steiner. Motion by McKeehan to return to Regular session; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea by roll call.

The Village Administrator recommended pay increases for full time employees and the Clerk of Council effective July 1, 2019

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #4-19; second by Steiner. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh approving Resolution #4 -19, for pay increases as described effective July 1, 2019; second by Steiner. All yea by roll call.

The Village Administrator recommended the Zoning Inspector be converted to a straight salary of \$27,500 annually for 20hours weekly with no commission effective May 1, 2019.

Motion by Steiner to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #5-19; second by Walls-Parker. Motion by Zorn approving Resolution #5 -19, for salary adjustment as described effective May 1, 2019; second by Steiner. All yea by roll call.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor