

Regular Session of Village Council

May 14, 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 Isaacs-Niemesh to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2019 Regular Session; second by Councilwoman Walls-Parker. All yeas by roll call. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2019 Special Session; second by Walls-Parker. All yeas.

Morrow Police Officer Robert Hawk thanked the community for the recent Pizza Party awarded to the Morrow officers. He advised he received a text message from Mrs. Beamer who nominated the Morrow Police Officers for a Pizza party in the Cincinnati region; she placed the information on her Facebook page and sought participants to vote online. Mrs. Beamer stated the community really tuned out, over 200 voted. Officer Hawk stated he hoped the whole community could participate in a Pizza Party next year. The Mayor commented, stating he was very proud of the Police Department.

Shawn Campbell / Jones Warner Consultants

Campbell reported the EPA Asset Management Program Draft Plan for valve exercising has been set up. He reported costs are in for the Pine Ridge project. He asked Council for questions. Councilman Steiner asked if the project was on schedule at the Water Plant. Campbell replied affirmatively. Isaacs-Niemesh inquired if the project was on budget. Campbell stated he would need to compile all the numbers. Mayor Bryant inquired regarding a roof concern. Campbell responded. Councilman McKeehan asked about Blackhawk Road, stating it was rough and humpy. Campbell explained about the first section that was completely repaved and the hum that remains due to the asphalt surface on the concrete base. He advised pot holes were filled and patched further down Blackhawk Road between the completely repaved area and the curve rebuild. Some areas only have a skim coat because we ran out of material. Discussion followed. Campbell offered to drive Blackhawk Road with McKeehan at the location referenced. Mayor Bryant stated Hazen Avenue is perfect.

Mayor Bryant asked about progress with drainage concerns. Campbell responded Nathaniel Development will install drain tile. The Mayor asked about other streets, grinding, etc. The Village Administrator responded. Kaspar asked Campbell to provide information on the best bid for the Pine Ridge project. Campbell provided the grant bid history for Pine Ridge. He advised a lot of the problem was caused by the Nursing Home addition project. He stated he met with them and they are willing to give an easement, but no funds to alleviate the problem. We were unable to get a grant previously. Three proposals were suggested and we redesigned the project where stream widens to run pipe along edge of mechanic shop and Pine Ridge property. The drawings were updated and sent out to five contractors: Viox, Freeze Underground, Fillmore, Smith Corporation, and Ron Shutz, all local. Three proposals were submitted; Cox Paving was the highest. The Village Administrator stated the grant was submitted for \$32,000; the bids came in lower at \$21,500. She stated we need an easement for Pine Ridge; she has an appointment scheduled for May 15th. Administrator Whitacre advised it is a 0.2 acre section from Thompson and Virginia Streets to Route 22&3. Discussion followed. Solicitor Kaspar read the pending Resolution.

Motion by McKeehan to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #6-19; second by Steiner. Motion by McKeehan to adopt Resolution #6-19, authorizing the Mayor

Regular Session of Village Council

May 14, 2019

to enter into agreement with Freeze Underground for the Pine Ridge Drainage Project; second by 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 discussed a lack of rental potential for the old Morrow Railroad Depot. He stated he wished to fix it up and make it City Hall. He stated on Main Street, there are few cars traveling on the street. Discussion followed. He sought comments from Council. Walls-Parker commented it would sell rather than serve as a rental because of the upgrades and repairs needed. Isaacs-Niemesh stated she would like to see the Village Offices move. The Mayor discussed the repairs and cost. McKeehan asked what would be done with this Municipal Building.

Administrator Whitacre advised automobile traffic on 22 and 3 affected a possible renter for the Depot. Campbell asked Council to consider leasing it to a park district or office for the Bike Trail as a possibility. Zorn stated he believed it would sell; he had some ideas. Other businesses were discussed that previously used the building. Mr. Frederick asked if a commercial real estate broker was consulted. Mrs. Beamer stated she received questions on her Facebook page regarding the renting of the Depot. Discussion regarding advertising followed. The Administrator stated she would draft the information for the possible rental or sale of the Depot. The Mayor provided historical facts. Zorn discussed a stipulation to not permit the Depot to be demolished if purchased by a new owner.

Mayor Bryant welcomed suggestions on colors of paint for the park; he suggested a light gray. He stated flowers were also needed. Walls-Parker advised Councilwoman Smothers suggested painting murals. Discussion followed. Police Chief Kilburn stated Blanchester & Wilmington have nice murals. Walls-Parker will make an inquiry.

The Administrator congratulated the Chief of Police Heath Kilburn recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award from the Chamber of Commerce. Kilburn thanked everyone for their support. Whitacre provided an update on the \$198,000 grant application for Radford and Knollwood Drives, advising the grant was not awarded. She reported a grant payment of \$79,000 was received for the GIS Mapping System. The Administrator stated she would provide additional information at the next meeting for a pending deadline of June 14 for a preliminary grant submission.

McKeehan reported nice banners honoring service men are up in South Lebanon and Blanchester. He described the banners. He stated Kilburn discussed the banners with him previously and advised the banners are \$125; in Lebanon, family members pay for the banners and Lebanon maintains them. The Mayor advised in Fayetteville, the community and families paid for the banners. Walls-Parker commented. Mrs. Massey asked if it was for the town only. McKeehan discussed Salem Township being a part of it. Fisher asked if it could be placed on the website. Discussion followed. McKeehan stated he would like to see Village officials pictured on the wall in city building. Mrs. Beamer stated she is regularly questioned who does what at the Village. Discussion followed.

Zorn noted the VFW Memorial has bricks available. The Clerk of Council advised the information and forms are on the Village website, www.vil.morrow.oh.us. He reported ODOT has installed the Deer Crossing signs. Zorn advised the Tree Board met with Melissa Clark with ODNR, State Arborist Wendy Baldwin and Village Administrator Whitacre. The group determined the trees in question will eventually need to come out along the Bike Trail. Discussion followed. Whitacre discussed a grove of trees/a memorial space. Mrs. Massey questioned if there would be any trees. Whitacre responded. She stated the Pear trees are near the end of their life span. Discussion occurred at the meeting regarding the Village maintaining the trail. Zorn advised it was stated at the meeting the State has control of drainage. Whitacre advised a plan would be worked out by July. Mrs. Massey asked if the people who purchased the trees would get to choose. Whitacre responded they may

Regular Session of Village Council

May 14, 2019

contact me to comment. Mayor Bryant stated if the trees are removed, those responsible may come to Morrow and weed the area along the trail.

Zorn reported the Morrow Railroad Bridge is on ODNR's list. The bridge has been surveyed and is on a grant. They are in charge of 80 miles. The Administrator commented. Discussion followed. The Mayor commented on business generated by the Bike Trail.

The Clerk of Council requested two leak adjustments, one for \$299.40 and one for \$700.50. She provided the circumstances and normal usage patterns.

Motion by Zorn to approve leak adjustments as described; second by Steiner. All yea.

Public Forum

Mrs. Beamer advised the Car Show would be at the Arts Center from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, May 25th. Joshua's Place Entrance will be open; spectators will park along the fence line. The Police Department is asked to participate. She provided additional details. Proceeds go to the Fire Department. Everything is free, food and raffles. Donations are welcome.

The Mayor commented on how nice the Car Show has been each year. Mrs. Beamer commented on the workload and the future of the Car Show. McKeehan stated he volunteered a few years ago. Several offered help, but did not show. That year 50 cars showed up, Judges were sought on the day of the show. Mrs. Beamer advised the Art Center is a huge help because items can be left overnight. She advised Smothers offered her help. Mrs. Beamer advised her favorite Car Show favorite is Bryson's Choice; her son chooses the favorite.

Mrs. Massey asked how the crosswalk was coming along. Zorn responded; it will be in the blacktop. Whitacre advised signs will go up; the crosswalk is marked.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adjourn to Executive Session for a Legal Matter.at 7:22pm; second by Zorn. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to return to Regular Session; second by Smothers. All yea by roll call.

Solicitor Kaspar advised a development in the case of Erwin VS Village of Morrow in which settlement cannot be discussed. Kaspar requested authority to resolve on behalf of the Village.

Motion by Zorn to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #7-19; second by McKeehan. All yea by roll call. Motion by Steiner for Resolution #7 -19 settlement for Erwin VS Village of Morrow; second by Zorn. All nay by roll call. Motion failed.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor