

Regular Session of Village Council

July 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 Councilman Steiner to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019 Regular Session; second by Councilwoman Walls-Parker. Five yea and one abstention by Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh.

Shawn Campbell / Jones Warner Consultants

Campbell reported the contractor was scheduled to begin the Todd's Fork Reserve paving project on July 17th and complete the work on July 18, 2019. He advised full depth prep work of the area would be done the first day and the second day paving and restoration would be completed. He also discussed prior EPA violations for the water system. Campbell stated the Village received notice of resolution. He advised he has been working with Public Works, Mike Hanna and Mike Bryant on creation of the asset management and valve exercising program; two-thirds is complete and the remainder will be done in two weeks. He reported the GIS system data will be uploaded later.

Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre advised the prior EPA notification was a major violation. She stated she was notified by Mario Hansel of the EPA that the Village's action and resolution were exemplary. She commended Shawn Campbell and Joe Zistler of Jones Warner and the Village of Morrow for developing the valve exercising program. Mr. Frederick asked if any of the valves failed. Campbell advised the valves are to be exercised every 2 weeks; critical valves needing replacement in the future will be addressed. Campbell stated when the GIS system is developed, we will upload the data.

The Water Treatment Plant is on schedule for completion by December 31, 2019 Campbell reported. He advised the cost overruns have been handled through contingencies; we plan to do some structural reinforcement. He stated once the roof was opened, it needed to be replaced as well as the trusses and joists. Campbell advised he obtained 3 estimates for the reconstruction of the roof on Plants 1 and 2. The best price was \$64,175.85 for both roofs, \$26,174.85 for Plant 1 and \$38,000.07 for Plant 2. Campbell advised he and Fiscal Officer Tina Powell were working together. He referenced the no interest \$1,000,000 loan received for the project. He stated there is more money available at 3% through the Ohio Water Development Authority. Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh asked if the project was over budget and by how much. Campbell responded including the roof issue, we are over by \$84,000. Mayor Bryant commented on the trusses. Councilman McKeehan clarified the project budget was only over by \$20,000 without the roof. Campbell advised there are 2 staggered roofs with different levels and pitches. We are under the costs of taking the tops off of the building. He advised Plant 1 will go through testing in the next few weeks; we have done well with the budget.

Mayor Bryant asked Campbell for an update on Thompson and Virginia Streets drainage repair. Campbell responded we are still waiting on an easement from Pineridge Nursing Home. He advised if we make a design adjustment, we will still need an easement. Campbell stated we are ready to go but can't go on private property without an easement. He stated Whitacre is working on it. McKeehan asked who we are talking with. The Administrator advised she was working with a Cleveland Attorney and the head Administrator for Pineridge. Discussion followed.

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Sheriff Larry Sims / Warren County Sheriff

Sims provided the comprehensive 2018 Year in Review Report. The Sheriff discussed services provided. He highlighted the summary page, advising a resource officer was added for the King School District Elementary School. Sims stated it benefits us to have a relationship with the schools. He reported two canines were retired in 2018 and discussed their value and services provided. The Sheriff advised ground has been broken for the new Jail Project. The Gold Shovel Ground Breaking will be in August. The current jail houses up to 280 now; the new jail will have 468 beds minimum. Sims advised within 3 weeks, the contractors will give us alternatives that could increase the number of beds. He showed a map layout to illustrate the area around the new jail. He advised Justice Drive is closed off to East Street, south side of the Board of Elections at the parking lot. He stated Memorial Drive will continue and connect at Hook Road. The hillside is being leveled for the new jail housing units. Each pod will house an additional 150 beds to accommodate future growth. Sims advised the move-in date will be April 2021.

The Sheriff advised a meeting with the State is held every 4 weeks to receive updates; bids are out now. He showed a rendering of the new facility and discussed the existing jail which consists of an outdated structure built in 1976 and a second portion built in 1996. He stated the County is now determining uses for the 1996 portion of the old building. Sims reported 5 new corrections officers will be hired to cover the new jail. He noted the road currently closed for the construction will be open the 3rd week in August before school starts. Joe Brown asked if thought had been given to leasing any portion for bed rental. Sims responded the County is interested in leasing to providers. He stated the Federal Government rents space and the County gets revenue from that. The Sheriff reiterated the ¼% sales tax increase would generate \$10,000,000 per year; the total cost for the project is \$57M. The Mayor thanked Sheriff Sims.

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 attended the First Friday Festival at Morrow Plaza and it was a success. He reported the Village is getting a number of projects done in town; we have a few that are delayed temporarily.

Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre reported striping on the roads started today on the pedestrian walkway on Front Street at the Bicycle Path. The Police will need to help with the traffic on the busy streets (SR 123 and RT 22 & 3) as the striping work is being done. She advised the Village partnered with the County for the bridge paving; Woodville will start on July 10th at the intersection of Rossburg and Woodville Roads. Whitacre discussed a letter from William Thompson (also provided to Council) concerning a local issue on Hopkins Street, one problem regarding a truck in the alley behind Thompson's property has been resolved. She stated he has a question on salvage next to his home.

Whitacre discussed upcoming events. She and Walls-Parker are getting vendors to set up for the Morrow Rest Stop during the Little Miami State Park 40th Anniversary Bike Trail 50 Mile Ride on September 28th. The Administrator also highlighted the Food Truck Rally on July 18th on Main Street in the Village from 4pm to 9pm. She stated the Cincinnati Food Truck Association contacted us. There will be 6 food trucks.

Zorn reported he attended the Warren County Regional Planning Commission Meeting July 9th. He provided a flyer on Clean Ohio Farm Land expansion. Zorn advised a Resolution was passed for a growth vision for 2030 for Warren County expansion. He also discussed a Clean-Up Day in Morrow on July 13 and solicited Village participation. He advised he received a complaint for a section of Welch Road and Highlawn Avenue where drivers are running stop signs. Zorn discussed the signage and traffic flow concerns, stating it's a school bus route. The Mayor advised the Village has new signs and the officers have ticketed violators. The Mayor stated he would have officers at the location during the week.

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Councilman Zorn reported on the Tree Board Meeting with ODNR and advised Chairman Neal recently had surgery. He advised Neal had a Tree City Flag she would like to see put up at the Municipal Building. The Fiscal Officer responded, stating there was a concern regarding hanging a bigger flag outside of the building that may cause ripping. Zorn advised there was \$1420 in the Tree Board Fund. He stated the group looked at the Time Capsule; rose bushes should be pruned and replaced in the fall and the hydrangeas. Mayor Bryant commented he previously asked the Tree Board to pay for them. Zorn stated Judy Neal is checking on the Garden Club. He also advised the limbs on the Evergreen on Welch Road were hanging over the church. He stated he had an estimate from Alan Spurling for \$400 for trimming the tree. Discussion followed. McKeehan asked for clarification. Isaacs-Niemesh asked if another bid could be obtained. The Mayor commented on the difficulty and costs involved when a bucket truck was needed. Zorn also stated they wanted the marquee framework and background at Pike and Front Streets painted white. Discussion followed. The Mayor asked Zorn for an update from ODNR regarding his prior request for the tin roof replacement at the park; Discussion followed. Zorn advised he would discuss it with ODNR.

McKeehan advised he would be working on July 13th and unavailable. He inquired about the clogged storm drain in front of the Drive-Thru at the corner of Route 123 and east Pike Street. The Mayor stated the Clean-Up scheduled is on Main Street. Whitacre advised she would have Public Works personnel take care of the storm drain.

Isaacs-Niemesh complimented the fantastic job the Public Works staff did repairing the ditch line in front of Isaacs' business on the west end of Morrow. She also thanked the Administrator and others responsible for eliminating the fowl waste odor from the farm that previously affected the school and other property each summer.

Public Forum

Mrs. Tracey Shump distributed a schedule and several flyers for upcoming events in the area. She highlighted a Clean-Up Day, Miranda's Party on the Patio and reviewed several dates for activities.

Joe Brown asked why the Village of Morrow did not have a Facebook page. He stated it was important. Isaacs-Niemesh explained the Village previously had a Facebook page; she explained there were issues and Council, the Police Chief and Attorney, etc. advised against it. Mr. Brown made additional comments lobbying in favor of a Village of Morrow Facebook page after the response from Council. Walls-Parker commented and mentioned the Village's website. Mr. Brown commented First Friday was not advertised on-line. Walls-Parker advised the Chamber of Commerce was responsible for that event. Discussion followed. Mrs. Shump asked a question about the website. Fiscal Officer Powell advised she posts local events on the Village of Morrow website.

Mandy Beamer asked the community to come out and support Kids for Cops on July 27th. She advised she needed help to work the stations. The Mayor asked Council to come out and volunteer from 3pm to 6pm. Beamer asked where the request for a signed Liability Waiver for the Kids for Cops event originated. Discussion followed.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor