

## Regular Session of Village Council

August 13, 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 July 9, 2019 Regular Session; second by Councilwoman Walls-Parker. All yeas by roll call.

### **Shawn Campbell / Jones Warner Consultants Inc.**

Campbell reported the Todd's Ford Drive (resurfacing) project was completed and 3 residents/property owners complimented the work. Easement documents were received for Thompson and Virginia Streets and are being recorded. He reported the contractor will clear trees next week and begin laying pipe in September. Mayor Bryant asked about the process to drain the swamp along Blackhawk Road. Campbell advised they are reviewing the plans now. The Mayor commented regarding the mosquitoes and the wet area.

Campbell discussed Nathaniel Development with regard to valve exercising in the older sections of the development. He listed concerns and advised Nathaniel Development has agreed to take care of concerns in some sections. Campbell also reported on a recent inspection, a few hydrant valves were off. Discussion followed. Councilman Zorn asked if the exercising of valves is completely done; he stated there have been brown water complaints. Campbell 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 advised work would begin at the park the following month, roof and painting. Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre reported on the past flooding at Virginia and Thompson Streets and negotiation with Pineridge Nursing Home administration. She stated several grants were requested over time to do the major work required, but none were approved for the project. The Administrator stated the Village will pay for the construction work; the contractor is Freeze Construction.

The Administrator discussed other areas in the Village for which bids have been received. The Mayor advised John Kallenberger is putting in a Dairy Queen at the Car Wash. The Administrator noted the alley behind the car wash needs to be paved as does Front Street from US 22 & 3 to Hazen Avenue and Houston Avenue in front of Brysons. Whitacre noted the Village has the resources to take care of the pending project. The Administrator stated the other problem areas are patched. Walls-Parker asked how much it costs to patch. Discussion followed.

Police Chief Kilburn advised the sewer needs to be repaired at the Pump Station at the end of Hazen. He recommended calling the County because the pipe may have burst. Kilburn stated be sure the drain is working; the culvert is plugged. He added in front of Bryson's, there may be a drainage problem too due to age and suggested another bid was needed. Whitacre stated the Chief offered to get another bid. Campbell stated he advised a contractor who did not get a prior job because his bid was too high that contractor may also be interested in bidding the job. Discussion followed.

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Councilwoman Smothers advised the Little Library opened with a ribbon cutting with Congressman Chabot and members of Council. She advised she has a Charter number for the library. Mayor Bryant stated Smothers spent \$200 of her own money on material for the project.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to refund payment to Smothers for the materials purchased for the library project; second by Steiner. Five yea, one abstention by Smothers.

Zorn stated he would like to see the crosswalk completed this week. Whitacre discussed the Public Works Department's workload. The Mayor stated it would be completed this year. Zorn advised he spoke with Alan Spurling to get the trees taken care of on Penders Avenue. He stated at the Tree Board Meeting, we will draw up a plan for the Memorial Grove and pick up bricks. He requested permission to store the bricks in the Municipal garage. He advised Judy Neal would get a map from the County to determine the location. He advised the State Arborist will be in Morrow in September. Zorn discussed the Honey Locust trees which will be used on the Bike Trail. He asked if a ceiling fan could be purchased and installed in the meeting area. Discussion followed. The Mayor referred to the flag; we will call Spectrum to run service underground for free. The Mayor requested the Fiscal Officer check on the overhead line to side of the Municipal building.

Zorn asked if there was an Ohio Revised Code which addresses officials wearing political attire when on official business. Discussion followed. Zorn stated he wanted to be ethical. McKeehan stated he wished to enter into Executive Session for pending litigation. The Mayor commented on past events held, advising he enjoyed all of them.

Police Chief Kilburn asked if the north side of Hazen Avenue could be designated as a no parking zone. He explained his concerns. Kilburn stated behind the Village Market there should be restrictions. He stated the Village official should get a handle on the Shopping Plaza; the weeds are waist high. The Mayor suggested a meeting with the owner. The Chief asked why the owner hasn't cleaned up Unique Gifts. He stated there was gas in the soil, etc.

A Schuerer Trust Fund application was submitted for review. Motion by McKeehan; second by Walls-Parker to approve the application.

### **Public Forum**

Bev Massey reported the Kids for Cops event was a huge success. She provided a written statement from Mandy Beamer thanking all who worked and participated, noting the event raised almost \$1500. Mrs. Massey asked if Council had information on a Water Park/Splash Pad. Discussion followed. The Administrator advised she would continue to look for grants for the potential project.

Wes Wolters of Choice One Engineering advised they are a Civil Engineering Firm of Loveland, Ohio He stated the firm also has offices in Shelby County. Wolters provided a brochure and discussed the types of services provided to include surveys, layouts, design and utilities. He advised the company likes to work with small communities. He advised he wished to check in with the Village and keep his name out there. Mayor Bryant asked him to leave his cards. The Administrator asked if he worked primarily with Sidney and Tipp City. Wolters advised they also have a surveyor in Loveland.

Cynthia Motz expressed concerns with a neighboring home, dealing drugs out of the house. She advised the Sheriff was there that morning. Mrs. Motz stated there is constant traffic and an electrical cord running out of the window of the home to her house; she previously informed an occupant they may not use her electric. Officer Hawk confirmed one man living there had 16 felony warrants out of Clermont County.

Motz stated the neighbor's grass is several feet high with garbage in the back. She advised the white house has snakes in the rear and the grass is as tall as a person; another property has mold. Walls Parker asked if we can get the Zoning Inspector on this. The Mayor

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advised if a corporation owns the property; it is a difficult situation. Administrator Whitacre inquired about the new roof installed, and whether it was for the Church. Officer Hawk discussed the problem; he stated the police are working on it. Multiple people live in the house. Zorn asked if Jean Rayl knew what was going on there. It was noted Mrs. Rayl was not well.

Solicitor Kaspar advised he spoke with Jack Hedges earlier in the year and will make contact with him regarding this matter. Tracey Shump asked if the Village may charge for the excessive police expense. The Mayor stated we are talking about legal action. Hawk stated we need to have the Fire Department involved. Dog feces were present in the home previously. A court date is scheduled regarding the problem. Kaspar stated he would work on the issue and advise.

Motion by Steiner to adjourn to Executive Session for litigation; second by Walls-Parker. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to return to Regular Session at 8:26pm; second by Walls-Parker. All yea.

**Reports / Legislation from Village Officials Cont'd**

Solicitor Kaspar re-introduced the Schuerer Trust Fund assistance application submitted. A Police Officer advised certain facts were inconsistent on the application submitted. Motion by Walls-Parker to vacate the earlier motion and disapprove the application due to incorrect and unverifiable information listed; second by Steiner. All yea by roll call.

**William Harrison / Salem Township & Village of Morrow Fire Department Chief**

The Chief stated there is a parking problem in the Woodlands of Morrow. Residents are parking on both sides of the street. He stated there should be either no parking on the hydrant side of the street or special parking permits for events only on one side of the street. He explained the Fire Department is having problems getting to the hydrants; there have been two calls where the truck could not get to the house. Walls-Parker asked is it legal to park in the cul-de-sac. Harrison explained the Ordinances will detail. He discussed the driveways. The Mayor commented and requested legislation be tabled until next month. Isaacs-Niemesh asked what was the Fire Department's preference. Harrison replied for safety, no parking.

Harrison discussed hydrants and exercising valves; he advised some hydrants were off. The chief explained the proper way of opening and closing hydrants. He advised he is working on a policy to allow the Fire Department to check the hydrants in the Spring and provide a report to Mike Hanna, numbering the hydrants. Council was in agreement with the plan.

**Adjournment**

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

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Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

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York Bryant, Mayor