

## Regular Session of Village Council

December 10, 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 November 12, 2019 Regular Session; second by Councilman Steiner. All yeas by roll call.

Mayor Bryant presented a plaque to Helen and Dave Ducker for services rendered to the community to include years of providing stuffed animals for children for Christmas on Main and the Community Christmas Dinner. He stated the balance would be distributed to Maag's Retirement Center for December 11, 2019. The couple was applauded for their thoughtfulness and efforts. The Mayor and Administration expressed their appreciation.

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

Campbell addressed the Mayor's concern in the area of the Woodlands; he reported equipment is in place and work has begun to drain the standing water. Discussion followed. Campbell apologized for not being in attendance this year and helping to serve at the Community Christmas Dinner which he looks forward to each year. Mayor Bryant stated the dinner would be moved to the second Saturday in December 2020 due to conflicts this year.

Campbell discussed the progress at the new Water Plant. He reported the contractor advised exterior painting must be done. The plant will be done and in operation the beginning of the year; the water softener will take a month or so beyond that. The Mayor stated they are scheduled to pay \$500 a day fee if the plant is not delivered. Campbell advised Plant II is being brought on line; the connections are being made. Weather conditions allow them 30 or so days. He advised normal treated water is on line, not softener; they are installed but not tested. Campbell discussed manganese content levels. Councilman McKeehan asked about softening and maintenance. Campbell advised brine tank testing will be done on an annual basis. Village Administrator inquired regarding Well #3's function. Campbell advised all wells will be up and running. The 3rd well will alternate. Isaacs-Niemesh asked about those who use the Vulcan system for softening. He stated settings may need to be adjusted if not automatic.

Campbell reported on the Woodlands 3B, extension of Alpine Heights drive; all tests passed. The developer wants to pave this week. It will be a base course; the final course cannot be poured in this weather. Another final record plat is being submitted; he has forwarded it to one of the engineers for review before his recommendation is sent to the Village. Whitacre stated it will need to come to Zoning before approval and signature.

### **Tracy Shump**

Mrs. Shump stated Memorable Morrow is a nonprofit volunteer (501C3) group with 3000 Facebook followers. Shump commented on a grant request made by the group for bridge cleaning and painting. She stated she also asked for lighting for bridge. She discussed future plans and past events of Memorable Morrow. Shump advised the group is asking for matching funds for the bridge project. She stated First National Bank offered \$10,000 and will up that amount to \$20,000. Shump advised the cost is \$500,000 for the bridge work. Shump stated an answer on the grant submission is due in February. She made a plea for new members for the group. Mayor Bryant asked about the 3,000 Facebook followers mentioned. Shump stated she had 2 Facebook pages for the group. The Mayor advised

## Regular Session of Village Council

December 10 2019

he was not the leader of the Morrow Christmas Dinner; it is the community's dinner. Shump advised she corrected that on her Facebook page. Mayor Bryant also noted the vinyl siding in the eave at the roof line covered the original date for the building directly across from the Depot. Discussion followed.

### **Reports / Legislation from Village Officials**

Reports provided to Council included Mayor's Court Bank Reconciliation, Village Fiscal Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements

Mayor Bryant reported on several events. He advised the Community Christmas Dinner was a success. He stated Isaacs-Niemesh offered prayer and everyone did a fantastic job helping. He reiterated the Community Christmas Dinner would be the 2nd Saturday in December 2020 with horses and buggy on hand if weather permits.

Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre referred to the Railroad Bridge Effort by Mrs. Shump and the volunteer group. She advised she would hope the Village of Morrow would match what the bank is offering toward the project. She asked Village Council to consider it. The Mayor asked the Village Solicitor Kaspar to look into the matter. Mayor Bryant stated the bridge is the property of ODNR. All funds would be a donation earmarked for the bridge. Mr. Ducker asked about the amount requested for the bridge. Jim Frederick and Shump responded. Mayor Bryant asked about the funds received and what would be done as well as how long the grant would be open. Shump responded the person who brought the grant to her attention made a recommendation regarding the amount requested. Mr. Trent Heimann inquired about the expiration date. Discussion followed. Mrs. Heimann asked who has control of donation boxes, ODNR or Friends of Little Miami Bike Trail and what does the revitalization of Main Street include.

The Village Administrator discussed the Phegley Park renovation, modernization, surface and equipment. She referenced Summit Park in Blue Ash. She advised a plan would be provided for Phegley Park by Warren County Regional Planning Commission. Mayor Bryant advised Morrow to Morrow purchased the existing park equipment for the Village 30 years ago. Whitacre advised she would talk with Warren County Planning Commission regarding the plan. She discussed a future focus group from the community. The Administrator advised the town owned 6 parcels there up to the residences. Trent Heimann commented on the Old Lumber Store. Whitacre provided her thoughts going forward. The Mayor advised past help was offered a few years ago by Jorgensen for the basketball court pavement; free blacktop was provided. Discussion followed. Whitacre stated approval for a grant application submission is needed.

Whitacre discussed the Storm Water Management Plan. She advised the Village will need to work with a consultant as a co-permittee. She explained why it is needed and the requirements. The Administrator advised a national consultant is used by Warren County. McKeehan asked if the Village engineer would serve as consultant. Isaacs-Niemesh asked for the cost. Whitacre explained \$7,000 was the Village share for the consultant. Discussion followed. The Mayor explained the Police Chief was off work due to an operation.

Councilman Zorn discussed the Warren County Planning Commission Meeting the second Tuesday at 5pm. He requested a replacement to attend the meetings. Discussion followed. Zorn stated he didn't make the Tree Board meeting that day; the Tree Board meets six times a year. He advised the Tree Board receives money from the State. The Mayor stated the Village provided funds. Zorn advised he would have Wendy Van Buren from ODNR provide information on funding. The Mayor discussed his prior request for plantings by the Tree Board. Zorn stated he brought the item up previously, but would check on it again. Discussion followed. He stated a concern was raised by a Houston Road resident regarding flooding in her yard. Whitacre responded she spoke with Mrs. Nelson and does not anticipate any problems. The Mayor advised 5 or 6 grates are present there. The Mayor discussed the work; he made comparisons to the Hazen Avenue job. He stated the current contractor was \$16,000 cheaper.

Regular Session of Village Council

December 10 2019

Zorn advised he couldn't make the Christmas dinner on December 7th. He stated transportation literature was posted on the bulletin board for veterans who need it. The Councilman advised Community Builders Awards were presented to Trent and Lisa Heimann and Tracy Shump and a plaque was presented to Wanda Morris for the *Marine in a Jar* for 20 years found in old abandoned storage unit and her work in preserving it. A coin from Warren County was also presented to Mrs. Morris. The marine now has a burial place in the Dayton VA Cemetery. Zorn reminded everyone the application forms for Memorial Bricks are available at the Municipal Building and the Village website, [www.vil.morrow.oh.us](http://www.vil.morrow.oh.us).

McKeehan requested an update on the Plaza. The Administrator advised Zoning Inspector Ron Kilburn organized and documented numerous violations, exterior and interior. Kaspar edited a letter which will be sent to the owner. Whitacre advised a leak under State Route 22 and 3 into the parking lot exists. An interested buyer had the soil tested and it was contaminated. Mc Keehan stated the tanks were previously removed. He believed the contamination falls back on the owner. The Mayor stated new owners will not take the responsibility. He provided additional information. The Administrator stated she will continue working with EPA; in addition to the soil issue, there is upkeep needed. Discussion followed. The letter to the owner will allow 30 business days before the matter goes to court.

McKeehan discussed Morrow's charitable history. He would like to see unfortunate kids receive coats for Christmas. McKeehan would like to name the effort Coats for Christmas. He asked Village Solicitor Kaspar to look into it. Kaspar responded. McKeehan would make a donation to get a program started for next year. He would like to see coats purchased or vouchers given if donations are not received. Mrs. Heimann asked how would you determine who would receive the coats. She stated she goes out to deliver coats; Trent Heimann advised they have kids coats to offer and gave information on their experience and stated they are currently making donations, cleaning the coats, etc. in the community. Isaacs-Niemesh stated the Village could have a drive like the old Food Drive. Walls-Parker stated she wanted to help; she shared her experience with people selling gifts again. Discussion followed.

Isaacs-Niemesh stated there is a large pot hole behind the Plaza that must be fixed. Walls-Parker discussed Christmas on Main Street; she stated it was wet, but great. She stated many businesses joined the parade this year. The Mayor stated he was the chauffer and applauded her efforts.

Councilman Steiner thanked all Council members, current and past who provided him an opportunity to get more involved in the community; he thanked everyone, citizens and administration.

Solicitor Kaspar presented Resolutions requiring approval. He provided amounts and details and read the pending Resolutions.

Motion by Zorn to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #12-19; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. Motion by Zorn to adopt Resolution #12-19, approving adjustments in appropriations as listed; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea by roll call.

Kaspar explained the CDBG program and the pending grant application for Phegley Park.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #13-19; second by Zorn. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Resolution #13-19, approving 20/20 CDBG application and authorizing the Village Administrator or Mayor's designee execute the agreement on behalf of the Village; second by Zorn. All yea by roll call.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #14-19; second by Councilwoman Smothers. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Resolution #14-19, approving participation in Storm Water Management Plan with Warren County Commissioners and Warren County engineer; second by Smothers. All yea by roll call.

Regular Session of Village Council

December 10 2019

Kaspar withdrew Resolution #15-19 for consideration; the matter was tabled for the Ohio Capital Improvement Budget Commission; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea by roll call.

**Public Forum**

No comments

**Adjournment**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
York Bryant, Mayor