

## Regular Session of Village Council

January 14, 2020

### **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.

Jim Frederick – P

Jessica Smothers – P

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

Clarissa Walls-Parker – P

Mike McKeehan – P

Paul Zorn – P

### **Appointment of 2020 Vice-Mayor**

Motion by Councilwoman Smothers to appoint Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh as Vice-Mayor; second by Councilman Frederick. Four yea, one abstention by Isaacs-Niemesh.

### **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion by Smothers to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Regular Session; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea 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 the Shopping Center. He acknowledged a Zoning Inspection was complete with 70 photos and notification of violations submitted. The Mayor discussed the grant application for Phegley Park. He stated Warren County has not required a percentage of the project from the Village; but to improve the chances for approval, he would like the Village to offer 10% towards the project.

A thank you to Susan Ramsey, Beverly Day, Mandy Beamer, Jessica Smothers, Agnes McIntosh and all who assisted and participated in the Community Christmas Dinner was given by the Mayor. He apologized for not including everyone in the acknowledgment last month. The Mayor advised Village Administrator Whitacre was on vacation.

Frederick advised he spoke with Viox regarding the Village sign at the Point. He stated he would like to get estimates on a new sign. He stated Viox would be open to an easement or purchase back at this time. Councilman McKeehan stated he was on Council when the property was sold and promises were made at that time. Village Solicitor John Kaspar advised an easement is not preferred with a fixture on the property; the Village would then take the responsibility for the Point. He would determine if a covenant or contract was recorded. Mayor Bryant requested the original purchase contract be available at the next Council meeting before any further discussion. Frederick asked if he could get a quote. Discussion followed.

Smothers advised a party from South Lebanon donated six boxes of books that needed to be stored. Mayor Bryant stated the books could be stored at the Depot. On behalf of Councilman Zorn, who was delayed at the Warren Council Regional Planning Meeting, Smothers discussed a request for a street light at the end of Highlawn. The Mayor stated activity previously referenced had not been discovered. Discussion followed.

Zorn requested an update for Phase II for Welch Road. The Mayor stated previous bid sought by the Village was \$16,000; work was not up to par with Hazen Avenue. Discussion followed. Fiscal Officer Tina Powell advised the concern regarding Welch Road was the ongoing construction per the Public Works Department. She stated there was no reason to pave Phase II now during construction. Smothers inquired regarding donations for stuffed animals; she advised the Chamber of Commerce stated they are now over the project. Discussion followed.

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Zorn posed a question regarding Street Signs. Mayor Bryant advised the Village order was received some time ago for the Traffic Signs, not Street Signs. He stated we will get the bolts and take care of them. Zorn requested an update on the Crosswalk. The Mayor requested the response be tabled until the February meeting when the Administrator returned. Councilwoman Walls-Parker asked if traffic would be hampered during the paint spraying on the road at the Crosswalk. The Mayor replied no.

Zorn reiterated Warren County Regional Planning Commission meets 4 times a year. He reported on the meeting. He stated Turtle Creek growth to Wilmington was highlighted and advised notices were going out for changing zoning codes. Zorn stated the Phegley Park project request was discussed at the WCRPC meeting, the proposed rendition, mural, fountain and funding. He advised a blacktop estimate of \$350,000, project total of \$1M, and the grant request of \$200,000 was covered at the WCRPC meeting. McKeehan questioned the blacktop quote of \$350,000. Zorn stated it included Center and Kibbey Streets. Discussion followed. Zorn stated the vision for the park, to redo the facilities for interaction, was discussed; WCRPC would provide a presentation to Council. Smothers stated a future focus group from the community was planned; she advised she contacted a Mason official. Zorn stated the community could sign up for fiber optics with LMP.

Isaacs-Niemesh expressed a concern regarding garbage near the Art Center and behind the Church. She stated officers were called to the location. The Mayor commented. The Councilwoman asked for the plan for the Depot. The Mayor advised they were not able to rent it for \$188 previously; he had 2 parties interested in buying it. Discussion followed. Isaacs-Niemesh stated she believed the Depot was in better shape than the Municipal Building. Mayor Bryant stated he would like to see a business in the Depot. Frederick stated if it is sold, the new owner could tear it down. Discussion on the historic nature of the Depot followed. Smothers advised she was approached by several people interested in the Depot. Isaacs-Niemesh requested the square footage. The Mayor discussed options, advising he felt the Caboose was worth \$30,000. Smothers discussed the distribution of funds if the Depot was sold. The Mayor referenced the origination and use of the Schuerer Trust Fund. Zorn stated if a developer purchased the property, it might spur growth in the area.

McKeehan discussed his communication with Fred Carmack who purchased 150 acres and wishes to use the property for Blue Grass festivals annually with big name bands. He stated Mr. Carmack may wish to use the land for camping in the off season and noted the neighbors are on board. McKeehan stated liability may be an issue. He advised Carmack was communicating with other canoe businesses in the area and possible sponsors. Frederick stated there is a zoning question. McKeehan stated a Zoning change would be required. Discussion followed regarding traffic issues, police, etc.

Powell referenced the prior Special Session and budget presentation. She stated there were no changes to the budget following the Tax Budget approval previously submitted to Warren County. Solicitor Kaspar read the Ordinance requiring approval and submission.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Ordinance #1-20; second by Walls-Parker. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Ordinance #1-20, approving and adopting the 2020 Annual Appropriations Budget for the Village of Morrow; second by Walls-Parker. All yea by roll call.

The Fiscal Officer presented a Leak Adjustment request for Salem Road for \$281.70.

Motion by McKeehan to approve the adjustment for 5277 Salem Road for \$281.70; second by Smothers. All yea by roll call.

### **Public Forum**

No comments

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**Executive Session**

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adjourn to Executive Session for Pending Litigation; second by Zorn. All yea. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to return to Regular Session; second by Zorn. All yea.

**Adjournment**

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

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Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

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York Bryant, Mayor