

Regular Session of Village Council

March 10, 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

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

Mike McKeehan – P

Jessica Smothers – 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 February 11, 2020 Regular Session; second by Councilman Zorn. All yeas by roll call.

Major Arrasmith / Warren County Drug Task Force

The Major provided copies of the 2019 annual report. Following an introduction and thank you to the community and officials in the County's jurisdiction for past support and tips, Arrasmith advised the structure of the County's high intensity drug program was unchanged. He reported there is a lot of activity as we cross Route 73; we are a multi-jurisdictional task force with 16 law enforcement agencies. The Major stated the task force has 23 full time personnel from 12 different agencies, full time uniform officers from highway patrol, four State Troopers and a support investigative staff. He advised the Highway Patrol helps with aviation support.

In 2019, the Major reported there were 479 new cases, 314 cases from uniform criminal patrol staff, 308 felony arrests and 149 misdemeanor arrests. Drug trends show the same pattern as 2019; the most commonly seized drugs being methamphetamine, fentanyl, LSD and prescription drugs deaths from overdoses. Funding (about \$1 million) is accomplished in a number of ways, 30% by contribution from communities. Councilman McKeehan posed a question regarding the Morrow contribution recorded. Mayor Bryant commented. Arrasmith clarified. Mayor Bryant recommended to Council a \$1,000 contribution for the year. Discussion followed.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to donate \$1,500 to the Drug Task Force; second by Walls Parker. All yeas by roll call.

Chief William Harrison / Salem/Morrow Fire Department

The Chief reported 626 fire runs and advised the department was up by 20 runs in the last two months. He advised mutual aid was provided for five structure fires outside of the area. Currently, the Fire Department is doing inspections for exit lights, etc. Harrison advised the inspectors are doing a good job. He invited the community to a Fish Fry on April 3rd.

Walls-Parker inquired about the street lights in the Woodlands. Chief Harrison stated he is waiting until after the upcoming election to address them. He discussed the available parking in the Woodlands, one side of the street versus another. The Fire Chief proposed no parking on the hydrant side of the street. Councilman Frederick asked if it is necessary to utilize both sides of the street. The Chief responded; he stated an Ordinance or other legislation is needed. Police Chief Kilburn commented on the mailboxes not favoring one side over another. He also discussed a prior trench collapse. Chief Harrison responded. Kilburn commented on the developer's design regarding the mailboxes. Isaacs-Niemesh stated it is a safety hazard. The Mayor advised he wanted a notice posted prior to any action. Discussion followed.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials

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

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The Mayor advised the old Catholic Church was cited in court and a few corrections were made at the Plaza. It has been somewhat cleaned up.

Village Administrator Whitacre discussed the zoning update, advising that changes in Ordinance 1098 have helped lead to the clean-up. She stated the owner of Morrow Plaza was given 60 days to respond to a number of infractions; he has swept the lot and addressed the fence on one side. She stated the back is still in need of work. The Administrator advised she will bring an Ordinance regarding the long-term parking of trucks which must be addressed.

Whitacre provided additional zoning updates; a letter was sent to the owner of 316 Pike Street to repair the roof and add shingles, and receipt of a zoning permit for the new school at 609 Welch Road over the next few months, parking and turn lanes will be addressed. She advised 155 zoning permits were submitted in 2019, and 41 have been submitted to date in 2020.

The Administrator reported on a Community Development Grant submitted to Warren County for Phegley Park for \$200,000. She provided a picture of the existing restrooms along with new renderings provided by Warren County Regional Planning Commission. She discussed the park acreage and clarified the total costs of the project as submitted were \$382,000. Whitacre stated the difference above the \$200K would be sought through an online fundraising campaign and possible grants through the Chamber of Commerce. She advised Phase I would involve grading and playground equipment. Mandy Beamer and Bev Massey asked questions regarding the park. The Mayor commented on contributions. Daniel Pilgrim asked if there was a possibility of volunteers for work needed at the park. Discussion followed.

Fiscal Officer Tina Powell reported the current Rumpke rate for the Village residents is \$34.82 bi-monthly; residents are billed \$31.46 bi-monthly. She discussed the rates per types of dumpsters. Powell advised Receipts are \$202,291 versus payments of \$192,710. Discussion followed. The matter was tabled until the following month.

Councilman McKeehan reported that a tree was taken down at Veteran's Memorial Park; Mike Hanna of Public Works arranged to have it removed. Mayor Bryant advised Warren County Parks Director Easterly's mother was hit by a car and died on Saturday.

Smothers asked if McKeehan had been in touch with Mr. Carmack who owns property along Blackhawk Road. Walls-Parker stated they have been working over there. McKeehan stated when Carmack has more information, he will come to the Council Meeting. Smothers asked a question about community service for the park. The Administrator stated it is currently a proposal. Smothers commented.

Frederick reported he was reviewing proposals and pricing for redoing the Morrow sign at the west end of the Village, one at \$1,985.82 and a second at \$2,978.54. He advised he is currently pursuing the cheaper quote. He provided photos of mock-ups. Mayor Bryant stated the current sign is rotted. Frederick advised he did not have pricing for the modern sign. McKeehan asked about the materials pictured and if one was aluminum. Frederick advised he was working with two different companies. Isaacs-Niemesh stated she felt the blue and gray color was the best. Several Council members liked the newer version.

Zorn stated the Board of Elections needs volunteers. He also advised Census takers were needed as door knockers. He commented on the back of the Morrow Plaza. Zorn stated a message from Scott Lipps advised we are #2 on the list for the bridge project. He stated water bags have been received for the trees. Zorn advised the Air force flag that is needed for Bishop Park is on order and the Village is at the top of the list for trees along the Bike Trail. He stated the Historical Society is missing a few items from the attic of the Depot and would like to search for them. Discussion followed. At the intersection of Welch Road and

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US Route 22 & 3, there is one broken and 2 leaning utility poles with cables hanging Zorn advised. He also stated he would be late for the next meeting due to the Warren County Regional Planning Meeting.

Walls-Parker publically advised she was resigning due to relocating outside of the Village. She stated she collaborated with a lot of good people and enjoyed her time on Council. The Mayor requested she read her letter of resignation effective March 4, 2020 to the community members present. Her work for the Village was applauded.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to nominate Ben Steiner to fill the vacancy created by Walls-Parker's resignation; second by Smothers. Two additional nominations were made. Mayor Bryant advised the initial nomination would be addressed first. By roll call 3 yea, 2 nay, motion carried.

Public Forum

Mandy Beamer announced the Car Show for May 23, 2020 from 10am to 2pm at the Morrow Arts Center. She stated proceeds will go to the Fire Department; over \$5,000 was raised in previous years. She asked for volunteers, advising she needed 2 officers this year due to items missing from classic cars during the show in 2019.

Judy Neal stated she was the president of the Tree Board which was established in 2013; she read a portion of the Ordinance identifying the purpose for the Tree Board. She advised there were three members, currently working on a Growth Award. She stated the Tree Board will need to take an inventory and asked for community volunteers. Neal advised an Emergency Disaster Plan was needed; she advised if there is none, FEMA will not help us. She stated she wants to work with the Township for an emergency plan. The Arbor Day Ceremony will be in Sidney, Ohio this year. Zorn stated FEMA wants to find an area big enough to place trees after a disaster. Tracy Shump asked what type of trees. Neal stated the type is unknown. She stated bulk water would be needed for Zorn's truck for the water bags. The Mayor advised he would be sure that was available.

Miranda Allister, a resident of the Woodlands, stated she was concerned about the parking in the Woodlands; she stated the driveways are small and residents aren't getting mail. She agrees with the fire hydrant side of the street for the posting of signs. Allister stated she believes the mail delivery should be a walking route. Pamela Pilgrim stated street parking is needed. The mailboxes should be on the same side of the street. The Village Administrator advised that could be an HOA expense.

Leslie Stahley advised there is an HOA meeting coming up with the developer at the Little Miami cafeteria on April 15th at 6pm. She asked Council if they would please come to the meeting. Stahley advised the developer stated they are ending the contract in December 2020. Their lawyer will be present at the upcoming meeting. McKeehan advised the developer will need to come before us. Discussion followed. McKeehan cited stipulations when the development began. The developer has an escrow account. It was stated the developer is in control of who you hire for landscaping, etc. McKeehan commented. Discussion followed.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor