

Regular Session of Village Council

July 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

Ben Steiner – P

Mike McKeehan – A

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 June 9, 2020 Regular Session; second by Councilman Frederick. All yeas by roll call.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials

Monthly Village Fiscal Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements, Mayor's Court Report and Bank Reconciliation were provided for Council.

Mayor Bryant advised an alternate Zoning Board of Appeals member must be appointed due to the recent passing of Zoning Board of Appeals alternate John Poe. Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre provided personal information for Laura Briscoe who she advised has resided in Morrow 6 years and was interested in helping the community achieve its goals.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to appoint Laura Briscoe as Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals member; second by Councilman Steiner. All yeas.

Mayor Bryant spoke of Viola Bryant's passing and his experience at the hospital's ICU as the family visited her during the pandemic.

The Administrator presented an overview of Shawn Campbell/Jones Warner Consultants' written report on the new Water Plant. She discussed the progress of the softening, referring to the table provided which showed differential levels between summer and winter usage. She discussed two barbwire fencing quotes; Frederick posed questions concerning the quotes and commented on safety. Whitacre noted the fence could not be repaired but the hangers are good. Isaacs-Niemesh inquired regarding the barbwire and the age of the existing fence. Discussion followed. The Mayor discussed security and cameras at the plant. Whitacre reviewed the bids. Discussion followed. The matter was tabled until the next meeting. Zorn asked if there was any recent hydrant flushing and noted brown water concerns from 2 residents. Discussion followed. Fiscal Officer Tina Powell stated one brown water complaint was received recently.

Whitacre reported construction was not slowing down in the Woodlands; 32 new lots were approved in Section 3D. She advised a community interview and participation meeting of citizens for Phegley Park would be held on line, a modification requested by Warren County Regional Planning Commission due to Covid-19. She explained the process, visual plan options on-line and interviews and encouraged participation from Council members and the community. Zorn noted Centre Street needed paving. Discussion followed. The Administrator stated she did not want to take funds from the park project for street paving. She advised grant submission approval was needed for Welch Road Phase 2, as part of the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) PY36/2022 pre-application process. She explained the scope of the project. She advised later this month a grant application for a new pump and generator at the Morrow Water Tower would also be submitted. Village Solicitor John Kaspar read the pending Resolution.

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Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #3-20; second by Frederick. All yea. Motion by Frederick to approve Resolution #3-20 for submission of OPWC grant application for Welch Road Reconstruction Project Phase 2; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

Frederick asked if the Woodlands were dedicated; he stated there is a final pave on two streets, the other is not done. Kaspar advised Todd's Fork is dedicated, but not the Woodlands. He stated he plans to meet with Dan Fisher, Project Superintendent. Discussion followed regarding the Homeowner's Association for the Woodlands and homes constructed to date. The Mayor stated parking signs may not be erected until streets were dedicated.

Zorn presented a Tree City Plaque for the Village for seven years of Tree City participation membership. He stated Arbor Day must be scheduled for the Fall. He advised Jerry Viox gave permission for a tree to be planted at the Point; the Tree Board would like to dedicate a tree at the Point this Fall for Arbor Day. Zorn stated they would have Wendy VanBuren of ODNR recommend a particular tree. Frederick raised a concern about the tree blocking the sign. The Mayor commented. Councilwoman Smothers inquired about the tree recommendation. Zorn advised another option was considered as an alternative also; he would have the information for the next meeting. He discussed Bishop Memorial Park, suggesting bricks, stepping stones and foliage arrangement. Whitacre requested a drawing. Zorn stated he will supply the drawing for the next meeting. He also announced the Cardboard Boat Regatta was cancelled until 2021. He reported approximately 50 of the new flags were replaced; he thanked Smothers and others for helping. He advised the VFW is working on a depository for old flags from people who wish to dispose of them; it will be available soon. Mayor Bryant stated the Village Public Works employees will take the old flags down after the Yard Sale on August 8th.

Smothers introduced Micah Steele who built the Book House Library for the Village. Mayor Bryant asked Solicitor Kaspar to prepare an Ordinance/Resolution for a Speed Limit change from 25mph to 20mph for Main Street. The Mayor advised the signs had arrived. Solicitor Kaspar discussed and read the pending Resolution for HB481 Coronavirus Legislation.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #4-20; second by Steiner. All yea. Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to adopt Resolution #4-20 for the use of allocated Coronavirus funds received as directed by the State; second by Steiner. All yea.

Administrator Whitacre discussed the three year contract for Waste Collection proposed by Rumpke. She proposed a combined 90 cents increase to Village residents for trash and recycling. She stated currently \$31.46 is charged every 2 months, but the Village pays \$34.82 to Rumpke. On August 1, 2020, Rumpke's cost to the Village will increase to \$35.00. Whitacre discussed possibly raising the cost \$1.00 a month to residents. Isaacs-Niemesh pointed out the Village would still be in the negative. The Administrator reviewed commercial user cost. The Fiscal Officer advised cost to Lebanon residents is \$34.28 and Maineville residents pay \$35.00. Discussion followed. Whitacre recommended \$34.46 for residents every 2 months, \$1.50 per month increase with Seniors continuing to receive the standard discount. Kaspar read the Pending Resolutions.

Motion by Isaacs-Niemesh to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #5-20; second by Frederick. All yea. Motion by Smothers to adopt Resolution #5-20 increasing Waste Collection rates for Village residents to \$34.46 every 2 months effective with the next regular billing cycle; second by Steiner. All yea.

Motion by Frederick to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #6-20; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea. Motion by Frederick to adopt Resolution #6-20 approving the new Rumpke Contract provided effective August 1, 2020 for Waste Collection services to the Village; second by Steiner. All yea.

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Public Forum

Micah Steele advised he was an investor and a member of a group of investors interested in bringing businesses to Morrow which would involve the Depot and other vacant properties. He stated he was interested in the Village processes and wished to be added to the next meeting's agenda to provide more information. The Mayor commented at least two individuals wish to rent the Depot.

Adjournment

Motion by Smothers to adjourn; second by Steiner. All yeas by roll call.

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor