

## Regular Session of Village Council

October 12, 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 in person or via Zoom.

Jim Frederick – P

Jessica Smothers – P

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

Ben Steiner – P

Mike McKeehan – 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 August 11, 2020 and September 8, 2020 Regular Sessions; second by Councilwoman Smothers. Four yeas by roll call, two abstentions due to prior absence for the August 11, 2020 minutes; Five yeas, one abstention by Councilman Frederick for the September 8, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

### **Tim Brown & Paul Schaefer/Update for Depot Pilot Event**

Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre reported on their behalf. She advised they were very pleased with the participation and response to the September 26th festival event held at the Depot. Four to five hundred people attended; three bands and several food trucks were on hand for the event. Whitacre stated the group was interested in the property long term.

### **William Harrison / Salem Township/Morrow Fire Chief**

The Chief stated in 2016, the voters approved a 3.9 Levy for additional personnel; twelve people were hired as a result. He reported response time was reduced. Previously, other areas helped to cover Morrow resulting in longer response times. The department received \$209,000 FEMA and State grants to assist them. He advised the Fire Department is asking residents to approve a renewal of the 3.9 Levy and discussed the need for the continued resources. Harrison stated there would not be a tax increase.

Harrison reported on activity for the Fire Department year to date. He advised 665 runs were made; there were 164 runs the prior month. Tuesday is the Fire Department's busiest day the Chief reported. All hydrants have been inspected and flushed in the Village by the Fire Department. Reports have been provided to the Village staff with hard copies to Public Works Mike Hanna. The Chief advised 8 reverse thread hydrants were found. The department gave out pencils, hats, etc. Frederick offered his residence as a location for a sign.

### **Judy Neal / Tree Board**

Neal stated she wished to answer questions raised regarding the Tree Board in the prior meeting. She addressed the Oak tree in front of the Gazebo at Veterans Park; she stated Wendy Van Buren of ODNR asked the group to monitor the tree over the winter. Mayor Bryant stated originally 6 Oak trees were planted there, several of them died over the years. Neal advised the Village website information regarding the terms of the Tree Board members was incorrect. She stated her term expired in 2020. Agnes McIntosh's term expires in 2021 and Paul Zorn's in 2022. Meetings for the Tree Board are held at 9am on Tuesday, rather than 10am.

Neal discussed the Emergency Disaster Plan. Frederick asked the source of the funding for the Tree Board. Neal stated from the General Fund, \$2 per resident. He stated there is a concern regarding planting trees on private property. Neal asked if his concern was related to the Point. The Administrator advised she did some digging into Tree City USA. She stated Ohio has the most designated Tree Cities in the nation. The rules with regard to funding do not have to be all cash. It can be in-kind expenses and Village workers time

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spent. She advised Phegley Park has a great deal of landscaping and tree work needed. Neal discussed Wendy Van Buren's correspondence, advising public workers and Tree Board workers time is included in in-kind expenses. Councilman Steiner asked if the Village writes a check to the Tree Board. The response was no. Neal stated Tree Board spending must be approved by Council. Councilman McKeehan stated he did not recall prior requests for funds for the purchase of trees. McKeehan asked that research be done on prior requests; he also expressed a concern with the number of trees at the Gazebo and requested some of them be removed. Neal stated Anthony Richard Landscaping did the planting. She stated Wendy Van Buren of ODNR recommended those trees. Steiner suggested moving 2 or 3 of the trees.

Frederick requested a bookkeeping of all in-kind expenses in the future. He asked who would monitor the expenses. Administrator Whitacre offered to do so. Frederick stated he was okay with the Tree Board since in-kind funds would offset dollars spent from the General Fund. The Administrator advised an annual review should be done. Fiscal Officer Tina Powell advised she completes a form each year; there are categories and the funds must be divided. Councilman Zorn asked McKeehan about his concern at the Gazebo. McKeehan stated the area is too small for the number of trees planted. Discussion followed. Neal stated when her term is up, the Mayor would make an appointment for a Tree Board member. McKeehan asked if all monies must be spent yearly. Neal responded no. Zorn commented.

### **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.

Mayor Bryant stated the Village Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 25th; cars will be 6 feet apart. He advised there would not be a Community Christmas Dinner this year. The Mayor stated there will be a parade for Christmas on Main Street on Saturday, November 28th beginning at the Morrow Art Center. Village Halloween will be 6pm to 8pm on October 31, 2020. He advised Mag's Retirement Center's Senior Citizen Bingo will be held this year.

Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre reported on the Speed Limit for Main Street; she advised the Speed Limit is restored to 25 mph. She reported the September 28th meeting of the Planning Commission discussed the issue of turn lanes for the Salem Elementary School. Planners designed traffic flow to occur within school grounds. Also, a request for approval of the Woodlands sections 3D and 3E for property markers was received; it needs to be finalized. There was a Zoning request from Fred Carmack for his property adjacent to Todd's Fork Creek from Residential R1 to B3 Recreational. Carmack will complete the necessary paperwork; it will come before Council.

Whitacre advised virtual surveys for Phegley Park were completed. Fifty-four people participated and completed surveys. Warren County Planning Commission did interviews and recommended 3 phases for the project along with funding required. A Splash Pad at \$250,000 needs to be discussed. The Administrator also reported LuAnn Cain resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals; she suggested Laura Briscoe, currently an alternate for the Zoning Board of Appeals, be moved to the status of regular member.

Motion by McKeehan to change alternate Laura Briscoe to a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals; second by Frederick. Five yea, motion carried.

The Administrator advised the Village of Morrow participated actively in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan development. The document will be provided for approval at the next Council meeting. She stated we also need to consider Parking Restrictions in the Plaza. Whitacre advised there is a lot of anxiety about trucks parking in the Plaza parking lot; she referred Council members to the document for the proposed Parking Restrictions which were tabled in August. She stated Village Solicitor Kaspar reviewed the document. Kaspar

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discussed public/private spaces and any issues with emergency vehicle parking. The proposed Ordinance would provide for parking restrictions within Village Corporation limits. McKeehan raised a question regarding property owners being affected who use boats or motor homes and park on their own property. He stated he has a problem with that. Kaspar explained an exception could be granted. Whitacre questioned whether an exception was acceptable. McKeehan commented; the Mayor agreed. Frederick stated he needed more time to review. He asked if Council would want to exempt R1 properties. Zorn stated he agreed with McKeehan. Further discussion and action was tabled.

Zorn reported the Warren County Regional Planning Commission held a brief meeting via Zoom earlier that evening. He acknowledged Phegley Park was discussed. He advised a receptacle for used flags was installed in Bishop Park next to the Village Hall. Zorn stated Deer Signs are in; he asked about the status of signs for the crossing at the Plaza. The Mayor and Administrator agreed to look into it.

**Tim Brown/Update for Depot Pilot Event**

Tim Brown joined the Zoom call and advised there was lots of interest from the community in *A Party at Park and Main*. He stated the group wished to turn the Depot into an outdoor event center. A donation of \$1200 is being made to charity from the proceeds of the September 26th event at the Depot. Frederick commented he heard only positive comments. The Administrator discussed the desire for an October event. Brown stated he would love to do something then if Council approves. Tim Brown stated he has dealt with communities for 17 years. He discussed 50West and believes there is something special in the Depot.

**Public Forum**

A Garfield Street resident was present. He stated he would like to see parts of Morrow improved. The Mayor asked him to think about participating and volunteering with the Village.

**Adjournment**

Motion by McKeehan to adjourn; second by Frederick. All yea by roll call.

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Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

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York Bryant, Mayor