

Regular Session of Village Council

May 11, 2021

Call to Order

The Regular Session of Council was called to order by Vice Mayor Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh, who was standing in for Mayor York Bryant. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer by Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh for Gladys Jackson and Kenny McKeehan who had passed away during the previous month.

Roll Call

Roll Call was completed by Solicitor John Kaspar. The following members were present in person.

Jim Frederick – A

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P

Mike McKeehan – P

Jessica Smothers – P

Ben Steiner – P

Paul Zorn – P

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion by Councilman Steiner to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 Regular Session; second by Councilman McKeehan. It was noted that there had been an Executive Session held at the April 13, 2021 Council meeting and that should be added to the minutes of that meeting. All yeas by roll call with the noted addition. Motion carried.

Nick Selhorst, ChoiceOne Engineering – Zoning Code Revision

The Zoning Code is being revised since the existing zoning code for the village was last done in 2003. ChoiceOne Engineering was chosen to lead the revision process. The revised version was approved by the Village of Morrow Planning Commission in April 2021. Nick Selhorst from ChoiceOne Engineering was present and led a discussion of the first third (66 pages) of the revised Zoning Code. Nick indicated that his approach was to merge the ChoiceOne template with the Morrow existing zoning code. A question came up about an agricultural overlay for larger lots. An overall discussion about larger lots in the village will be discussed at the next meeting. After three meetings and revisions, a final document will be provided in hard copy in a binder and as an electronic copy which will be a searchable pdf. There was a discussion of the Downtown Historical District.

Shawn Campbell, Jones-Warner Consultants – Paving Estimates for Blackhawk Rd

Shawn Campbell received estimates for the paving of Blackhawk Road flanking Alpine Heights Drive. Comparable estimates were received from Mount Pleasant and JK Meurer to do full-depth repair of 200 square yards for the roadway for approximately \$60k. Shawn raised the issue of creating turn lanes into Alpine Heights Drive, which was part of the original agreement for the Woodlands. Joe Zistler from Jones-Warner advised the Village to delay the paving of Todd's Fork Drive until construction there was completed.

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.

Village Administrator Caroline Whitacre informed Council about the funeral arrangements for Gladys Jackson, Clerk of Council with the Village of Morrow for 12 years, to be held in Trotwood, Ohio on May 18. Council considered Ordinance 01-21 which was the adoption of the Ohio Basic Code, 2021 Edition. This model Code of Ordinances is adopted by the Village each year as its own Code and replaces previous editions of the Village Code. A motion was made by Councilman McKeegan to suspend the rules for three readings which was seconded by Councilman Steiner. A motion to approve the ordinance was made by Councilman Steiner and seconded by Councilman McKeegan. Vehicle parking restrictions inside the Morrow corporation limits were revisited that had been discussed at prior Council meetings. Prior concerns had centered around the ability to park resident's RVs and boats on private property. An exception was added to the previously discussed rule stating "...6) Any resident that parks campers, RVs or boats on private property as set forth in the Village of Morrow Zoning ordinance". There was unanimous support for the addition of this exception which will be added to the new zoning code.

Councilman McKeegan expressed his thanks for the sympathy shown on the passing of his brother. He also mentioned that the light on the side of Village Hall needs to be fixed. Councilwoman Smothers mentioned that she had received a question about parking on the curve on Welch Road. Councilman Zorn mentioned that he dropped off the Yard Sale banner to the maintenance department for storage. He also asked permission to use Village Hall on Memorial Day for the VFW to pass out hot dogs and drinks. It was decided to use Bishop Park adjacent to Village Hall. He also mentioned that the Tree Board has a new map app that is not activated yet but should be available soon. It was mentioned that there are 2 dead trees on Village property that need to be removed at 4812 Jessica Suzanne Drive in the Woodlands.

Public Forum

Tracy Shump gave an update on the Railroad Bridge Project, stating that the Memorable Morrow Non-Profit organization had secured \$400,000 from a State of Ohio Capital Appropriation for the restoration of the Railroad Bridge. This will be an ODNR project since the bridge and land belong to them. ODNR has started the bid process. There will be sandblasting to remove rust and lead paint and a full abatement. There will be epoxy used to seal the bridge and new paint applied along with new wood for the rails. Additional fundraising will be undertaken for bridge lighting. Tracy indicated that once the project starts, it would take about 30 days to complete. Friends of the Little Miami State Park suggested that if there were any funds left, they should go toward the paving of the trail around Morrow.

Councilman Zorn made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Steiner. All yea by roll call.

Councilwoman Smothers made a motion to return to public session, seconded by Councilman Steiner. All yea by roll call.

Arbor Day Celebration

Council adjourned to Bishop Park for an Arbor Day celebration during which Councilman Zorn read an Arbor Day Proclamation.

Tina Powell, Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor