

Regular Session of Village Council

December 14, 2021; 6:00 pm

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 Clerk of Council. The following members were present.

Jim Frederick – A

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 to approve November 9, 2021 Regular Session made by Isaacs-Niemesh; second by Zorn. All yea. Motion to approve November 17, 2021 Special Session made by Steiner; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

Shawn Campbell, Jones Warner Consultants

Mr. Campbell commended the Village for the ceremony in honor of Mike Hanna that was held at the Water Plant immediately preceding the Council meeting. Mr. Campbell alerted council that the deadline for the FY22 Community Development Block Grant program from Warren County was approaching on January 10 and that a resolution was needed for submission of the grant. The grant proposes the replacement of 21 water valves; there are as many as 70-90 that need replacement (about 20% of overall valves). Resolution 12-21 was proposed for water valve replacement in the amount of \$90,000 with \$10,000 being contributed by the Village of Morrow from the water fund. Because the deadline for the grant is prior to the next council meeting, it was decided to proceed on an emergency basis. Isaacs-Niemesh moved to suspend the rules, second by McKeehan. All in favor. Isaacs-Niemesh moved to adopt the resolution, second by McKeehan. All voted in favor.

Mr. Campbell informed Council that funding was awarded to the Village of Morrow from an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant to refurbish the Booster station at the 75K water tower near the fire station. Funds will be available in July 2022 and the renovations completed within 2022.

Consent Legislation with Ohio Department of Transportation

Preliminary legislation was sent to the Village by the Ohio Department of Transportation to permit crack sealing on various routes in Warren and Clinton Counties in FY2022. Council voiced approval for this resolution and decided to proceed on an emergency basis. Steiner moved to suspend the rules, second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All in favor. Isaacs-Niemesh moved to adopt Resolution 13-21, second by Steiner. All voted in favor.

Zoning Code Update

Center and Whitacre updated council on the zoning code revision. Now that he has worked with the current (2003) zoning code for 3 months, Vic recommends going with the new zoning code, provided by ChoiceOne Engineering, which is up to date and easier to navigate. Whitacre requested that Nick Selhorst (ChoiceOne Engineering) incorporate changes recommended by Jim Frederick (from public forum meetings) into the new code which is designated as Option 4. Whitacre will e-mail a copy of Option 4 to all council members (completed following the Council meeting). There are some hot button items that need further discussion like a restriction on the number of animals, marijuana dispensaries, fines, etc.

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.

The Mayor celebrated the success of Christmas on Main, with the addition of the Jeeps making it the biggest parade ever. Clarissa Walls-Parker was recognized for recruiting the Jeep group. Dave and Helen Ducker were also called out for contributing stuffed animals to the Christmas on Main event.

The Administrator expanded on what Mr. Campbell had reported for the OPWC grant, for the refurbishment of the Booster station at the base of the 75K water tower. The grant is for \$271K with Morrow pledging a match of 21% (\$72,000).

Councilman Zorn indicated he appreciated the plaque for Mike Hanna which was permanently affixed to Water plant 2. He also reported on a complaint received about the intersection of Welch Road and Houston Avenue for lack of a crosswalk and paint. It was stated that this will be done when the road is repaved.

Public Forum

Tracy Shump presented a check for \$300 to the Village from Christmas on Main to be used for decorations for next year's event and expenses. She also presented a list of thank you letters to go out to individuals that worked at the event.

Mitchell Fisher asked about contracts for snow removal in the Woodlands. It was stated that Morrow is responsible when sections are accepted, but that the developer is responsible when new sections are under construction and are not yet accepted by the Village.

Resolutions

The EPA has informed the Village that we need to develop a strategy to protect the water source for the Village. Resolution 10-21 was put forward to appoint a committee for this purpose. Isaacs-Niemesh moved to suspend the rules, second by Steiner and all voted in favor. Isaacs-Niemesh moved to adopt the resolution, second by Steiner. All voted in favor.

An adjustment to appropriations was identified by the Fiscal Officer. Resolution 11-21 was put forward for consideration. Steiner moved to suspend the rules, second by McKeehan with all voting in favor. Steiner moved to adopt the resolution second by McKeehan. All voted in favor.

Executive Session – previously requested for Personnel Action

Isaacs-Niemesh moved to adjourn to executive session, second by Steiner to discuss personnel actions. Isaacs-Niemesh moved to return to regular session, second by Steiner. All voted yea.

Adjournment

Motion by Steiner to adjourn; second by Zorn. All yea.

Tina Powell, Clerk of Council
& Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor