

Regular Session of Village Council

June 14, 2022; 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 Solicitor, John Kaspar. The following members were present.

Mitchell Fisher	Jim Frederick
Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh -Absent	Jessica Smothers
Mike McKeehan	Ben Steiner

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to approve May 3, 2022 Special Session made by McKeehan; second by Frederick. All yea. Motion to approve Regular Session made by Fisher; second by Frederick. All yea.

Sheriff Larry Sims

Warren County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Larry Sims presented the Warren County Sheriff's Office yearly report. Sims informed council the move to the new Warren County jail took place in October 2021. The new facility holds 499 beds. Sims stated not much out of the ordinary took place for the Sheriff's department and the handout provides all of the numbers for the year. The mayor thanked Sims for his excellent work and service to the community. Sims stated that he has an excellent team surrounding him and he was told years ago to "give away credit and take responsibility". A question was presented to Sims from the Administrator as to how many of those in jail would be related to substance abuse. Sims stated that 75% are on or tied to substance abuse. Frederick asked if the deputies all have body cameras. Sheriff stated there are cameras on the dash of the vehicles but they are currently looking into body cams. Frederick also asked if the Sheriff's office is prepared to support active threats in our local schools. Sims stated the Sheriff's office is prepared for many different types of emergencies that can occur in our local area including the schools. McKeehan asked a question in regards to the new gun law that went into effect. Sheriff Sims explained the difference in the new law and those that have the conceal and carry permit. Sims gave his opinion on how he feels about the new law giving the pros and cons.

Property Line for 323 Main Street – John Kaspar

Solicitor Kaspar reminded council that at the last session, Mr. Erwin asked to resolve the issue at 323 Main Street that is up for sale. The issue is described as the house trespasses beyond the western property line. The most effective way to expedite the sale of the property is for council to allow Kaspar the authority to enter into an agreement that the Village of Morrow acknowledges the trespass but will not pursue removal of the encroachment. The Village will not give title or deed to that property but maintain the deed. The Village is acknowledging the zoning difference of when the house was built. The owner cannot build on the Village portion of the property. If the owner tears down the house, they cannot rebuild on Village portion of the property.

Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second Steiner. All Yea. Motion to authorize the solicitor to negotiate and enter into agreement to resolve real property matter re: 323 Main Street, Village of Morrow, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Frederick; second by Mitchell. All yea.

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 discussed issues with the parking at Phegley Park. Discussion regarding a work truck continued. Several are looking into prices and availability to purchase a truck which is difficult with the current shortages. The mayor also requested for Kids at Play signs be placed on Welch and First street. Mayor announced the 4th of July parade will be held on July 2nd and will be organized by Bryson Automotive.

Administrator updated council on Phegley Park. This project is currently in the hands of Warren County. We have received 3 bids but the county must advertise the project in the paper and be sure that the bids we received are acceptable. All 3 bids that were received are from Ohio companies. The company with the lowest bid uses equipment that is assembled in Milford. This company completed the playground at the Early Childhood Learning Center at Salem Elementary. The Administrator decided that playground mulch would be more cost effective than poured rubber. The completion of the park should be Spring 2023.

The Administrator presented an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) pre-application grant to council in regards to replacing our water meter system, including replacement of all water meters with new ones. This would be approximately 1200 meters that would have a stronger signal to read and would allow the meter readers to do this much faster. This grant is requesting \$700,000 from the county and the Village would have a 30% match that would be \$367,000. This would occur 2 years from now. Council approved for the Administrator to put in for the grant.

Councilman Frederick requested the maintenance crew to hang American flags on Pike Street from one end of town to the other. These would be placed the week before Memorial Day and taken down after the 4th of July. Flags with soldier pictures were also discussed and stated that families purchase and maintenance would hang. Approximate cost \$80.00.

Councilman Frederick wanted an update on the generator and other items that need sold. A decision was made to place items on our website and have a sealed bid auction. Frederick asked if the scrap material previously located by the maintenance building had been taken to the scrap yard and if so, how much did we receive? Fiscal officer will have information at the next meeting.

Councilman Frederick opened discussion regarding securing lands around the community by installing water lines. Possible projects: Closing the loop on Blackhawk to SR123 to connect to the Woodlands, Rochester-Osceola to the end of town. Carol also added we should cross the Little Miami River and go up the hill of SR-123. Suggested to have Jones Warner Engineering and Phil (water operator) look into these projects.

Solicitor Kaspar presented two resolutions. The first Resolution #2-22 is authorizing submission of the PY39 2023 OPWC preapplication and participation thereof by the Village of Morrow Ohio in said program in the state of the art Water Meter Reading project. The Village Administrator discussed earlier seeking council's approval to proceed in applying for grant. Motion to suspend the rules was made by McKeehan; second by Steiner. All yea. Motion to adopt was made by Steiner; second by Fisher. All yea.

Second Resolution #3-22 is to approve adjustment to appropriations and declaring it an emergency in the matter of PERSO seeking reimbursement of legal fees in the Irwin vs. Village of Morrow case. Motion to suspend the rules was made by Frederick; second by McKeehan. All yea. Motion to adopt was made by Frederick; second by Fisher. All yea.

Public Forum

Miranda's grand opening at Noon on Saturday, June 18th.

Andrea Joffe asked council if there was anything that could be done to rental properties that do not maintain their yards when the house is vacant. It was suggested that the home owners association (HOA) should handle this. If that does not take care of it then the Village could send a letter 10 days prior to mowing the yard and then add a fine on the property taxes for the labor.

Motion to adjourn to executive session requested by Administrator to consider the purchase of property for public purposes. Motion was made by Frederick; second by Steiner. All yea.

Motion to return to regular session made by Steiner; second by Smothers. All yea.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Clerk of Council
& Fiscal Officer

York Bryant, Mayor