

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Porter called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM on August 16, 2010.

INVOCATION

Hart offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members of Council answered roll call; Tim Clapper, Steve Hart, Darrell Levings, Dianne Matuch, Emily Shaffer. John Curtis was excused. The Clerk declared a quorum. Mayor Mike Porter, Solicitor Matt Griffith, Administrator Dan Rogers and Clerk-Treasurer Sue Mermann were present.

MINUTES

Shaffer moved and Hart seconded to approve the 7/19/10 minutes. Roll call; Shaffer yes, Hart yes, Clapper yes, Matuch yes, Levings yes.

GUESTS

Guests included Rachel Mendell, Kay Hines, Karen Frederick, Ken Kennedy, Rosemary Levings, Donald Bowen, Pastor Dennis Braun, Betty Williams, Ruby Jackson, Ed Kline, Nancy Bachelder, Mike Bachelder, Gerald Neptune, Don Staiger, and Brian Zerman.

Representing the Morrow County Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Levings and Mrs. Frederick presented a written request for additional electricity in the downtown area. For several years, the lack of wattage has caused problems for vendors and entertainers during the various events including the annual Christmas Festival and the Sweet Corn Festival. If the popular events are to continue, the electricity problem will have to be addressed. The on-going problem prompted the Chamber to contact Dan DeVille, from Ohio Edison and his recommendation was included in the request. Administrator Rogers explained the electricity was designed for the downtown Christmas decorations but could not accommodate the additional usage and providing additional electricity to the downtown area would be costly. Clapper offered to review the request and possible solutions with the Utilities Committee.

Presbyterian Pastor Braun invited Council to attend the First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 12th. Mayor Porter read a Proclamation declaring September 12, 2010, "Hometown Hero Sunday" encouraging churches and schools to find ways to honor and remember our First Responders, including the Police, Fire, and EMTs. Pastor Braun announced the annual "Community Block Party" is scheduled for Patriots Day, 9/11/10.

Each of the other guests spoke against increasing water rates and sewer rates at this time and against both ordinances that have slated the increases to go on indefinitely. Mrs. Williams, former Chairman of the Utilities Committee, noted that the increases are not warranted at this time and she requested justification for the proposed increases. Other former Mayor and Council members, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kline, Mr. Bachelder and Mrs. Hines each noted the struggling economy, the already high utility rates and that the increases are permanent. Mr. Bachelder questioned if other options such as Mor-Co or Del-Co had been considered. Clapper, Chairman of the Utilities Committee, explained the reasoning behind the proposed rate increases, noting the increasing operational costs, the age of the Water Plant and the future improvements and maintenance of both systems. Quoting the 2009 RCap Study, he and Rogers stated that funds in Water and Sewer Funds have been decreasing in recent years. Council members Matuch and Shaffer both expressed opposition to the proposed ordinances, referring to the rate increases that go on "thereafter". Clerk-Treasurer Mermann corrected the statement that the water funds have decreased in recent years, noting that only the increased Water Note payments caused the Water Fund to drop in 2009. Mayor Porter concurred that while the fund balances are adequate now, there is an immediate need to replace deteriorating sewer and water lines and to prepare for future improvements and maintenance.

Mr. Kennedy voiced a complaint that young people on bicycles or walking on the streets ignore all traffic regulations and are causing dangerous situations for themselves and for motorists.

Mr. Bowen, a resident of N. Main St. agreed and requested that Cross Country Team members be instructed to run on the side facing traffic especially on SR 61 N. Mrs. Jackson expressed the fear of hitting young pedestrians, particularly after dark.

Mr. Neptune requested that Slurry Seal not be applied to Dogwood Lane, noting the condition of the street, the holes that would require filling, and pedestrians, especially young parents with baby strollers who frequently walk in the streets. Rogers explained the quality of the less expensive paving materials and the desire to extend the life of streets without the more expensive asphalt. Hart agreed that the streets in the area are structurally sound and do not warrant asphalt overlay yet.

POLICE CHIEF-BRIAN ZERMAN

Chief Zerman reported 296 calls for service, 69 charges, 8 felonies, and 13 accidents in July. Repairs on the 2010 cruiser are completed.

Responding to a suicide call, Officer Hicks escaped injury when the suspect attempted to flee the scene in his vehicle and rammed into the '08 cruiser, causing extensive damage to the cruiser. The suspect was apprehended, is in jail, and is facing several felony charges.

Village officers, Sheriff's deputies, and Bureau of Criminal Investigations (B.C.I) agents worked together in the annual county-wide marijuana eradication assignment.

FIRE CHIEF-DON STAIGER

Chief Staiger reported 274 responses for the year to date.

Tower 18 repairs have been completed.

The transfer and salvage project of the retired Rescue 11 will begin after the County Fair.

Mayor Porter recommended Jerry Baker be appointed to the probationary position of Firefighter. Hart moved and Levings seconded to approve the appointment pending the background check and successful physical testing. Roll call; Hart yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Matuch yes, Clapper yes.

Thirty firefighters, three from Mt. Gilead, are enrolled in the 120-hour training scheduled for 9/20/10.

COMMITTEES & RECOMMENDATIONS

STREETS-DARRELL LEVINGS

Levings reported the final purchase price for the property located on US Route 42 is \$12,000.00. The committee recommended the passage of Resolution 8-16-10 to authorize the purchase. The committee is scheduled to meet at 6:00 PM on 9/7/10.

FIRE & POLICE-DIANNE MATUCH

The committee is scheduled to meet at 6:00 PM on 8/24/10.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL-STEVE HART

The committee met prior to Council and continued the Personnel Policy review & update.

UTILITIES-TIM CLAPPER

The committee is scheduled to meet following Council on 9/20/10.

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT & ZONING-JOHN CURTIS

Curtis was excused.

CODES & REGULATIONS-EMILY SHAFFER

The committee is scheduled to meet at 6:00 PM on 9/7/10.

ADMINISTRATOR-DAN ROGERS

Rogers reported on the repairs and maintenance at the Water Plant & WWTP.

Ambrey Asphalt has completed the paving on Park Ave. & Walnut St., as well as at the WWTP. Repairs to Marion St. & Iberia St. will be completed over the next 2 weeks.

A quote of \$8,500.00 from Marengo Fabricated Steel for the Vactor Jetter Truck would include the full assembly, mounting to the truck and painting. The Streets Committee will review the quote and extent of the work.

Rogers gave an update on the ARRA Sanitary Sewer project. Miller Pipeline has completed the relining of the 6' and 8" sanitary sewer lines in several areas and will continue through next week.

Rogers credited property owners who finished the landscaping of their lawns following the completion of the ARRA Storm Water project. Only a few areas were still in need of attention following recent rains and normal ground settling.

Issue I application is due the first Friday in October. The application will request funds to sandblast both the N. Main St. and Douglas St. water towers.

The chlorine dispensing system repairs have been completed at the Water Plant.

Recreation Board is scheduled to meet at 7:00 PM on 9/14/10. Council briefly discussed the purchase of approximately 3 ½ areas of property located at US Route 42/E. Union St. Rogers reported sidewalks would connect the area to the current walks on E. Union St.

The Clean Ohio Brownfield application for the cleanup of HPM Plant I on Lincoln Ave. is on file at the Mt. Gilead Public Library.

MAYOR- MIKE PORTER

Mayor Porter reported the annual Dash at Dusk 5-K Run attracted over 250 athletes of all ages. Marsha Taylor was appointed to replace Tom Harden on the County Council on Aging.

SOLICITORS-GRIFFITH & BRININGER

No report.

CLERK-TREASURER-SUE MERMANN

Following a brief discussion, Hart moved and Shaffer seconded to approve payment of the bills. Roll call; Hart yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Clapper yes, Matuch yes.

Ordinance 1641 was presented for the third reading. Hart moved and Levings seconded to adopt the water rate increase ordinance. The ordinance proposes a 1% rate increase in 2011, a 1% rate increase in 2012 and "an increase of 1% thereafter". Council discussed amending the ordinance to authorize annual increases with the last increase to begin 1/1/15. Solicitor Griffith advised to defeat this ordinance and present an amended ordinance for the first reading on 9/7/10. Roll call; Hart no, Levings no, Shaffer no, Matuch no, Clapper no.

Ordinance 1642 was presented for the third reading. Clapper moved and Hart seconded to adopt the sewer rate increase ordinance. Council briefly discussed amending the ordinance. Roll call; Clapper no, Hart no, Levings no, Shaffer no, Matuch no

Hart moved and Clapper seconded to authorize that Ordinance 1641 and Ordinance 1642 be amended to allow rate increases only through 2015. Roll call; Hart yes, Clapper yes, Matuch yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes,

Ordinance 1644 was presented for the second reading. Levings moved and Shaffer seconded to pass the Arnold Lane traffic ordinance to the third reading. Roll call; Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Clapper yes, Hart yes, Matuch yes.

Levings moved and Hart seconded to suspend the rules for Resolution 8-16-10. Roll call; Levings yes, Hart yes, Shaffer yes, Clapper yes, Matuch yes. Levings moved and Clapper seconded to adopt the resolution to authorize the purchase of property. Roll call; Levings yes, Clapper yes, Hart yes, Matuch yes, Shaffer yes.

Hart moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend the rules for Resolution 8-16-10 A. Roll call; Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Hart yes, Clapper yes, Matuch yes. Levings moved and Clapper seconded to adopt the real estate tax assessment for delinquent water bills resolution. Roll call; Levings yes, Clapper yes, Hart yes, Matuch yes, Shaffer yes.

Hart moved and Levings seconded to suspend the rules for Resolution 8-16-10 B. Roll call; Hart yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Matuch yes, Clapper yes. Clapper moved and Shaffer seconded to adopt the Issue I application resolution. Rogers explained that water tower maintenance is an approved project by the updated State Issue I regulations. Roll call; Clapper yes, Shaffer yes, Matuch yes, Hart yes, Levings yes.

Shaffer moved and Levings seconded to suspend the rules for Resolution 8-16-10 C. Roll call; Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Hart yes, Clapper yes, Matuch yes. Hart moved and Clapper seconded to adopt the salt bid resolution. Roll call; Hart yes, Clapper yes, Levings yes, Matuch yes, Shaffer yes

Levings moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend the rules for Resolution 8-16-10 D. Roll call; Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Hart yes, Clapper yes, Matuch yes. Clapper moved and Hart seconded to adopt the real estate tax assessment for blight resolution. A brief discussion focused on the cost charged the property owners for blight control. Mrs. Jackson stated the property adjacent to her home was included in the neglected residences. She noted the cost

charged the property owner was excessive and the services department should have taken more time to complete the mowing, Mayor Porter explained that the additional time, manpower and use of equipment and the increasing number of blight areas within the community is an added burden on the Village. He noted that the Village only sends out the services department to private residences when the residence has been so neglected with high grass and weeds or with trash that it is blight on the neighboring properties and the Village. Roll call; Clapper yes, Hart yes, Matuch yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes.

Hart moved and Shaffer seconded to approve the Appropriation Transfer. Roll call; Hart yes, Shaffer yes, Matuch yes, Levings yes, Clapper yes.

OTHER

Mermann reported the \$75,000.00 from the Electric Aggregation Program has been received and, because the Village does not have an electricity utility fund, it has been deposited into the General Fund Miscellaneous account. She suggested the funds could be appropriated for a special project, possibly something that has been postponed until funding was available, that each committee could consider a project and/or need and bring their recommendation to the Finance & Personnel Committee and then to Council. Mr. Kline noted the deteriorating conditions and the need for repairs and improvements at the Recreation Center, including replacing the bleachers at the Park Ave. ball fields and the repairs needed at the basketball courts. Rogers stated that the area is not the site of neglect as much as vandalism and abuse. Clapper moved and Hart seconded to adjourn at 9:05 PM.

Sue Mermann, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Porter, Mayor

Dan Rogers, Administrator