

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Porter called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM on January 5, 2008.

## **INVOCATION**

Williams offered the Invocation.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

The following answered roll call; John Curtis, Steve Hart, Darrell Levings, Emily Shaffer, Keith Strait, and Betty Williams. The Clerk declared a quorum.

## **MINUTES**

Hart moved and Shaffer seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call: Hart yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Curtis yes, Williams yes, Strait yes. Hart moved and Levings seconded to correct the minutes from November 17, 2008. Location of the alley to be vacated was incorrectly recorded in the minutes and should have described the alley as located east of Lot 447, according to the Mt. Gilead Plat Map. Roll call; Hart yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes.

## **COUNCIL REORGANIZATION**

Curtis nominated Steve Hart to serve as Council Pro Tempore for 2009 and Shaffer seconded the nomination. Hearing no objections, the roll call vote was taken: Curtis yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Levings yes, Hart yes, Strait yes.

Curtis moved and Strait seconded to continue to meet on the first and third Monday of each month, with the exception of the summer months, at 7:00 pm. Roll call; Curtis yes, Strait yes, Hart yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes.

Williams moved and Levings seconded to approve the current Council Rules & Regulations. Roll call; Williams yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes.

Hart reported that the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended to retain Griffith & Bringer as Solicitors for 2009 with a 6-month contract of \$14,000.00, payments due in monthly installments. Griffith & Bringer, Solicitors since 1-1-07 requested an increase of \$6,000.00, citing several future projects; reviewing the Personnel Policy, Codified Ordinances, and the Downtown Review Board policy, as well as the past experience over the last 2 years that would warrant the increase. The committee offered an increase of \$4,000.00 over the next 6 months and to monitor revenue and review the contract in June 2009. Griffith stated that the attorneys accepted that contract. Hart moved and Curtis seconded to retain Griffith & Bringer as Solicitors for 2009 at \$14,000.00 for the first 6 months. Roll call; Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes.

## **GUESTS**

Guests included Teresa Staley, Joe Edwards and Don Staiger. Teresa Staley, Morrow County 911 Coordinator, presented Code Red, a reverse 911 system that would benefit all the townships and villages within the county. The system offers 2 functions, the first would alert all residents within a particular area to any emergency or public message, the second would be a weather emergency alert. Residents would have an opportunity to have both their home phone and their cell phones listed on the system and then would receive a phone call alerting them to any emergency within the area of their home. Three calls will go out to each phone and the unanswered calls would alert the coordinator of the residents that did not answer. The system could be used for a variety of purposes; boil alerts following a water outage, any message that the Village needs to get out to residents, and emergency weather but excludes snow blizzards or missing and exploited children. The system could be used like the familiar "Amber Alert" to alert neighbors immediately of a missing child and would include a description of the child and clothing. Chief Staiger supported the Code Red system as a more efficient means of alerting residents than the costly and sometimes ineffective sirens. The cost of the system, \$23,000.00 annually, would be shared by all the townships, county and villages and would not increase in coming years. Staley explained that she will be available at every possible function to educate residents on the system. Strait moved and Curtis seconded to approve the annual \$1,000.00 to

include the Village in the Code Red System. Roll call; Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes.

#### **POLICE CHIEF-BRIAN ZERMAN**

Chief Zerman was ill and was excused.

#### **FIRE CHIEF-DON STAIGER**

Chief Staiger reported 417 responses for 2008. Two house fires occurred on 12/26/08 and mutual aid was given First Consolidated on a structure fire today. All 3 apparently originated in the electrical systems.

Twenty-seven county fire fighters and one Marion County fire fighter are enrolled in the 100-Hour-Training class.

Announcement of the FEMA Training Grant is still pending.

Three township fire-protection contracts, Gilead, Canaan, and Franklin have been approved and signed. Edison contract will be presented for Edison Council approval on 1/12/09. Mayor Porter received a letter from Edison's Solicitor Drown on January 30, 2008, requesting additions to the 2009 contract. Chief Staiger stated that the Department will continue to answer fire calls to Edison.

Mayor Porter stated that a customer service training class through the Small Business Bureau has been scheduled for 2/12/09 at the Presbyterian Church. The cost of the 1-2-hour class is \$150.00. Lunch will be served by the Mission Team at the church at a cost of \$10.00 per individual. Council agreed that the training is at the Mayor's discretion, several members agreed to also attend.

### **COMMITTEES & RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **STREETS-DARRELL LEVINGS**

The committee will schedule a February meeting.

#### **FIRE & POLICE-KEITH STRAIT**

The committee will schedule a February meeting. A Fire Fighters Dependents Fund committee meeting was scheduled for 1/14/09 to appoint a Chairman and Secretary for 2009.

#### **FINANCE & PERSONNEL-STEVE HART**

The committee will meet at 6:00 pm on 1/19/09. Committee changes for 2009 will be presented.

#### **UTILITIES-BETTY WILLIAMS**

The committee will meet following Council on 1/19/09 to begin discussions for needed storm sewer repairs and/or replacements.

#### **VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT & ZONING-EMILY SHAFFER**

The committee met prior to Council, minutes will be presented on 1/19/09.

#### **CODES & REGULATIONS-JOHN CURTIS**

The committee is scheduled to meet at 6:00 pm on 1/21/09.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR-DAN ROGERS**

Rogers reported the FEMA Emergency Grant in the amount of \$46,760.00 was confirmed on 1-5-09. \$4,800.00 will be remitted to DKMM for the grinding, leaving a balance of \$41,960.00.

An error of the construction contractor caused a recent water leak at the High School. Repairs are expected to be completed this week.

Council discussed temporary repairs to the Morrow County Hospital Emergency entrance. The drive remains closed after several months. Steel plates were considered as a temporary fix. The SR 95 storm water project was submitted but not awarded an Issue II Grant.

Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Phase II will begin this week.

#### **MAYOR- MIKE PORTER**

Mayor Porter expressed appreciation to Council and the office staff for a smooth first year in office. He has scheduled customer-service training for February. He stated he feels there is a need for employees to 'brush up' their customer skills and to take on a more friendly manner. He stated he has requested a weekly Police report to keep up to date of issues, that the Police

officers also appear more friendly, that the first initial contact on a traffic stop set a positive tone, and a more friendly attitude while patrolling downtown. He is looking for change. He also encouraged the Village to take an active part in the national project to develop "A Week of Change" leading up to the national inauguration. A county-wide food drive is being planned to aid the 4 food pantries within the county. Rogers suggested that the fire station could be used for a collecting point.

**SOLICITORS-GRIFFITH & BRININGER**

No report.

**CLERK-TREASURER-SUE MERMANN**

Council discussed the cost of recording the vacated alley ordained in Ordinance 1605. Griffith stated that despite the fact that the adjoining property owners petitioned to have the alley vacated, the Attorney General has ruled that the municipality must bear the recording costs. Williams questioned if a regulation is recorded in the Codified Ordinances and Levings stated that the property owners had agreed to pay any costs when they met to initiate the vacation of the alley. Both Griffith and Mermann agreed to research further to see if legislation exists regulating the cost responsibility of vacating alleys. Williams moved and Strait seconded to approve the bills. Roll call; Williams yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes.

Ordinance 1610 was presented. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend the rules. Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Hart yes, Levings yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to approve the 2009 Appropriation Ordinance. Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes.

Williams moved and Strait seconded to adjourn at 7:50 pm

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Sue Mermann, Clerk-Treasurer

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Mike Porter, Mayor

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Dan Rogers, Administrator

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