

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Porter called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM on November 2, 2009.

INVOCATION

Williams offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members of Council answered roll call; John Curtis, Steve Hart, Darrell Levings, Emily Shaffer, Keith Strait, and Betty Williams. The Clerk declared a quorum. Mayor Mike Porter, Solicitor Matt Griffith, Administrator Dan Rogers and Clerk-Treasurer Sue Mermann were present.

MINUTES

Levings moved and Shaffer seconded to approve the 10/19/09 minutes. Roll call; Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes.

GUESTS

Guests included Erin Kelty, Don Staiger, and Brian Zerman. Mrs. Kelty announced the plans for the fourth annual Morrow County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Festival on 12-12-09. The festivities will include the sleigh rides, ice sculpture, frozen turkey bowling, crafts and music. Santa Claus will arrive with the parade, scheduled to travel from the Cherry St. school to the downtown area. 4-H groups are invited to offer pony rides as a fund-raiser for the club. Hart moved and Williams seconded to honor the request to close Main St. from the Monument south to the Main St./Marion St. intersection from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm on 12-12-09. Chief Zerman approved the street closing. Roll call; Hart yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes.

POLICE CHIEF-BRIAN ZERMAN

Chief Zerman reported 294 calls for service, 16 felonies, 42 charges, 4 accidents and 47 reports during October.

No problems were reported during Trick or Treat hours on 10-31-09. Officers on patrol added to the children's enjoyment by handing out treats.

Extra surveillance will address complaints of increasing number of high-speed traffic on Lee Street and Grant Street. Chief Staiger agreed the area is attracting additional speeders, as well as walkers who walk on both sides of the streets. Council suggested renting the digital signs that monitor and display each motorist's speed.

FIRE CHIEF-DON STAIGER

Chief Staiger reported 303 responses for the year.

The department is looking for options to repair a Tower 18 power reel. Parts are no longer available for the older equipment and replacement is estimated at \$6,700.00.

Station doors have been examined with suggestions for future maintenance.

Two or three additional part time firefighters may be needed to fill out one or two shifts per month.

Mayor Porter extended appreciation to the Police and Firefighters for being available with treats for the young Trick or Treaters on Saturday evening.

COMMITTEES & RECOMMENDATIONS

STREETS-DARRELL LEVINGS

The committee met on 10-21-09 to review the handicap parking spaces in the downtown area.

A sketch of the downtown streets showed the additional 8 handicap parking spaces recommended by the committee. Currently only 5 spaces are reserved for the handicapped.

Levings explained that 2 new spaces would be in the parking lots, 1 on Main St. and 4 would be on side streets, making it easier to park, as well as safer to enter and leave a vehicle. The Codes & Regulations Committee will review the recommended changes. Council briefly discussed eliminating one parking space on N. Main St. in front of Chase Bank.

Repairs/renovations have begun on the Street Department office.

FIRE & POLICE-KEITH STRAIT

The committee met on 10-27-09 at the Fire Station with Chief Staiger, Edison Mayor Ackerman, and three Edison Council members. Edison officials agreed to recommend and request that the Village of Edison's entire fire protection levy be paid to the Village of Mt. Gilead. Edison has contracted with Mt. Gilead for fire protection since January 2003. Currently, the Village of Edison pays 90% of its 1.5 mill levy to Mt. Gilead and retains 10% to maintain their fire sirens. The Mt. Gilead officials suggested Edison join the countywide Code Red program and eliminate their sirens. Mayor Ackerman requested that Chief Staiger check and flush Edison's hydrants.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL-STEVE HART

The committee is scheduled to meet at 6:00 pm on 11-16-09.

UTILITIES-BETTY WILLIAMS

Williams distributed pictures of the new roof, doors and windows at the Water Plant. The committee will meet following Council meeting on 11-16-09.

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT & ZONING-JOHN CURTIS

Curtis reported pictures of the recent Dr. Nathan Tucker Awards would be posted on the web site.

CODES & REGULATIONS-EMILY SHAFFER

The committee met on 10-20-09 and on 10-28-09. On 10-20-09, the committee discussed amending Chapter 1327 (Downtown Design and Exterior Code) and dividing the village into two districts, one would regulate the older part of the village and the other would regulate the newer areas.

The committee met on 10-28-09 to discuss proposed wind turbine regulations. The committee agreed to utilize the current County regulations as a guide, regulating any turbine that produces 100 Kilowatts or more and requiring one-acre lots to erect the alternative energy structures. The committee is scheduled to meet on 11-11-09.

ADMINISTRATOR-DAN ROGERS

Rogers reported during recent heavy rains an additional clarifier was need at the WWTP. Employee Mel Felder was appointed manager at the plant following Mike Fry's retirement. Felder, who holds a Wastewater III license, will operate the facilities, along with Steve McKirgan. Rogers signed a contract with MCF (Mike Fry's company) to operate the Water Plant at a monthly cost of \$650.00 until Kit St. Clair receives his Water I license. Replacement of the Water Plant roof is completed. The dehumidifier drum will be returned next week. A water leak in front of the WWTP was blamed for a major loss of water in the water towers and caused cloudy water throughout the Village over the October 24th weekend. A productive pre-construction meeting with Deer Creek Excavating was held on 10-26-09. Residents were given an opportunity to discuss the sanitary sewer/storm sewer project. Office renovations/repairs have begun at the Street Department. The Recreation Board met for the final 2009 meeting on 10-27-09. Home Road paving is completed. A meeting is scheduled for 11-5-09 to discuss the beginning of the TEP/North Public Square project. Rogers stated he felt the project should be postponed until spring but District 6 advised they would begin before the end of the year.

MAYOR- MIKE PORTER

The Mayor reported he attended a recent Sunshine Laws seminar. Employees held a party for retiring employee Mike Fry on 10-30-09. Mike, Water and Wastewater Technician, will continue to oversee the Water Department until another employee passes the license testing. Council joined the Mayor in extending appreciation to Officers Dustin Gifford and John Hicks for the assistance they offered two motorists. The Officers, who assist our residents on an every day basis, often help those in need without thought of thanks or appreciation. Porter recommended seasonal employee, Frank Foltz, to the position of full time employee. Rogers stated that Foltz has an Associates Degree in electrical engineering and will be on probation for 6 months. Hart moved and Strait seconded to approve the appointment. Roll call; Hart yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes.

SOLICITORS-GRIFFITH & BRININGER

Solicitor Griffith requested that Council go into Executive Session at the end on the regular meeting to discuss pending litigation.

CLERK-TREASURER-SUE MERMANN

Curtis moved and Strait seconded to approve payment of the bills. Roll call; Curtis yes, Strait yes, Hart yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes.

Resolution 11-2-09 was presented. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend the rules. Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes. Levings moved and Strait seconded to adopt the real estate tax assessment (water & sewer) resolution. Roll call; Levings yes, Strait yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes.

Resolution 11-2-09A was presented. Hart moved and Levings seconded to suspend the rules. Roll call; Hart yes, Levings yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to adopt the real estate tax assessment (blight) resolution. Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Strait yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes

Resolution 11-2-09B was presented. Levings moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend the rules. Roll call; Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes. Williams moved and Strait seconded to adopt the Deer Creek Excavating approval resolution. Roll call; Williams yes, Levings yes, Strait yes, Shaffer yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes.

Ordinance 1627 was presented for the first reading. Hart moved and Levings seconded to pass the income tax amendment ordinance to the 2nd reading. Following a brief discussion, roll call was taken; Hart yes, Levings yes, Williams yes, Strait yes, Shaffer yes, Curtis yes.

Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to accept the YTD Fund Report. Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes.

OTHER

Williams moved and Strait seconded to award the Salt Bid to Morton Salt. Roll call; Williams yes, Strait yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes.

Williams moved and Strait seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Roll call; Williams yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes.

Levings moved and Curtis seconded to reconvene the Regular Council meeting. Roll call; Levings yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes, Strait yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes.

Hart reported that Council met in Executive Session with the Mayor, Solicitor, Clerk, and Administrator and discussed pending litigation.

Hart moved and Williams seconded to authorize Solicitor Griffith to pursue legal action against the Fiscal and Executive Officers for delinquent withholding taxes. Roll call; Hart yes, Williams yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes.

Curtis moved and Strait seconded to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

Sue Mermann, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Porter, Mayor

Dan Rogers, Administrator