

The Honorable Judge Robert C. Hickson administered the oath of office to Mayor-elect Michael Porter and Clerk-Treasurer Sue Mermann. The Honorable Judge Howard E. Hall administered the oath of office to Council-elect John Curtis and Darrell Levings.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Whiston called the regular meeting to order at 7:15 PM on December 17, 2007.

INVOCATION

Strait offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Whiston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES

Shaffer moved and Strain seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call: Shaffer yes, Strain yes, Williams yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes, Strait yes.

GUESTS

Guests included Mike & Kim Porter, Paul, Andy, and Kenzie Porter, Darrell & Rosemary Levings, Don & Kay Hines, Ken & Nancy Kennedy, Kara Stearns, Kim Fleeson, Jennifer Wallis, and Brian Zerman. Ms. Fleeson presented a written request from the Mt. Gilead Merchant's Association that Council address the on-going downtown parking problem. The group proposed a notice be sent to downtown merchants who park for an extended length of time in the parking spaces in front of the downtown businesses. The Mayor and Administrator agreed the limited parking discourages shoppers and additional signs directing patrons to the off-street parking lots could be a benefit.

POLICE CHIEF-BRIAN ZERMAN

Chief Zerman reported no problems during the recent Christmas Parade and Festival.

FIRE CHIEF-DON STAIGER

Chief Staiger was excused for the last of the Instructor's classes. Strait presented the monthly/annual breakdown on responses. Strait moved and Shaffer seconded that the following persons be granted vacation carry-over hours: Bret Cox 40 hrs, Thomas Felder 36 hrs, Mike Fry 7.5 hrs, Charles Gould 40 hrs, Steve McKirgin 14 hrs, Dan Rogers 40 hrs, Robin St. Clair 14.5 hrs, Don Staiger 12 hrs. Roll call; Strait yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Strain yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes.

COMMITTEES & RECOMMENDATIONS

STREETS-BRANDON STRAIN

Strain commended the Services Department for the clearing of the streets and alleys following last weekend's winter storm.

FIRE & POLICE-KEITH STRAIT

No report.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL-STEVE HART

The committee met prior to Council for the final review and approval of the 2008 Budget. Hearing no questions or suggestions, Hart moved and Curtis seconded to approve the proposed 2008 appropriations. Roll call; Hart yes, Curtis yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Strain yes, Strait yes. Hart stressed that approval of the budget does not constitute approval of every project. Proposed projects will require Council review and approval before the projects are actually contracted.

Williams moved and Strain seconded to approve the 2008 contract with Solicitors Griffith & Bringer at \$24,000.00. In a brief discussion, Council expressed appreciation to Griffith for his professional assistance and dedication during 2007. Roll call; Williams yes, Strain yes, Shaffer yes, Hart yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes.

UTILITIES-BETTY WILLIAMS

Williams reported that Rogers enclosed an estimate for street lighting on Fairway Lane. The 2000 estimate of \$6,500.00 (plus \$2,000.00 for the necessary trenching) was higher than the recent proposal of \$5,163.30 (plus approximately \$4,000.00 for trenching). Douglas St. estimates are still pending. Trash rates will remain the same for 2008 barring any dumping fee increases.

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT & ZONING-EMILY SHAFFER

Shaffer reported that the Dr. Nathan Tucker award nominations would be reviewed following the 1-31-08 deadlines.

Mr. Cordle, new owner of the Pine Lakes Golf course has indicated his intentions to refurbish the golf course restaurant into a full-service restaurant.

CODES & REGULATIONS-JOHN CURTIS

No report.

ADMINISTRATOR-DAN ROGERS

Rogers gave a brief update of the WWTP. The operation is a learning process with several in-depth manuals that will allow proper maintenance and operation of the facility. The plant is operating as anticipated. The first payment is due 1-1-08.

Minor repairs were completed on the salt storage units at the Water Plant.

The cause of the sanitary sewer problems on Town St. has yet to be determined. No tie-ins were discovered despite the extensive dyeing and research of the area. Council discussed the cost of replacing the line from HPM east to Town St. Rogers estimated the project would cost approximately \$200,000.00 and could be an Issue I project.

MAYOR-THOMAS WHISTON

In his final report to Council, Mayor Whiston expressed his appreciation to the leadership and citizens of Mt. Gilead. The achievements during his term include the new WWTP, full time fire chief, an increase in services, including the trash service, paving and street improvements all accomplished without an increase in taxes.

SOLICITORS-GRIFFITH & BRININGER

Griffith submitted the November report.

CLERK-TREASURER-SUE MERMANN

Hart moved and Curtis seconded to approve the bills presented. Roll call; Hart yes, Curtis yes, Shaffer yes, Strain yes, Williams yes, Strait yes.

Hart moved and Strait seconded to suspend the rules for Resolution 12-17-07. Roll call; Hart yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Strain yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes. Shaffer moved and Williams seconded to adopt the real estate assessment resolution. Roll call; Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Hart yes, Strain yes.

Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend the rules for Ordinance 1591. Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Hart yes, Strait yes, Strain yes, Curtis yes. Hart moved and Strait seconded to adopt the wages ordinance as an emergency. Roll call; Hart yes, Strain yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes.

Williams moved and Strain seconded to suspend the rules for Ordinance 1592. Roll call; Williams yes, Strain yes, Hart yes, Strait yes, Shaffer yes, Curtis yes. Hart moved and Strain seconded to adopt the supplemental appropriation ordinance. Roll call; Hart yes, Strain yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes.

Williams moved and Strait seconded to approve the appropriation transfer. Roll call; Williams yes, Strait yes, Strain yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Shaffer yes.

Shaffer and Williams and Mermann all attended the required Public Records Training Session in Mansfield on December 6th.

OTHER

Resident Ken Kennedy requested that residents be reminded that cleaning sidewalks are the responsibility of the resident. Mayor Whiston stated that the current state law making residents liable for cleared sidewalks, deters residents from cleaning their walks.

In closing, everyone took advantage of the opportunity to express appreciation and good wishes to retiring Mayor Tom Whiston and retiring Councilman Brandon Strain and to extend their support to Mayor-elect Porter. Mayor Whiston has chosen to pursue the office of State Representative. Whiston leaves the village government after 26 years of serving as Councilman and Mayor. Mayor Whiston expressed appreciation to the members of Council and stated he expects a smooth transition in the Village leadership.

Curtis moved and Strait seconded to adjourn at 8:10 pm.

