

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Porter called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on February 16, 2009.

INVOCATION

Shaffer 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

Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to approve the minutes with the correction that the meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on 3-2-09 would be the Village Development and Zoning Committee rather than the Codes & Regulations. Roll call: Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes.

GUESTS

Rachel Mendell, Brian Zerman and Don Staiger.

POLICE CHIEF-BRIAN ZERMAN

No report.

FIRE CHIEF-DON STAIGER

The 2008 written report was distributed. Six structure fires, resulting in approximately \$347,500.00 in loss of property and contents, have been reported in 2009.

Chief Staiger reported he was disappointed that the 2009 radio grant application was denied.

The application was judged to have merit but did not rate high enough to win approval.

Two publications will run advertisements to sell the 1985 Rescue 11. The local paper will carry ads to publicize the bid and to comply with state bid regulations.

Mayor Porter expressed appreciation to the department for hosting the customer-service training on 2-12-09.

COMMITTEES & RECOMMENDATIONS

STREETS-DARRELL LEVINGS

A meeting will be scheduled in March.

FIRE & POLICE-KEITH STRAIT

The committee met on 2-11-09 and discussed prohibiting parking on both sides of E. Union St.

Council briefly reviewed a draft of the proposed ordinance. Strait moved and Levings

seconded to authorize the ordinance prohibiting all parking on E. Union St. from the N. Main

St. intersection to the corporation limits. Roll call; Strait yes, Levings yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes,

Williams yes, Shaffer yes. The committee again discussed the downtown parking regulations

and agreed the subject has been discussed continuously without resolution. The Police Officers

cannot dedicate enough time to fairly ticket every offender and many repeat offenders

disregard the rules or gauge the time carefully enough to avoid a parking ticket. Parking meters

were suggested as a resolution to the on-going issue. Shaffer offered to take the matter to the

downtown merchants for consideration.

Strait highlighted the customer-service training held at the Fire Station on 2-12-09. Employees

were encouraged to consider residents as their boss. Strait and Williams agreed that the

information was interesting and the class of 23 actively participated in the questions and answer

session. However, Strait explained that the training did not address the level of problems that

Police Officers encounter, nor was the speaker able to answer some of the Officer's difficult

questions. Strait recommended a class conducted by Police Officers or Patrol who are well

acquainted with the department's job and situations.

Strait stated that, until the economy improves, he would not be in favor of the proposed signage

regulations being considered that would discourage small businesses, nor would he approve

any increases or changes in water bills or other improvements; it is a bad time to ask people to spend more money.

Strait requested that Council consider an opportunity to acquire a trained police dog. Chief Zerman explained that because of county budget restraints, the County Sheriffs' Department has offered their trained dog, worth approximately \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00, to the Village at no cost. Delaware Police Sgt. Dore has offered to train Sgt. Cronenwett as the handler and the dog at no cost. Much of the cost of the K-9 project, which would be funded from the Drug Fund, would include the required compensation for Sgt. Cronenwett for the care of the dog, and the car insert to transport the dog. Minimum required compensation is ½ hour at his normal hourly pay; Zerman stressed that the account is not taxpayer money but comes strictly from drug fines. The job expectancy for the dog is another 3-4 years, which would give the Village the time to gauge if the benefits of the K-9 project are sufficient to continue. Council discussed at length the benefits to the Village, schools and surrounding communities, costs, compensation for the Officer during a mutual aid call, the cruiser that would be used for the dog, and liability insurance. The animal is insured just as an officer would be; mutual aid would be the same as current policy. Zerman stated that a policy regulating the project is required and if Council approves the program, he will prepare a policy with the help of Solicitor Griffith, and come back with a policy regulating the program, allowing Sgt. Cronenwett permission to take a cruiser home, and a compensation package to be approved. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to accept the dog from the Morrow County Sheriff. Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart no, Levings yes.

Zerman reported that Officer Bill Foley has completed the Voice-Stress Analyzer training in the place of Captain Underwood who was excused from the program because of a family medical emergency. The computer was put to use last weekend and prompted a confession from suspects arrested for theft.

Mayor Porter reported two classes offered to Police Officers (Sergeant and up); PELA (Police Executive Leadership College) a CLEE (Certified Law Enforcement Executives). The cost of both classes is prohibitive for more than one Officer but the Mayor requested that Chief Zerman attend. The longer, more expensive program, at a cost of approximately \$1,800.00, extends over 14 months would involve additional costs in meals, lodging, travel, and overtime. Homework is required for the course and Porter questioned if Captain Underwood could spend less time in investigations during that time to help cover shifts. The Chief would earn college credits with the shorter course. Zerman briefly explained the time involved and questioned the training reimbursement regulations in the Personnel Policy along with the Council's previous refusal to fund college courses. He also noted that the training funds appropriated in the 2009 Budget are already committed.

Council discussed briefly the snow removal problems at Northgate Park. The owners of the park are responsible for the streets. Neglect, during the winter months, put the residents at risk because emergency vehicles are unable to travel through the park. Levings offered to check on the complaint from residents and to direct them to the County Health Department.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL-STEVE HART

The committee met prior to Council. The next meeting is scheduled for 3-16-09 at 6:00 p.m.

UTILITIES-BETTY WILLIAMS

Williams stressed that the committee would not recommend an additional charge to water bills to cover the repairs/replacement of the deteriorating storm sewers until all other avenues have been checked. Rogers explained that the OEPA and the Federal EPA would soon mandate the improvements. Until then the committee is examining other revenue sources, including Issue I funding. Mayor Porter encouraged Council to be pro-active rather than re-active in planning for the future.

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT & ZONING-JOHN CURTIS

The committee is scheduled to meet at 6:00 p.m. on 3-2-09.

CODES & REGULATIONS-EMILY SHAFFER

The committee will set a schedule for meetings on 3-2-09.

ADMINISTRATOR-DAN ROGERS

Rogers reported melting snow and rain have caused heavy flows at the WWTP. The windstorm on 2-12-09 knocked down power lines and poles at the WWTP, causing power

outages that lasted 42 hours at the plant. Ohio Edison responded quickly but did not return to complete repairs until two days later.

Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Phase II work is 70% completed. Terra Valley Excavating Co. hopes to complete the bore and test the new line over the next couple of weeks.

The sand and grit combination, used by the State for snow and ice, has caused additional work and expense for the Village in cleaning the storm sewers.

The street sweeper repairs were more extensive than originally expected. Repairs were completed at a cost of \$7,225.00.

Cold patching of streets continues as the ground freezes and thaws.

Office renovations are nearing completion. The utility, tax, court and Clerk's offices are complete, along with files and records.

Rogers reported changes in the trash pickup in certain areas, making the collection on Tuesday and Wednesday more equal. Letters were sent to residents who will be affected by the change. Community service workers are being utilized on the trash truck.

Work has begun to temporarily repair and open the west entrance to the Morrow County Hospital. The complete project to correct the drainage problems in the area is estimated at \$3,000,000.00. Small Government Funding grants are being reviewed to fund the project. Rogers stated he would consider planning the work in phases to encourage approval of the grant.

MAYOR- MIKE PORTER

The Mayor reported that the customer-service training class, through the Knox County Career Center, was well attended by both employees and Council members. Although the class was geared to retail business, the Mayor felt the speaker was able to adapt the training to benefit the employees.

SOLICITORS-GRIFFITH & BRININGER

Solicitor Griffith requested that Council go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

CLERK-TREASURER-SUE MERMANN

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

Williams moved and Strait seconded to adopt Ordinance 1611, an ordinance to sell 2 vehicles. Roll call; Williams yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes.

Levings moved and Shaffer seconded to pass Ordinance 1612, the flood damage control ordinance, to the third reading. Roll call; Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes.

Hart moved and Williams seconded to pass Ordinance 1613, amending the traffic control map, to the third reading. Council briefly discussed the ordinance that would change the 2-hour downtown parking regulations. Roll call; Hart yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes.

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

Levings moved and Hart seconded to reconvene regular Council. Roll call; Levings yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes. The Mayor reported that Council discussed pending litigation involving a withholding income tax lawsuit.

OTHER

Mayor Porter stated that he felt that Police Officers have not made an effort to enforce the downtown parking regulations evenly; each shift should make at least two rounds.

Curtis moved and Strait seconded to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Sue Mermann, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Porter, Mayor

Dan Rogers, Administrator