

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Whiston called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm on February 5, 2007.

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, Emily Shaffer, Brandon Strain, Keith Strait, and Betty Williams. The Clerk declared a quorum.

MINUTES

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

GUESTS

Guest included Don Staiger, Jennifer Wallis, and Brian Zerman.

POLICE CHIEF-BRIAN ZERMAN

The department had 270 calls for service, 8 felonies, filed 46 reports and reported 8 accidents for the month of January. Two accidents were weather-related. Zerman reported that 10 applicants were screened and interviewed for the full time police officer position. Joseph Hughes, who has military experience, 3-4 years police experience, and has served on the department for twelve months, was recommended for the position. Strait moved and Shaffer seconded the appointment. Roll call; Strait yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Strain yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes. Officer Hughes was introduced and welcomed. All the equipment for the new cruiser has been ordered.

FIRE CHIEF-DON STAIGER

Chief Staiger presented the 2006 Year-End report. Council stated that a monthly report would be sufficient rather than every meeting.

Three bids for the Rescue/Pumper were presented for the bid opening on 2/1/07, Fire Safety Services @ \$421,499.00, Rosenbauer All American Fire Equipment @ \$349,605.00, and Sutphen @ \$357,732.00. The Chief reported the highest bid will not be considered. He and the department officers are conducting an extensive review of the three bids as well as the equipment. Meetings with both Rosenbauer and Sutphen have been scheduled to finalize the reviews before a recommendation will be presented to Council.

Staiger reported disappointment in the changes proposed in Ordinance 1569 that would affect the Fire Chief's overtime pay scale. Council discussed at length Chapter 141.06 and 141.07 of the Codified Ordinances (requiring that full time firefighters work a total of 212 hours per a 28 day pay period before being paid overtime wages at 1 ½ times their hourly rate) and the current wage ordinance (requiring overtime be paid after 80 hours per pay period). The Mayor and Council agreed that the Chief dedicates whatever time is necessary to see the department is run efficiently for the protection of the Village and surrounding communities and that the ordinance, adopted in 1984 before the Village had a full time Fire Chief, should be repealed or amended. The Mayor suggested that the Council should consider a salary for the position in 2008 since much of the Chief's duties are administrative, unlike the Police Chief who is still an active arresting officer when on call. The Finance and Personnel committee agreed to meet with Solicitor Griffith at 1:30 pm on Friday 2/9/07 and to postpone presenting Ordinance 1569 until the Council meeting on 2/19/07.

COMMITTEES & RECOMMENDATIONS

STREETS-BRANDON STRAIN

The committee met on 1/31/07 and discussed the following issues: (1) citizen's request for an additional street light, (2) street signs, (3) license tag tax, (4) purchase of a new trash truck, (5) snow plowing, (6) the wood burner at the street garage, which is proving to save on natural gas costs.

FIRE & POLICE-KEITH STRAIT

Strait reported he and Shaffer attended the interviews for the new police officer and commended Officer Joseph Hughes, as well as the other applicants and the department. The committee scheduled a meeting at 7:30 pm on 2/12/07 to consider the Rescue/Pumper bids. Mayor Whiston requested that the committee consider possible solutions to the downtown parking. Chronic violators make it difficult for anyone to visit the downtown area and should be warned of the 2-hour parking restrictions.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL-STEVE HART

The committee will meet on 2/9/07 at 1:30 pm and at 6:00 pm on 2/19/07.

UTILITIES-BETTY WILLIAMS

The committee met on 1/25/07 and reviewed the proposed water tap and sewer tap fee increases. The recommended increases, listed in Ordinance 1570 and 1571, include the 25% increase and the cost of the meters is included in the water tap fee.

The committee discussed the proposed septic haulers that could begin in late April. The committee will establish a fee schedule.

Williams reported that Chapter 911 and 913 of the Codified Ordinances will be reviewed at the next committee meeting on 2/19/07 following Council.

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT & ZONING-EMILY SHAFFER

The committee met prior to Council and discussed the projected WODA building development. The properties will feature Lease-to-Own moderate priced homes. Chief Staiger reported that the company has communicated with the Fire Department

The "Make A Wish" foundation has raised approximately \$5,000,000.00 for the proposed SR 95 project.

The committee will discuss an award, similar to the Columbus-based Jefferson Awards, to recognize citizens who are making a notable contribution to the community. The Jefferson Award criteria will serve as a model for the local honor.

Shaffer requested a meeting with the Downtown Design Committee.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm on 3/5/07.

CODES & REGULATIONS-JOHN CURTIS

The committee is scheduled to meet on 2/9/07 at 1:00 pm.

ADMINISTRATOR-DAN ROGERS

Rogers reported that the inside electrical work at the construction site is progressing despite recent severe weather conditions. Outside work has been delayed because of sub-zero temperatures.

Repairs of a major water leak were delayed while employees waited for Columbia Gas to locate a gas line on Sunday 2/3/07. Repairs were completed.

Temporary repairs were completed on pumps at the sewer plant with scrap parts, a savings of several thousand dollars. The older pumps will be replaced with the new equipment.

Morrow Health Department official and Mike Fry met last week prior to meeting with a downtown restaurant owner. Continuing grease problems in a sanitary sewer line on Center St. are becoming costly and will be addressed. The responsible party may be cited into Mayor's Court if the problems are not resolved.

Severe weather has allowed extra time for service on vehicles.

Computer updates for utilities, tax collection, payroll and finance are completed. Mayor's Court software with Henschen has been corrected.

Rogers explained that he ordered an additional utility box for the 2 Ford trucks bringing the purchase price for the two trucks to \$24,650.99 and \$18,932.89. Strain moved and Curtis seconded to approve the increased prices for the additional equipment. Roll call; Strain yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Hart yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes.

Rogers reported that he has the plat map being made for the Styer/Long property on E. Union St. annexation at a cost of \$500.00. He stated that all the documents for the annexation are complete and ready for filing. Council will need to approve a Resolution for the services to the property at the 2/19/07 Council meeting. Williams asked if the property owners would share in the cost of the plat map for the annexation. Rogers stated that the Village would fund the cost because the annexation has been delayed over several years and the current owners did not initiate the process.

MAYOR- TOM WHISTON

Whiston presented the annual State of the Village report and complimented the various departments. Included in the report was a task list proposal for the coming months. Electronic technology should be implemented for direct deposit of payroll and payment of taxes, utilities and court costs.

SOLICITORS-GRIFFITH & BRININGER

Solicitor Griffith presented a monthly report.

CLERK-TREASURER-SUE MERMANN

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

Resolution 2-5-07 was presented. Williams moved and Hart seconded to suspend rules. Roll call: Williams yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Shaffer yes, Strain yes. Hart moved and Strait seconded to adopt the Ford truck purchase resolution. Roll call; Hart yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Strain yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes.

Ordinance 1568 was presented for the second reading. Shaffer moved and Williams seconded to pass the sale of property ordinance to the third reading. Roll call: Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Strain yes.

Ordinance 1570 was presented. Williams moved and Hart seconded to suspend rules. Roll call: Williams yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Shaffer yes, Strain yes. Hart moved and Strait seconded to adopt the sewer tap fees ordinance as an emergency. Roll call; Hart yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Strain yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes.

Ordinance 1571 was presented. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend rules. Roll call: Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Strain yes. Hart moved and Williams seconded to adopt the water tap fees ordinance as an emergency. Roll call; Hart yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Strain yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes.

Ordinance 1572 was presented. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend rules. Roll call: Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Strain yes. Williams moved and Strain seconded to adopt the firefighters wages ordinance as an emergency. Roll call; Williams yes, Strain yes, Hart yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Shaffer yes.

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

The clerk commended and expressed appreciation to all the office staff for the past seven years. The staff has efficiently taken over additional responsibilities without the benefit of additional staff.

OTHER

Curtis moved and Strait seconded to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Sue Mermann, Clerk-Treasurer

Thomas E. Whiston, Mayor

Dan Rogers, Administrator