

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Porter called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM on March 16, 2009.

INVOCATION

Hart 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

Shaffer requested that the minutes be corrected to report that the Wayside Garden Club requested the additional flowers in the downtown area. Shaffer also stated that the downtown merchants did not request that the 2-hour parking regulations be ignored. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes.

GUESTS

Guests included Brian Zerman, Don Staiger, Tad Nicholson and Rachel Mendell. Mr. Nicholson, a parent volunteer for the Mt. Gilead School levy, requested that Council wait for the arrival of Superintendent Bob Alexander for the levy presentation.

POLICE CHIEF-BRIAN ZERMAN

Chief Zerman expressed appreciation and reported a thank you note has been forwarded to a resident for a \$50.00 donation to the K-9 Unit. A newspaper article will highlight the program. Background checks for three prospective Officers will be reviewed before interviews are scheduled.

FIRE CHIEF-DON STAIGER

Chief Staiger reported 76 responses for the year, 75% of which were within the department's territory, 25% were mutual aid calls. Several grant applications are pending, including radio and FEMA Fire Fighter Training grants. One half of the Fire Fighter One class is completed. Final testing will be scheduled in April or early May. Staiger requested to meet with the Fire & Police committee on 3-24-09 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the November General Election fire levy.

COMMITTEES & RECOMMENDATIONS

STREETS-DARRELL LEVINGS

The committee met on 3-11-09 and discussed street paving. The committee recommended delaying the bidding process until projected revenues are assured. The committee discussed the purchase of a property adjacent to the Village and directed Administrator Rogers to verify a price with the owner. Levings reported that the committee would make a recommendation to Council if the price is reasonable. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on 4/15/09.

FIRE & POLICE-KEITH STRAIT

No report.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL-STEVE HART

The committee met prior to Council and briefly reviewed sample ordinances that would require property owners provide the names of all tenants to the Village Income Tax Administrator. The committee discussed staffing and hiring needs vs. the current economy throughout the nation. Hart reported that the Village is financially sound.

UTILITIES-BETTY WILLIAMS

The committee will schedule a meeting to review the R-Cap report when it is available.

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT & ZONING-JOHN CURTIS

Curtis reported the committee chose to extend the Dr. Nathan Tucker Award nomination deadline to allow additional nominations for the award. Residents are encouraged to nominate individuals who have contributed to the community. The award will be presented at the Chamber luncheon on 7/21/09.

CODES & REGULATIONS-EMILY SHAFFER

The committee met on 3/12/09 to begin research of previous ordinances and codes. The extensive review will ensure that current and future ordinances will have a clean slate without conflicting issues. Shaffer reported workdays will be scheduled for those members who can attend.

ADMINISTRATOR-DAN ROGERS

Rogers reported no major problems at the WWTP or Water Plant. Three main water line valves were repaired or replaced, W. High St., Center St. and W. Marion Rd. More valve problems are expected because valve bolts are deteriorating.

New floors will be poured in all the well-houses to comply with EPA requirements. Danville, Ohio has offered to sell 2 hydrants, not needed for their up grade project, at a cost of \$1,000.00 each, a savings of \$1,000.00 per hydrant.

The Services Department continues to address potholes, storm drain issues and water leaks as needed.

Sanitary Interceptor Phase 2 work is 90% complete. The main line has been completely installed and tested. Final grading and seeding will complete the project as weather allows in the spring.

Roger reported the final drawing for the TEP Public Square Grant was submitted on 2/26/09 and the project is ready to bid. Little progress was reported on the proposed Discount Drug Mart.

MAYOR- MIKE PORTER

Mayor Porter expressed appreciation to everyone while he was out of the office for 2 weeks. Porter requested that people interested in the enforced 2-hour downtown parking attend Council on 4-6-09.

SOLICITORS-GRIFFITH & BRININGER

Solicitor Griffith requested that Council go into Executive Session at the close of the open meeting to discuss pending litigation.

CLERK-TREASURER-SUE MERMANN

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

Ordinance 1615 was presented. Shaffer moved and Levings seconded to suspend the rules. Roll call; Shaffer yes, Levings yes, Williams yes Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes. Williams moved and Levings seconded to adopt the Supplemental Appropriation ordinance. Roll call; Williams yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes.

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

OTHER

Mr. Nicholson, a parent of 2 school-age children who attend Mt. Gilead School and one preschooler who will soon be in the school system, explained the need to support and promote the .75 mill income tax renewal levy on May 5th. He reported that major budget cuts have already been made over several years when previous operating levies have continued to fail. He requested that a large banner be used across a downtown street. Rogers explained that Ohio Edison does not permit signs from their poles and typically the Village does not allow levy-related signs on the square. Lastly, Mr. Nicholson invited Council to join the 100+ people who will be going door to door on 5/2/09.

Council welcomed Attorney John Latchney from Tomino & Latchney LLC of Medina.
Hart moved and Curtis seconded to move into Executive Session. Roll call; Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes.
Strait moved and Curtis seconded to reconvene regular open meeting. Roll call: Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Levings yes.
Council discussed pending litigation against the Village in Executive Session.
Attorney Latchney reported that he would file to dismiss the Appeal of Jarrod V. Powell v. The Village of Mt. Gilead. Chief Zerman presented for record and read the written recommendation that Officer Powell "...be terminated effective 01/03/2009 for failing to satisfactorily complete his probationary period". Mayor Porter then presented for record and read his written acceptance of Chief Zerman's recommendation stating he did "...concur that Officer Powell has failed to satisfactorily complete his probationary period. As such, I hereby terminate Officer Powell's employment effective January 30, 2009." Williams moved and Strait seconded to accept the termination of Officer Powell effective January 30, 2009. Roll call; Williams yes, Strait yes, Curtis no, Hart yes, Levings yes, Shaffer yes.

Hart moved and Curtis seconded to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Sue Mermann, Clerk-Treasurer

Mike Porter, Mayor

Dan Rogers, Administrator

Not official until approved by Council