

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Whiston called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM on September 4, 2007.

## **INVOCATION**

Whiston offered the Invocation.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Whiston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

## **MINUTES**

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

## **GUESTS**

Guests included Cathie Robinson, Charlotte Benedict and Cindy Scohy from the Wayside Garden Club, Kimberly and Jim Fleeson, Jon Mermann, and Shanna Griffith on behalf of the neighborhood from SR 95E to US Route 42 E and from N. Cherry St. to Pine Dr. and Don Staiger, Jennifer Wallis, and Brian Zerman. Charlotte Benedict presented a state OAC Beautification Program certificate awarded to the local garden club for their annual landscaping project in the downtown area and at the welcome signs at the Village entrances. They prepared a photo album professionally depicting the seasons and included the local festivals. The state commended the unique and impressive teamwork and cooperation of the community. Jon Mermann reported that the neighbors in the northeast area have formed a neighborhood watch this summer following numerous complaints including arson, stolen property, and vandalism. The group has notified Children's Services on numerous occasions with little results. The increase of speeders in the area and especially on Bank St. have caused concern for the residents as well as the school children at Whetstone School. Council agreed that the amount and speed of the Bank St. traffic continues to be a concern and the danger to unsupervised children is also a great concern. The residents requested the adoption of an ordinance calling for stricter penalties for repeat offenders of nuisance properties and increased police patrols. Curtis offered to review the resident petition and the sample ordinance with Chief Zerman and to make a recommendation. Strain offered to review the matter when the Streets committee meets at 6:30 PM on 9/18/07. Kim Fleeson asked if downtown merchants needed Council approval for sidewalk sales or special events involving just the businesses and possibly the sidewalk areas. Council requested prior notice and that the Police and Fire departments be made aware of upcoming events.

## **POLICE CHIEF-BRIAN ZERMAN**

Chief Zerman reported 272 calls for service, 13 suspicious persons, 52 reports, 9 accidents and 100 charges for the month of August. He reported the typical minor problems during the County Fair. An increasing number of missing children was reported. Auxiliary Officer Hartman has requested and been granted a leave of absence until November. James Peterson has been added to the Auxiliary unit. Zerman reminded Council that the 2007/2008 school year begins tomorrow. Officers will be at the schools in the mornings until a safe routine of dropping off and picking up students has been established.

## **FIRE CHIEF-DON STAIGER**

Chief Staiger reported 300 calls for the year. Recent review of the history of the department showed a total of 61 calls for the year of 1961 compared to 50 calls for the month of August 2007. Firefighter Rob Walker broke his ankle while at a fire on 9/1/07. He will off work for 6 weeks. Fire Instructor's testing is scheduled for 10/2/07. A grade of 80% is a must to qualify for the Instructor's Course, which will begin 11/12/07. Those completing the course will be qualified to teach classes up to the 240 qualification. The suspected arson investigation report is pending the State Fire Marshal's final decision.

## **COMMITTEES & RECOMMENDATIONS**

**STREETS-BRANDON STRAIN**

The committee is scheduled to meet at 6:30 PM on 9/18/07.

**FIRE & POLICE-KEITH STRAIT**

No report.

**FINANCE & PERSONNEL-STEVE HART**

Hart was excused. The committee will meet at 6:00 PM on 9/17/07.

**UTILITIES-BETTY WILLIAMS**

The committee meeting is scheduled for 9/17/07 following the regular Council meeting.

**VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT & ZONING-EMILY SHAFFER**

The committee met prior to Council and finalized the plans for the Dr. Nathan Tucker Award.

A nomination flyer and notice will be included in the fall newsletter.

Shaffer reported on the development projects within the Village; the WODA construction site is progressing as planned and the Pines Lake Golf Course has been sold. The committee will consider communicating with non-franchise restaurants that could be established in the Village.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10/07/07 at 6:00 PM.

**CODES & REGULATIONS-JOHN CURTIS**

Curtis stated he will set a time to meet with Chief Zerman.

**ADMINISTRATOR-DAN ROGERS**

Rogers reported that the WWTP construction is nearing completion. The plant is up and working but has not been accepted by the Village. Several issues remain to be completed or corrected. Grading, fencing and seeding have begun. Sidewalks and approaches are being poured. Poggemeyer is preparing an emergency dial-up service quote. Gorman Rupp has corrected some pump problems. Ohio Edison billing errors are to be corrected by the next billing cycle.

The replacement of three hydrants on W. Marion St. is completed.

Cold patching is continuing as needed.

**MAYOR- TOM WHISTON**

The Mayor presented a price quote of approximately \$1,600.00 for landscaping around the Municipal Building. Many of the shrubs are overgrown and others are dead making the whole area unsightly. Whiston offered to obtain additional cost quotes. Williams moved and Strain seconded to approve up to \$2,000.00 for the landscaping project. Roll call; Williams yes, Strain no, Shaffer yes, Strait yes, Curtis no. Three "yes" votes and 2 "no" votes, Motion carried.

The Mayor presented a proclamation to the local Helpline chapter.

The Mayor and Administrator will attend the OML conference on 10/3/07-10/5/07 in Cincinnati.

Whiston reported that he is campaigning at the surrounding area festivals and fairs for his bid for State Representative. Four candidates will be vying in the Mayoral race in November and Whiston will be working closely with the successful candidate following the election.

**SOLICITORS-GRIFFITH & BRININGER**

Solicitor Griffith reported he is writing a Public Records Policy in compliance with HB 9. A draft will be presented for review at the Finance & Personnel meeting on 9/17/07. Council briefly discussed the HB9 training schedules requiring all elected officials attend a certified public records 3-hour training.

**CLERK-TREASURER-SUE MERMANN**

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

Resolution 9-4-07 was presented. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend the rules.

Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Strain yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes. Williams moved and Strait seconded to adopt the Issue I resolution. Roll call; Williams yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Shaffer yes, Strain yes.

Resolution 9-4-07A was presented. Shaffer moved and Strain seconded to suspend the rules. Roll call; Shaffer yes, Strain yes, Williams yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes. Williams moved and Strain seconded to adopt the fire protection gear resolution. Roll call; Williams yes, Strain yes, Curtis yes, Shaffer yes, Strait yes.

Resolution 9-4-07B was presented. Strain moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend the rules. Roll call; Strain yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes. Williams moved and Strain seconded to adopt the tax levy acceptance resolution. Roll call; Williams yes, Strain yes, Curtis yes, Shaffer yes, Strait yes.

Ordinance 1582 was read for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Shaffer moved and Strain seconded to pass the Chapter 911 ordinance to the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Roll call; Shaffer yes, Strain yes, Strait yes, Williams yes, Curtis yes.

Ordinance 1583 was read for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Strain moved and Williams seconded to pass the Chapter 913 ordinance to the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Roll call; Strain yes, Williams yes, Curtis yes, Shaffer yes, Strait yes.

Ordinance 1584 was read for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Shaffer moved and Strait seconded to pass the Zoning ordinance to the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Roll call; Shaffer yes, Strait yes, Strain yes, Williams yes, Curtis yes.

Ordinance 1586 was presented. Strain moved and Strait seconded to suspend the rules. Roll call; Strain yes, Strait yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Curtis yes. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to adopt the Supplemental Appropriation ordinance. Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Curtis yes, Strain yes, Strait yes.

#### **OTHER**

Council discussed hiring practices for the Services Department. According to the codified Administrator ordinance and the Personnel Policy, the Council should give final confirmation before personnel hiring or firing. Council agreed to follow the current policy until the policies and ordinance are changed. Williams moved and Curtis seconded to approve hiring Jeremy West to be part time meter-reader at \$8.00 per hour. Roll call; Williams yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Strain yes, Shaffer yes.

Strait moved and Curtis seconded to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

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Sue Mermann, Clerk-Treasurer

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Thomas E. Whiston, Mayor

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Dan Rogers, Administrator