

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Steve Smith presided over the meeting.

Members answering roll call were Kathy Burrier, Jeff Smith, Dustin Briggs, Martin Zehnder, Liz Dreher and Don Wallick. Others present were Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Legal Counsel Richard Fox, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, John Samsa, Bruce Metzger, Lewis Dreher, Damien and Lindsay Thomas.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2020 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2020 special council meeting. At roll call, Liz Dreher abstained from the vote and all other members voted approval.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert reported that Engineer Don Dummermuth submitted the letter of intent for the TAP Grant and that the Oak Avenue NW project is going well and that the curbing and concrete will be complete, they will be installing the base materials and begin paving, and will complete the project with topsoil work.

Finance – Chairman Jeff Smith noted that the finance committee will meet on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 4 pm to discuss the remainder of the Cares Act funds. Smith noted that the Utility Department has received their new truck and that the 2009 Chevy will be auctioned in the future.

Safety – Chairwoman Kathy Burrier reported that the Ford F150 cruiser is ready for patrol, noting that we obtained a \$ 50,000.00 loan that will be paid over the next four years. Burrier noted that equipment from the old cruiser was installed in the new cruiser and that Police Chief Dave Warrick would like to express his thanks for the continued support of the Police Department.

Park – Chairman Dustin Briggs noted that Kary Warner and the cross-country teams would like to organize a Turkey Trot to be held on November 26, 2020 at Strasburg Franklin Park, with proceeds from the event going to the park for new playground equipment. Council agreed on the event.

John Samsa addressed council noting that he feels the village should purchase the vacant building on Bodmer Avenue to be used as council chambers and village hall. Samsa noted that it would be smart to buy and would provide more parking, storage in the basement, and a handicap restroom. Lewis Dreher noted that he feels that it would be a good purchase for the village.

ORDINANCE O-38-2020

Ordinance O-38-2020, An Ordinance enacting the revised Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Strasburg, Tuscarawas County, Ohio; and repealing all prior zoning ordinances, including but not limited to Ordinance O-27-79 and Ordinance O-11-2001, was given its first reading by title only.

ORDINANCE O-39-2020

Ordinance O-39-2020, An Ordinance levying assessments for curbs and gutters within the municipality of Strasburg, Ohio, by the owners of lots or lands abutting Oak Avenue, NW in the Village of Strasburg, pursuant to Section 94.30 of the Strasburg Village Code of Ordinances, was given its first reading by title only.

ORDINANCE O-40-2020

Ordinance O-40-2020 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Ordinance O-40-2020, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF MARIA FISHBURN BY THE STRASBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SERVE AS A PART-TIME FIRE FIGHTER AND AS AN EMT, PENDING COMPLETION OF HER HIRING REQUIREMENTS, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2020 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-41-2020

Ordinance O-41-2020 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Ordinance O-41-2020, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF TREVOR HEATON BY THE STRASBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SERVE AS A PART-TIME FIRE FIGHTER AND AS AN EMT, PENDING COMPLETION OF HER HIRING REQUIREMENTS, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2020 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-42-2020

Ordinance O-42-2020, An Ordinance regulating the number of motor vehicles permitted to be parked at any residential unit located in the Village of Strasburg, was given its first reading by title only.

Lewis Dreher and John Samsa questioned the reason for Ordinance O-42-2020 and asked if it something that most municipalities have. Legal Counsel Fox read the complete ordinance and noted that he and Prosecutor Steve Anderson had prepared the ordinance from direction of council and that it will address the issue of vehicles being parked in front and back yards. John Samsa did not agree with the ordinance and Bruce Metzger questioned the ordinance as well. Fox noted that council will review the ordinance for any changes and noted that we have had issues in the village and that this ordinance will address those issues.

Liz Dreher suggested having a work session in December to review our finances for projects and purchases for 2021. Council set a work session for Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6 pm.

Council held a brief discussion regarding purchasing the vacant building on Bodmer Avenue to be used for village hall and council chambers. Jeff Smith noted that he feels that it is a fabulous building but that with the pandemic revenues have been down and could also be down in 2021. Smith noted that our comparison to 2019 shows a decrease of \$ 81,000 in income tax revenue. Smith reminded everyone that we need to decide if this building is more important than the need to fund the fire department part time staffing expense that will begin January 1, 2021, street improvements projects, waterline installation, and the future expansion of the sewer plant in a few years. Smith reminded council that we will need to obtain a loan for the waterline replacement project and that we also need a water well in the future. Smith noted that these projects will all benefit the residents of our village and that we always must remain fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of our village. Smith noted that when we asked the taxpayers for an increase in income tax, we committed to them that we would use those funds for infrastructure improvement in the village. Smith agreed that the building has potential and would look nice, but we need to look other projects. Bruce Metzger questioned council why a fire levy was not on the ballot for the part time staffing. Smith noted that at the beginning of the year there were discussions with the fire department and the Franklin Township Trustees about the need for the levies, but because of the pandemic, those discussions stopped. Smith noted that we were led to believe that the township would have a levy on the ballot in 2020 and that we would place one on the ballot in 2021 because we had the renewal of the fire levy on the ballot for 2020. Marty Zehnder noted that every town is going to have expenses and asked why should we go out on a limb for \$ 800,000 for waterlines. Liz Dreher noted that she talked to a gentlemen who goes into village council chambers and that he stated that our council chambers is the worst by far, recalling that council members don't even look at each other. Dreher noted that Sugar Creek's council chamber's is an open concept like this would be. Zehnder noted that we would have the option to spread the expense over the years. Lindsay Thomas noted that they would be up to the discussion on payments for the building. Zehnder noted that we need a nice village hall and nice council chambers. Dreher noted that she is fine meeting at the school board room but that we need to think of future growth and the presentation for the future of a nice village hall and council chambers and does not agree in putting any more money into the current building. Council held a brief discussion on the purchase of the building. Fox suggested that council come up with a plan and cost to renovate the building to be usable as village hall and council chambers. A motion was made by Martin Zehnder, seconded by Liz Dreher, to authorize the mayor and fiscal officer to enter into a purchase agreement for the building, at a cost not to exceed \$ 265,000.00. At roll call, all members voted approval and a purchase agreement will need to be prepared.

A motion was made by Martin Zehnder, seconded by Jeff Smith, to enter into an executive session at 6:52 pm to discuss personnel. At roll call, all members voted approval. Council reconvened into regular session at 6:59 pm.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert read a letter of resignation from Street Superintendent Todd Whalen, effective November 13, 2020. Lambert expressed his thanks to Whalen for his seventeen years to the village. A motion was made Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, to accept the resignation of Todd Whalen. At roll call, all members voted approval.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, to advertise for the vacancy of the position of Street Superintendent. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Mayor Smith and council expressed their thanks for Todd for his years of service.

A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to adjourn at 7:10 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.

MAYOR STEVE SMITH

FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY