

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Steve Smith presided over the meeting.

Members answering roll call were Kathy Burrier, Jeff Smith, Don Wallick, Dustin Briggs, Liz Dreher, and Martin Zehnder. Other's present were Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger, Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Police Chief Dave Warrick, Police Officer Brandon Warman, Fire Chief Steve Laskey, Zoning Inspector Ted Foster, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, Sheri Clason, Larry & Norma Fitzgerald, Heather & Perry Nave, Abby Reyes, Carrie Hoy, Bryon & Tracy Walker, Marcus & Kate Weaver, Doug Dreher, David Ayers, and Emily Crilley.

A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Jeff Smith, to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2022 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Mayor Steve Smith noted that guests will have five minutes to address council.

Sheri Clason asked about the status of the proposed community center for the village. Martin Zehnder noted that he is still working on it but needs support from village residents. Mayor Smith noted that most of the meetings that were held in the social hall were the fire department. Zehnder noted that it is sad that we have to vote at the Ramada Inn and noted that the village needs a combined community center/senior center. Mayor Smith noted that most communities have a privately owned facility and that there would be monthly expenses to maintain a community center.

Sheri Clason, Larry & Norma Fitzgerald, Heather & Perry Nave, Bryon & Tracy Walker, and David Ayers expressed their disagreement to the proposed three lane concept on Wooster Avenue. Clason noted that she does not understand how council can propose the three-lane concept, since the concept had been voted down last year. Mayor Smith noted that an advisory group and businesses have expressed a need for the three-lane concept to help with the flow of traffic in the village. Mayor Smith noted that just like the purchase of this building, it was voted down and then brought up again and voted for approval. Clason reminded the mayor and council that the residents vote them in and that you are supposed to listen to us and that you can be recalled as quickly as you were elected.

Norma Fitzgerald asked about the stats on rear end crashes in the village. Police Chief Warrick noted that he can bring that information to the next council meeting and stated that the proposed three lane concept with help with the flow of traffic and reduce the rear end crashes because it will give a designated lane to cars for turning and the traffic will continue in the correct lane and not have to pass on the right.

David Ayers noted that trucks have damaged his curb strip and that he had provided two flash drives to Liz Dreher for review of damage to his property. Liz Dreher stated that she gave the flash drives to Legal Counsel. Ayers noted that he has a flash drive and gave it to Jeff Smith and noted that North Wooster Avenue traffic is not enforced by the police, stating that the police are always parked at the St. John United Church of Christ parking lot.

Heather Nave addressed council regarding the safety of children on the sidewalks along Wooster Avenue and residents mowing their curb strips along Wooster Avenue because of all of the truck traffic on Wooster Avenue and the concern of traffic being closer to the sidewalks with the three-lane concept. Council explained that with the three-lane concept the designated lanes will slow down the traffic and still provide thirty inches on each side of Wooster along the curb. Nave stated that she disagrees that the three-lane concept will slow down the traffic and be safer.

Marcus Weaver noted that he lived on Wooster Avenue for six years and is in favor of the three-lane concept and noted that the turn lane will give middle ground of the road and neutralize a wasted space.

Tracy Walker noted that she feels that the new traffic lights are most of the problem, not people turning left. Mayor Smith noted that there are people turning left into the businesses, the side streets, and driveways. Briggs noted that it will also be easier for people to pull out into the traffic into the center lane also.

Doug Dreher expressed his concern for the truck traffic between the traffic lights with the turn lane and the parking spaces. Dreher stated that the parking downtown should be eliminated and does not agree that the three-lane concept will improve the traffic flow. Dreher noted that the new lights at 9<sup>th</sup> Street cause the traffic to back up in the village and that ODOT could change the lights to help with the traffic flow going south.

Dustin Briggs noted that the village has over 2,000 residents that he has talked to many residents that are in favor of the new concept. Mayor Smith noted that many residents, businesses, and the Franklin Township Trustees are in favor of the proposed concept. Council showed a video of the proposed concept and thanked everyone for their input.

Emily Crilley noted that the new sidewalks on the west side of Bodmer Avenue through the Safe Routes to School Grant look great and thanked whomever wrote the grant.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert reported that the new sidewalk is nearing completion, the Maple Avenue project curbing contractor should be available in the next two weeks to begin, and that the installation of the new playground equipment is progressing.

Zoning Inspector Ted Foster supplied council with a report of six permits including a garage addition, a new shed, a covering over a patio, a fence, a new deck, and a COAD sign in the library yard. Foster reported that the two residents that received letters have resolved the issues and that there will be no further action.

Police Chief Dave Warrick reported 191 calls in April including two calls where officers obtained methamphetamine, noting that the drug is the most abused drug in Tuscarawas County. Warrick reported that there were four OVI's, two were alcohol related and two were methamphetamine related.

Fire Chief Steve Laskey provided council with a report including 24/7 staffing beginning May 1, 2022, update on the bunk area progressing, and noted the engineer and building inspection have agreed on the plans. Laskey reported that in the last two weeks the department answered 23 calls, missed one call, and assisted on mutual aid calls. Laskey asked the finance committee to meet in the near future to review the departments ambulance billing fees and proposed fees that the department can charge on calls. Laskey reported that all of the pumps have been tested and passed with only one minor repair needed. Laskey noted that the department is working on rebuilding our training program, working on a budget for 2023 and 2024, produced a recruitment flyer, and have received 5 emails so far asking for applications.

Finance – Chairperson Jeff Smith noted that the committee will meet with Fire Chief Laskey to review the ambulance billing. Smith noted that the new playground equipment looks great and the new sidewalks through the Safe Routes to School grant look great and noted that there will be a second phase through the grant in the next few years, noting the school has been in contact with OMEGA. Smith noted that the committee met and reviewed a quote in the amount of \$ 22,000.00 from Synergy signs for directional signs for the park, signs at the north and south corporation limit, and signs on Wooster Avenue for the Village Hall, the park, the fire station, and the Police Station/Library. Smith noted that the finance committee would like to recommend that we do the purchase in two phases and use bed tax funds for the purchase. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to purchase the directional signs for the park, and the signs for Wooster Avenue in the amount of \$ 13,900.00. At roll call, all members voted approval. Smith noted that he second phase will be the corporation limit signs in the amount of \$ 8,500.00 for 2023. Mayor Smith noted that Synergy will donate a sign for the Police Department building.

Jeff Smith notified Press Representative Barb Limbacher of the next JEDD board meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 3 pm at the Franklin Township building.

Street & Alley – Chairperson Liz Dreher set a committee meeting for Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 5:30 pm.

Park – Chairperson Dustin Briggs noted that he met with Kip Benline from the soccer club and discussed the condition and mowing of the soccer fields at the park. Briggs noted that the village has contracted the mowing of the park with Wolfe's Lawn & Landscaping for 2022 and that they had not been contacted by the soccer club that they had treated the fields. Briggs noted that a member of the soccer club would like to mow the fields because there are specific needs for the mowing of the fields and that the goals needed weedeating around them. The committee will discuss with the soccer club and Wolfe's. Briggs noted that he has been contacted about a pickle ball court at the park, noting it could be placed where the old playground equipment was located. Briggs will look into the cost. Mayor Smith noted that a resident has also suggested dog park area at the park.

#### **ORDINANCE O-15-2022**

Ordinance O-15-2022 was given its third reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve Ordinance O-15-2022, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE. At roll call, all members voted approval. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

#### **ORDINANCE O-19-2022**

Ordinance O-19-2022, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING OHIO FIRE CODE, AS SECTIONS 35.20, 35.21, 35.22, 35.23, AND 35.24 OF THE VILLAGE CODIFIED MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS, was given its first reading by title only.

**RESOLUTION R-2022-4**

Resolution R-2022-4, A RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT FOR OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO RE-STRIPE WOOSTER AVENUE (U.S.ROUTE 250), WITHIN VILLAGE OF STRASBURG AS THREE LANE HIGHWAY, was given its second reading by title only.

Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger gave a brief explanation of Resolution 2022-5 & 2022-6.

**RESOLUTION R-2022-5**

Resolution R-2022-5 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve Resolution R-2022-5, A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF A TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF POLICE PROTECTION THAT EXCEEDS THE CURRENT POLICE PROTECTION LEVY, AND EXCEEDS THE TEN MILL LIMITATION, WITH A TAX LEVY BEING FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM (BEING THE TAX YEARS 2022 THROUGH 2026). At roll call, all members voted approval and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**RESOLUTION R-2022-6**

Resolution R-2022-6, was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve Resolution R-2022-6, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO AUDITOR TO CERTIFY TO THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG THE VALUATION OF TAXABLE REAL ESTATE WITHIN THE VILLAGE'S BOUNDARIES, AND THE PROBABLE FUNDS THAT WOULD BE RAISED BY A CERTAIN MILLAGE OVER A FIRE YEAR TERM (BEING THAT TAX YEARS 2022 THROUGH 2026). At roll call, all members voted approval and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mayor Smith noted that May 11-17, 2022 is National Police week and that May 15, 2022 is National Peace Officers Memorial Day and that flags will be at half-mast.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to enter into an executive session at 8:01 pm to discuss police personnel and fire personnel. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:28 pm. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to adjourn at 8:29 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.

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MAYOR STEVE SMITH

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FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY