

Council held a Public Hearing at 5:45 on the request of The Carrollton Farmers Exchange to join the JEDD.

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Steve Smith presided over the meeting.

Members answering roll call were Liz Dreher, Kathy Burrier, Jeff Smith, Dustin Briggs, Martin Zehnder, and Don Wallick. Others present were Police Chief Dave Warrick, Legal Counsel Richard Fox, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, Gene Hensel, Chase Willis, Lindsay Thomas, Ralph & Sherry Schie, Jason Rissler, Ted Foster, David Dennison, and Tom Tucker and Aaron Domini from OHM Advisors.

A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2020 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

The August financial statement, August Unified Bank Statement, August SSB Worksheet, and the list of bills was presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to approve the August financial statement, August Unified Bank Statement, August SSB Worksheet, and the list of bills in the amount of \$ 229,904.32. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Mayor Steve Smith introduced Aaron Domini and Thomas Tucker from OHM Advisors and Domini showed a presentation to council and the attendees of the council meeting. Domini noted that he is out of their Columbus Office and Tucker is out of their Akron office. Domini explained that their company would prepare a vision plan for the revitalization of the downtown of Strasburg and gave examples of other municipalities that they have worked with, noting that every project is different. Domini explained that there is a process that gets you to the plan and explained that they have the experience from doing this in other municipalities, public side and private side, and local businesses. Domini explained the need for alignment from the leadership, community, and everyone involved and noted that it helps to inspire a shared vision. Domini noted that everyone has to look out ten to fifteen years and has to be fun and result in change. Domini explained the phases of investigate, inform, invent, implement, and ignite. Domini noted that we could use virtual meetings now and use social media to get input from others and that participation is a choice. Domini noted that the process is usually four to five months. Domini showed a slide show of communities including Wooster, Newark, Hilliard, and Massillon. Domini handed out a proposal to council. Dustin Briggs asked about any work in small villages. Domini noted that they worked with Boston Heights which is a smaller community. Mayor Smith asked about grant funding for the planning expense. Domini noted that the grant funding is hard to get for the planning noting that it is easier to obtain for the projects. Domini noted that they would assist with obtaining grants noting that most grants are an 80/20 split. Jeff Smith noted that we have applied for TAP Grants, but have been turned down. Chase Willis noted that one major question is what is the return on these improvements and where does the funding come from for these projects. A brief discussion was held on grant funding for such projects. Willis noted that it's a great idea but only if the village has the funding. Mayor Smith noted that the first step is to just have a vision, noting the actual completion of the projects could take 20 to 30 years in the future but we at least need a vision. Domini suggested a plan lookout of 7 years. Smith noted that with the JEDD and the new businesses we need to look at a plan to improve our downtown of our village. Tucker noted that waterlines can be grant funding and stack grants and zero percent loans. Gene Hensel asked how much money does the village have to commit to the planning. Domini noted that we will work with the village to see what they can commit to this project. Smith noted that we have not come up with dollar figure noting that we wanted to get feedback from business owners in the village and that we will plan a work session in a few weeks to see what kind of feedback we get from everyone and finance will review our funds.

Ralph and Sherry Schie noted that the first thing they learned was that you have to spend money to make money and that without a plan and action steps you will always stay right where you are. Schie noted that we have seen the village stagnant long enough and that we are not going to bring in growth without putting out money for improvement. Schie noted that they go Wooster and other communities and they have invested in their communities and noted that she thinks this is a great idea. Schie noted that it takes people with a passion to move forward and gain excitement and that we need people that will work hard for their community and take a risk to make it grow for future generations and make people want to stay here. Willis noted that he wants to know what the residents will be asked to help with this improvement. Gene Hensel noted that we have industry come in and we need to look to see how we want to improve our community. Willis noted that he does not want us to run out money before we can complete the vision. Mayor Smith noted that we can do it in steps. Smith noted that once we get a plan, we can start to earmark funds for this plan and project. Mayor Smith noted that the village may use bed tax funds for these expenses and thanked everyone for attending and for their input. Chase Willis pledged \$ 5,000.00 toward the planning expense. David Dennison suggested businesses that could volunteer labor on the projects to help the village save funds. Dennison noted that the parking has always been dangerous along Wooster Avenue. Mayor Smith noted that the plan could address this issue.

A brief discussion was held on the issue of traffic and safety on Wooster Avenue and the green space on Wooster Avenue. Council scheduled a work session for Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 6 pm and encouraged everyone to attend to continue the discussion

Police Chief Dave Warrick reported that the decals have been installed on the new pickup and that we have had a lot of positive feedback from the community on the decals. Warrick reported that the equipment for the new pickup will arrive soon and be installed.

Mayor Steve Smith congratulated the fire department on the success of the drive thru Ox Roast, noting that they sold out in four hours. Mayor Smith noted that village employees have been working hard doing their jobs through this pandemic and thanked them. Mayor Smith thanked all of the village residents for their patience and for following the guidelines through this pandemic and thanked the health department employees for their hard work and guidance. Mayor Smith strongly recommended that village employees and village residents get a flu shot early this year. Mayor Smith provided council with a copy of a letter from Gene and Vina Hensel suggesting banners for the village to be placed on poles on Wooster Avenue. Council held a brief discussion on trick or treat and set trick or treat for Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, noting that everyone should follow the guidelines set by the CDC. Council noted that residents wanting to participate should turn on their porch lights.

ORDINANCE O-32-2020

Ordinance O-32-2020 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 Ordinance O-32-2020, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AMENDMENT OF THE STRASBURG-FRANKLIN JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND MAP, BY ADDITION OF TERRITORY. At roll call, all member voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-33-2020

Ordinance O-33-2020 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, 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 Don Wallick, to approve Ordinance O-33-2020, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE O-07-2020 TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Finance - Chairman Jeff Smith made a motion to authorize Fiscal Officer Jennifer Mahoney to send a letter to the Tuscarawas County Auditor to amend the 2020 appropriations per Ordinance O-33-2020. Don Wallick seconded the motion. At roll call, all members voted approval. Smith scheduled a finance meeting for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 4:30 pm in council chambers.

Street & Alley – Chairman Don Wallick reported that Kleentest is expanding and requested a crosswalk on 12th Street NW between their two plants. A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Jeff Smith, to approve the crosswalk. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Jerry Schultz thanked everyone on behalf of the American Legion for making their chicken BBQ's this year a success.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to move the next council meeting to Wednesday, October 7, 2020. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, to adjourn at 8:16 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.

MAYOR STEVE SMITH

FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY