

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Steve Smith presided over the meeting.

Members answering roll call were Kathy Burrier, Jeff Smith, Liz Dreher, Don Wallick, and Martin Zehnder. Dustin Briggs was absent from the meeting. Other's present were Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Police Sergeant Chad Hilty, Fire Chief Andy Slemmer, Legal Counsel Richard Fox, Zoning Inspector Ted Foster, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, Doug Hensel, Chad Bonifant, Chuck & Judy McNutt, Aaron & Debby Bell, Rick & Sue Wells, David Kees, Vickie Sullivan, Ralph & Sherry Schie, Larry & Norma Fitzgerald, Walter & Barbara Stockert, Jo Brown, D.R. Zearley, L & S Miller, Tom Simon, Al Kohler, Joe Murphy, Ned Lengler, David Himes, Harry Wood, Bonnie Wood, Bob Fuller, Connie Dusenberry, Matt Everhart, Linda Reiger, Jesse Fox, Gene Hensel, Brad Fuller, Ken Crawford, Eugene & Susan Chini, Bonnie Jones, Paulette Everhart, James Davis, Dan & Diane Sensabaugh, Butch & Myrna Schie, Lewis Dreher, Ron Reiger, Michael & Janet Rosenberry, Bill Caughey, Melissa Cookson, Rick Mizer, Ron Burdett, Holley Baker, Kim Baker, Ray & Barb Shanower, Jane Andreas, Rick Lanzer, Tina Wright, Nancy Cregan, Matt Bender, Ray Bender, Mark Conkle, Delmar Lewis, Shirley Shie, Brenda Charton, and Joe Valdinger, Ed Allensworth, and Mike Watson.

A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2021 council meeting. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

Mayor Steve Smith asked everyone attending the meeting to please wear a mask because of the close proximity of the attendees because of the size of the room.

Fire Chief Andy Slemmer reported the need for asphalt for flat spots by the station and reported that Elaina Berry was hired February 3, 2021 and has completed her training and recommended that she begin her part-time staffing as an Advanced EMT for the department. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Don Wallick to accept the recommendation and move Elaina Berry to the part time staff as an Advanced EMT. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert reported that Newton Asphalt will begin paving streets through the county paving program on September 13, 2021. Lambert noted that employees have been hanging out notices about not parking on the streets during the paving. Lambert reported the need for approval of a change order for Dirt Dawg Excavating in the amount of \$ 260,000.00 for the addition of the waterline replacements for the south end of Wooster Avenue. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve the change order. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

ORDINANCE O-23-2021

Ordinance O-23-2021, An Ordinance approving fifth amendment of the Strasburg-Franklin Joint Economic Development District and map, by addition of territory, was given its third reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith to approve Ordinance O-23-2021.

Legal Counsel Richard Fox gave a description of the creation of the Joint Economic Development District between the Village of Strasburg and Franklin Township and noted that there have been several petitions made and approved by the JEDD. Fox noted that Franklin Township has not taken action on this fifth addition as of yet. Fox noted that the fifth addition is the petition by Seth Miller for 32.16 acres. Fox noted that the Village of Strasburg and Franklin Township held a joint public hearing on the petition. Fox noted that the benefit for the approval of the application would provide them water and sewer to the location.

Martin Zehnder noted that as a council member we must listen to the people, noting that most residents are opposed to the proposed business. Zehnder noted that when Mayor Steve Smith was on council there was a proposed business on North Wooster Avenue and that residents were opposed to the business and that Smith voted no against that proposed business. David Kees asked for point of clarification of the name of the owner of the property. Legal Fox noted that Dan Andreas is the owner of the property. Ron Burdett asked what is the economic benefit of this proposed business to the village. Mayor Smith and Village Administrator explained that the economic benefit to the village would be the increased revenue from a higher disposal rate from this proposed business which would be used to assist with the payment for the expansion of the sewer plant. Lambert noted that the JEDD will pay for 75% of the expansion and the revenue from this proposed business could pay the 25% needed instead of passing on the 25% to the residents. Lambert noted that the product they will dump will be easier to process than the current sludge they bring in now. Lambert noted that this proposed business will remove the solids and send them to the landfill and we will only get the filtrate. Burdett noted that he does not see any benefit to the village. Zehnder noted that we should get funding from the other municipalities whose sludge we are getting through Miller. Attendees expressed their concern of their property values going down due to the proposed business.

Village Administrator Lambert explained the capacity of the village's sewer plant, the need for expansion in the future, and the impact of the proposed business on the sewer plant. Lambert explained that the Ohio EPA looks at every discharger and looks to see if a business would overwhelm our system. Lambert noted that the Ohio EPA has reviewed the proposed business and they do not feel that this business will be an issue for our system. Lambert explained that the proposed business will have a double containment system that will not allow any discharge into the ground. Lambert noted that the proposed business will have to apply for a building permit through the State of Ohio and the facility will need approval from the Ohio EPA. Lambert noted that we have a detailed design for the proposed business and will work with the EPA on the approval of this business.

Richard Lanzer noted that he feels that the opposition of the people is because they don't understand the process of the proposed business and what it represents. Lanzer suggested a presentation explaining the process of the proposed business. Mayor Smith noted that the village and township held a public hearing to present the proposed business. Sherry Schie agreed on the need of being educated on the proposed business because she owns two homes and a business in the vicinity of the proposed business. Schie noted that she does not understand why council or the township trustees have not researched or visited a dewatering plant in person to understand the process. Lambert explained that he has been around the sludge dewatering process for 30 years and ours is done in an open-air environment and that there is no issue with smell. Lambert noted that a wastewater treatment plant will generate a smell and this will not be a wastewater plant, it would be a dewatering plant. Schie noted that there is no guarantee that my property value will not go down because of this business and questioned if a projected revenue of \$ 80,000 per year to the village is worth the risk to the residents of the village and the township.

Jesse Fox noted that the final press product is not bad but the process can be smelled and asked council if there are any ordinances that will govern the smell. Lambert noted that there are no ordinances in place but the Ohio EPA noted that we can shut them down due to any discharges that are disruptive to our plant. Lambert noted that the owner is aware of the public's major concern of a smell from the proposed business. Lambert explained that they will have an automatic sampler, will provide their manifest of where they will be hauling from, must test for heavy metals on their sludge, and will be testing the effluent.

Council was questioned about creating a residential buffer area between the homes at the north end of the village and this proposed business and also if this area is in the floodplain. Lambert noted that the acreage is not in the flood plain and would be located north of Harwalk and would be 1,200 feet north of the residential homes at the north end of the village. Lambert noted that the plan for the JEDD is economic development and that the utilities are the main attraction for the development. Attendees still expressed their concern of a smell, the stigma it will place on the village, and lower property values to residents.

Nancy Cregan from Speedie Septic noted that they have always been a long-time supporter of the village but that they have concerns of where Miller Septic will be bringing in their sludge from. Cregan noted that Miller Septic collect from a lot of restaurants and that there will be a lot of grease in their sludge. Cregan noted that Franklin Township Trustee Doug Hensel has stated to her that this proposed business will not be a good thing for the JEDD. Cregan noted that she does not understand the thinking of the village and stated that the proposed revenue from this proposed business is not worth the risk.

Vickie Sullivan asked if there will be any filters for the toxins, chemicals, and airborne pathogens that will be placed in the air. Sullivan noted that there will be too many unknowns about the chemicals that will be used at this proposed business. Lambert noted that every municipalities' sludge gets dewatered and if the Ohio EPA determines if an air filtration system is needed it would be addressed. Lambert noted that we have dewatered since the 1970's and we currently dewater every day. Lambert noted that this proposed business will do the same process that we do at our plant every day.

David Kees noted that he went to Advanced Sludge LLC in South Canton that is a competitor of Miller Septic. Kees noted that the plant is twenty miles from Strasburg and is regulated by the Ohio EPA. Kees noted that he was there an hour and half and that the owner only has best wishes for the Miller Company. Kees noted that this facility gets product from Ohio and West Virginia and processes commercial and municipal sludge, restaurant grease, and blood and water from chicken processing plants. Kees noted that all the doors were open at 11 am and is located in an industrial area. Kees noted that the owner has invited anyone on council to come and take a tour of the facility. Kees noted that the smell is the main topic and the village cannot guarantee that the proposed facility will not create a smell. Kees asked that council to delay their vote until a study is done on the impact of the proposed facility.

Council discussed visiting a facility. Jeff Smith made a motion to rescind his motion to approve Ordinance O-23-2021, Kathy Burrier seconded the motion. At roll call, all members present voted approval. Ordinance O-23-2021 will be tabled until the October 5, 2021 meeting.

Franklin Township Trustee Chad Bonifant noted that the Franklin Township Trustees will vote at their meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2021. Bonifant noted that Miller Septic runs a top-of-the-line business and that their trucks are very clean. Bonifant noted that it seems to be a mental thing of building a proposed dewatering plant and that hypothetically thinking what if Simple Green wanted to build on the 22 acres, what would the people think. Bonifant noted that we want to develop the JEDD to assist with revenue for the village and the township and think of what we want to build first to help us or hurt us, noting that it is a tough call. Bonifant noted that the trustees and council took the positions to do the right thing for the people.

Mayor Steve Smith thanked everyone for their input.

RESOLUTION R-03-2021

Resolution R-03-2021 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members present voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve Resolution R-03-2021, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

Mayor Smith thanked St. John UCC for allowing Dirt Dawg Excavating to use their parking area for the staging area for equipment and supplies for the waterline extension project. Mayor Smith reported that roughly forty letters have been sent out to residents for tree and shrubbery trimming along streets in the village. Mayor Smith reported that there was vandalism in the restrooms at the park and supplied council with pictures.

Zoning Inspector Ted Foster supplied council with a zoning report including a permit for a new home construction. Foster reported that there are no pending appeals and that he will be meeting with Ivan Mast regarding his signage for the Uniform laundry service and Car Wash and will be meeting with the new owner of the auto collision business at the south end of town.

Finance – Chairman Jeff Smith reported a renewal in the amount of \$ 30,208.00 from Kennedy Insurance and renewal in the amount of \$ 8,296.00 from VFIS. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to authorize Legal Counsel Fox to draw up ordinances for the insurance renewals. At roll call, all members present voted approval. Smith reported that council held a work session to discuss renovations for the police department and the option to build a new structure for the police department. Smith noted that the Finance Committee would like to recommend the renovations at 358 5th Street SW for the police department. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Don Wallick to approve the renovations for the police department. At roll call, the voted was as follows: Zehnder, no; Wallick, yes; Smith, yes; Dreher, yes; and Burrier, yes.

Liz Dreher asked Legal Counsel Fox on the notes on the responsibility on the completion of 7th Street to Dale Avenue. Fox noted that regarding the Pine Ridge side there was a discussion with Watson and Dreher at a meeting in May 2001. Fox noted that it appears that council approved the final drawing showing the basing of the road by the developers at their June 19, 2001 meeting. Fox noted that this information needs to be brought to the developers of Pine Ridge Phase I. Lambert noted that we have engineered the correct elevation and Fox asked Lambert to get him the information and Fox will send a letter to the developers. Lambert noted that he will contact the engineer and get the information to Fox to prepare a letter. Fox noted that they are responsible for the base and the village will finish the street.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to enter into an executive session at 7:56 pm to discuss a pending legal matter. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:09 pm. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Marty Zehnder, to adjourn at 8:10 pm. At roll call all members present voted approval.

MAYOR STEVE SMITH

FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY