

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 6, 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, Martin Zehnder, and Dustin Briggs. Other's present were Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Police Chief Dave Warrick, Legal Counsel Attorney Richard Fox, Zoning Inspector Ted Foster, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Judy Bennett (IBI Group) Jerry Schultz, Sharon Smith, Cindy Brown, Ted & Mary Jane Shetler, Christine Holloway, Mike & Sheri Clason, Lynn & Phoebe Zehnder, Bub Dreher, Doug Dreher, Chase Willis, Aaron Bitikofer, Travis Miller, Gay Newton, Greg & Brenda Froman, Perry & Heather Nave, Larry & Norma Fitzgerald, Bryan Walker, Jess Stallings, Darren Tucker, and David Ayers.

A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2021 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert addressed council regarding the proposed park drainage project reporting that the dry wells and catch basins will be started this week. Council reviewed the list of streets to be included this year in the county paving program. A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Jeff Smith, to participate in the county paving program and include all streets on the list. At roll call, all members voted approval. Lambert reported that Engineer Don Dummermuth is preparing specs for the Maple Avenue NW project to be bid out in June. Lambert reported that United Survey began working on the sewer lines since the end of February and have completed their phase of work. Lambert noted that all signs are hopeful that this work has helped and lowered the flows, making a big difference. Lambert noted that Pioneer 360 has submitted a quote for the work at the building at 224 N Bodmer in the amount of \$ 9,000.00, noting that they will be installing wiring and hardware and can begin next week. Council approved the project. Lambert noted that street sweeping will be April 7, 2021 and April 8, 2021 and asked residents to remove vehicles from the streets. Lambert reported a project with an estimated cost of \$ 4,000.00 to repair the intersection of 5th Street SW and Weber Avenue. Lambert noted that Jim Dreher will do the concrete work before paving. Council approved the project. Lambert reported that we have not had much response to the help wanted ad for a park employee and recommended to council to have Wolfe Landscaping include the park in our mowing contract until we find an employee. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to include the park in the mowing contract with Wolfe Landscaping. At roll call, all members voted approval. Lambert reported that he emailed the engineer for the Stenwood Development about the need of a performance bond but has not received a response to the email.

Mayor Steve Smith addressed council and the guests at the meeting regarding the proposed three lane concept striping on Wooster Avenue. Mayor Smith noted that ODOT will be paving Wooster Avenue this year and it would be an opportunity to have new striping before the paving. Mayor Smith noted that there have been discussions on Facebook and a survey on our website. Mayor Smith reported that we did a traffic study that showed that traffic speed is a problem with the wider lanes and that only 25 to 30 percent of the parking spaces are used downtown. Mayor Smith noted that the study shows that the three-lane concept would give drivers a safer way for turning and safer way for travel. Mayor Smith noted that we realize that the majority of residents on Wooster Avenue are not in favor so he offered a compromise to only have the three-lane concept from the south corporation limit to 3rd Street SW and then 9th Street NW past 12th Street NW. Council and guests held a lengthy discussion on the three-lane concept and downtown parking. Wooster Avenue residents expressed their concern of traffic being closer to the sidewalks and the safety of people walking on the sidewalks. Dustin Briggs explained that the traffic is closer now to the sidewalks when trying to pass a car that is turning left on Wooster Avenue and that the three-lane concept would give the traffic more room because the turning lane would be 11 feet wide. Many residents expressed that traffic is going too fast on Wooster Avenue and that current ordinances need to be enforced by the Police Department. Police Chief Dave Warrick noted that he feels that his department does a great job and that the department communicates with village residents and that it is frustrating to hear that we are not doing our job.

Judy Bennett from the IBI Group reported that she has been doing traffic engineering for 26 years and that she is the one who wrote the study. Bennett noted that the study was to show if a three-lane concept would make sense for the village and she noted that the wider the lanes, the faster the traffic. Bennett noted that standard lanes are 11 to 12 feet wide. Bennett noted that their study reviewed crash reports from the village and gave information on the parking downtown. Bennett noted that ODOT keeps historical traffic counts and that traffic in the village is lower than it was 18 years ago.

Strasburg Franklin School Superintendent Cindy brown thanked Mayor Smith and council for being visionary leaders. Brown noted that the busses are on tight schedules and that the three-lane concept would assist in keeping their busses on schedule. Brown thanked Judy Bennett for her professionalism for the study.

A motion was made by Martin Zehnder, seconded by Liz Dreher, to keep the two-lane concept on Wooster Avenue in the village. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Zehnder, yes; Wallick, yes; Smith, no; Dreher, yes; Burrier, yes; and Briggs, no. Mayor Smith and council thanked everyone for attending and giving their opinion.

Mayor Smith provided council with information on new furniture for the new building which include desks, chairs, conference table, and council tables. Zehnder noted that he would like to see us use the tables and chairs that we have now in the current council chambers. Kathy Burrier suggested getting only what we absolutely need right now and use what we have at the current building. Briggs suggested purchasing new furniture for the new building. Jeff Smith noted that the current furniture can be utilized by the police department when they expand in the current building. Mayor Smith reported that the new carpeting has been completed in the new building. Briggs suggested using Cares Act funds for the furniture. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to approve the purchase of new furniture (\$16,900); new counter (\$5,900); and flagpole (\$755). At roll call, all members voted approval. Council noted that other future expenditures for the building will be a sign and storage cabinets.

Doug Dreher addressed council regarding the future waterline project on Wooster Avenue. Village Administrator Ron Lambert noted that council has an ordinance to grant the contract this evening and that a preconstruction meeting will be held in the near future with the contractor, our Engineer, and our inspector for the project. Dreher expressed a concern on the compaction during the project. Lambert noted that the inspector for the project is Randy Newhouser, noting that he is a former general supervisor for Beaver and the Shelly Company and currently works for Dummermuth. Legal Counsel Fox noted that Engineer Dummermuth and Inspector Newhouser were on the JEDD project and caught issues with compaction on that project and are very aware of the concern on the compaction on this project.

Dreher noted that Zehnder had expressed at the last meeting the need for the expansion of the village's sewer plant. Lambert noted that we have extensive data compiled and that currently we have a company that has just completed work regarding ground water in the system and that our flow is down because of their repairs.

Police Chief Dave Warrick recommended to council to move Van Wallbrown from Auxiliary Officer to a Part time Officer. Warrick noted that the Police Department has been very busy working on cases including two convictions today. Warrick noted that he takes pride in the department for these convictions and for their hard work every day. Mayor Smith and council thanked them for their service.

Mayor Smith reminded everyone about the new fire levy on the ballot in May and the fish fry this weekend.

Kathy Burrier supplied council with a concept picture for additional items for the green space downtown including trees, lights, a gazebo, and a walkway to the gazebo. Burrier noted that solar lights on the fence would brighten the space and could also move picnic tables from the park to the green space. Burrier noted that the committee discussed removing some fence rails along the Village Garden and slant the rail like the north side fence. Burrier noted that they also discussed installing a camera. Phoebe Zehnder noted that she feels that fence looks bad and that it should be replaced. Burrier noted that it will remain. Mayor Smith noted that he feels that it pairs up with the country setting of the Village Garden store and is more astatic to the store and is protecting the sprinkler system. Martin Zehnder noted that he agrees that it is out of place. Burrier noted that it will be brought down and slanted down and will match the other side. Liz Dreher noted that they discussed how long will this fence will last because it is not stained. Police Chief Warrick agreed that a camera is a good idea for that space.

Mayor Smith noted that the Ohio Municipal League offers a warranty program to residents to cover water and sewer line breaks, covering up to \$ 8,500 on each incident. Legal Counsel Fox suggested the information be put on the village's website.

Finance – Chairman Jeff Smith made a motion to extend the filing date for village income tax to May 17, 2021 to follow federal and state tax. Kathy Burrier, seconded the motion. At roll call, all members voted approval. Smith made a motion to amend the pay ordinance to include the previously discussed \$ 4,000.00 yearly stipend for Neal Dickerhoof and Nathan Kanouff for their work for the asset management program, noting that it will be paid monthly. Kathy Burrier seconded the motion and the vote was as follows: Zehnder, no; Wallick, yes; Smith, yes; Dreher, yes; Burrier, yes; and Briggs, yes. Legal Counsel Fox will prepare an ordinance. Smith noted that the Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4 pm with the Fire Department to discuss the repair needed to the tornado siren.

Park – Chairman Dustin Briggs reported that we have been approached about modifying pavilion six to include a concession stand. Legal Counsel Fox asked that they provide a sketch for review before approval.

Safety – Chairwoman Kathy Burrier noted that the committee will meet after the finance meeting to discuss a grant application for the Rosenberry Foundation for a tornado siren. Burrier noted that the control box is not functioning. Burrier noted that they will also discuss the intersection of the park entrance.

Don Wallick reported permits for a driveway widening, a fence replacement, shed permits. Wallick reported that a business permit for a in house baked good business was turned down by the health department and that there will be a future permit for a thrift store. Wallick noted that the Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing tomorrow at 6 at Village Hall.

RESOLUTION 02-2021

Resolution R-02-2021 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 Kathy Burrier, seconded by Jeff Smith, to approve Resolution R-02-2021, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SAL CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2021. At roll call, all members voted approval and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-12-2021

Ordinance O-12-2021 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Jeff Smith, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Jeff Smith, to approve Ordinance O-12-2021, AN ORDINANCE HIRING TED FOSTER AS ZONING INSPECTOR FOR THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-13-2021

Ordinance O-13-2021 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, 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 Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Ordinance O-13-2021, AN ORDINANCE HIRING VAN P. WALLBROWN AS A PART-TIME POLICE PATROLMAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, OHIO, EFFECTIVE APRIL 7, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-14-2021

Ordinance O-14-2021 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-14-2021, AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE BID OF DIRT DAWG EXCAVATING, LLC OF ASHLAND, OHIO FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF THE WATER LINE REPLACEMENT FOR NORTH WOOSTER AVENUE, BETWEEN THIRD STREET N.E. AND NINTH STREET N.E. IN THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 706,730.50 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately

Legal Counsel Fox noted that the agreement with the Red Rhino football team has been signed and returned, noting the next step is council's approval. Martin Zehnder noted that he was told that high school students have been approached about playing on the team. Fox noted that would be in violation of the Ohio High School Athletics and will check into this information.

Legal Counsel Fox noted that he is currently discussing questions regarding properties north of the village being able to annex into the village or that they must join the JEDD. Fox noted that further discussion will be held on this issue. Fox reported that we have now received the plat and legal description of the Strasburg Cemetery to transfer all cemetery property into the trustees of the cemetery and annex. Fox noted that we need a deed from all three entities, the township, the village, and the cemetery trustees. Fox noted that when the deeds are recorded, they will be become owned by the cemetery trustees and we will need to contact the Catholic Diocese about their portion of the cemetery. Further discussion will be held on this issue.

A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to remove Don Wallick from the Green Space Committee and place Liz Dreher on the committee. At roll call, all members voted approval.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to adjourn at 8:48 pm. At roll call all members voted approval.

MAYOR STEVE SMITH

FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY