

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 2, 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, Street Superintendent Matt Miller, Legal Counsel Attorney Richard Fox, Planning Commission Chairman Mike Durbin, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, Ted Foster, Wilma Mullett, Chase Willis, Jess Stallings, Shari Clason, and Perry & Heather Nave.

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

Mayor Steve Smith introduced Street Superintendent Matthew Miller.

Executive Director of the Tuscarawas Arts Partnership Wilma Mullett addressed council and explained their mission to create and support environments that awaken, empower, and inspire. Mullett explained that their vision is to promote a visible, sustainable, local arts culture through advocacy, education, and funding. Mullett explained that this can be accomplished by encouraging the arts to thrive across Tuscarawas County, and encouraging partnerships between the arts with other art, business, and community agencies to create positive impact and benefits throughout the county. Mullett gave a report on 2020 and reported on proposed projects for 2021. Mullett explained the details of their Tuscarawas Arts Support Grant for graduating seniors, noting that so far, they have had 36 go through the program. Mullett noted that registration is now open for high school seniors that will be go to college in the arts culture. Mullett noted that they formed in 2019 and have been moving forward even through the pandemic. Mayor Smith noted that they could be included somehow with the proposed revitalization project for our downtown. Mullett noted that the arts are good for public sectors to involve creativity in the community. Mayor Smith and council thanked her for the information.

Mayor Smith handed out a quote and photos to council from Wolfe Lawn & Landscaping for fencing, seeding, and trees for the green space on Wooster Avenue. Mayor Smith reported that the village would have to pay \$ 120,000 to reimburse the grant if we want to change the green space to a parking lot.

Mayor Smith noted that there have been complaints of stray cats, noting that there is a program through the county that will trap and neuter stray cats at a cost of \$ 35.00 per cat.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert noted that the village has repaired three water breaks and that he feels that the one by the Methodist Church was the major leak and that the plant is now keeping up with the demand as usual. Lambert reported that Dirt Dawg Excavating was the low bid in the amount of \$ 706,730.50 for the waterline replacement project for Wooster Avenue. Lambert noted that we have submitted the loan application to OWDA for the project.

Don Wallick reported a business permit for a thrift shop on North Wooster Avenue and a building permit for an addition at a 7<sup>th</sup> Street property. Mayor Smith noted that Ted Foster has shown interest in the Zoning Inspector position.

Park – Chairman Dustin Briggs reported that the committee met and discussed projects for 2021 including paving in front of the football stadium for handicap parking, paving by ballfields, the drainage issue by the football stadium, running electric for new scoreboards, purchasing a tractor with front bucket and blower on the back, new playground equipment by pavilion #1, and the sealing of the tennis courts by Vasco. Briggs asked Lambert if there is enough room for another field at the north end of the park. Lambert noted that we can review the engineered drawings to see if we can add a field. Chase Willis noted that there is a GPS application that could also be used.

Safety – Chairwoman Kathy Burrier read a resignation letter effective February 18, 2021 from Paramedic Rebecca Amistadi stating work schedule conflict. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to accept the resignation from Rebecca Amistadi. At roll call, all members voted approval and thanked Amistadi for her service. Burrier noted that the fire department has been given the permission to order their needed gear and that Franklin Township has agreed to split the cost of the new gear.

### **ORDINANCE O-09-2021**

Ordinance O-09-2021, An Ordinance establishing rates of pay and other benefits for elected officials and employees of the Village of Strasburg, Ohio, for calendar year 2021 and 2022, effective January 1, 2021, was given its second reading by title only.

**ORDINANCE O-11-2021**

Ordinance O-11-2021 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-11-2021, AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Legal Counsel Fox provided council with a draft copy of an authorization for the use of the football field by Zero to Hero Handyman Service, LLC dba Red Rhinos Football Team.

Shari Clason and Perry & Heather Nave expressed their concern and disagreement to the proposed three lane concept for Wooster Avenue. They noted that they live on Wooster Avenue and feel that for safety reasons the three-lane concept should not be completed. They noted that the three-lane concept would put the traffic closer to the sidewalks and the front of their homes. They noted that they can see the need for the three-lane concept by businesses but not in the residential areas on Wooster. They noted that they did respond to the survey on the website and invited the Mayor and council to come and experience the traffic by their homes on Wooster Avenue. Mayor Smith thanked them for their input and noted that we have a traffic study being done at this time and will have the information at the April council meeting. Martin Zehnder noted that we have a lot of wide loads that go through town and noted that he is against the proposed three lane concept. Mayor Smith noted that we have received a lot of input from residents on the website and we will look at different avenues for the increased traffic due to new businesses and a new housing development on 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW. Chase Willis noted that it is hard to stay in the lane when turning onto Wooster Avenue from 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW and would be even harder with a narrower lane. Liz Dreher noted that she turns right on Wooster Avenue from 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW and agreed that it is hard to remain in the lane and that she is not in favor of the three-lane concept because of the safety and other concerns.

Mayor Smith reported that drywall and painting are being done at the new village hall and that carpet will follow once the painting is completed. Mayor Smith noted that furniture will need to be ordered for the council chambers and the offices. Liz Dreher asked for an estimated move in date for the new village hall and asked who is the project manager on the project. Chase Willis will get a timeline on the completion of the project. Dreher asked if council can take a look at the construction. Willis noted that there is a code on the lockbox for the key. Council will meet at the new village hall at 5:30 on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 before the 6:00 council meeting.

Mayor Smith wished the boys basketball team good luck at the tournament game tonight.

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

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MAYOR STEVE SMITH

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FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY