

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 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, Dustin Briggs, and Martin Zehnder. Other's present were Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Legal Counsel Richard Fox, Attorney Terry Seeberger, Zoning Inspector Ted Foster, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, Doug Hensel, Janet Rosenberry, Jess Stallings, Chase Willis, and David Dennison.

A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2021 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Mayor Steve Smith noted that we received a letter from American Electric Power noting that they have experienced shipping delays on equipment and ask for continued patience by their customers regarding any repairs or disruption issues. Mayor Smith noted that the flagpole has been relocated at the Fire Station, Christmas in the village will be held on December 11, 2021 with the live nativity and Santa at the Fire Station. Mayor Smith noted that Sixth Street NW will be shut down during the event from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Council approved \$ 500.00 for food and gifts for the event. Mayor Smith read a letter that the village received from Ohio State Representative Brett Hillyer on the open house held on August 7, 2021, Mayor Smith noted that the letter will be hung at village hall. Mayor Smith noted that we received our certification of the 2020 census with our population at 2,735. Mayor Smith noted that there have been questions regarding passing on the right and noted that all information can be found in section 45.11 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Zoning Inspector Ted Foster supplied council with a current zoning report which included a permit for a new roof over an existing summer room and a new storage shed. Foster noted that the appeal information for the Auto Works Collision signage has been given to Legal Counsel Fox to advertise for a future public hearing.

Finance – Chairman Jeff Smith reported that council received an email from Police Chief Dave Warrick requesting approval of some new furniture and equipment for the new office in the amount of \$ 4,241.83. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve the purchase of equipment for the Police Department in the amount of \$ 4,241.83. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Zehnder, no; Wallick, yes; Smith, yes; Dreher, yes; Burrier, yes; and Briggs, yes. Smith noted that neighboring villages offer trash and recycling and the average bills for residents range from \$ 13.25(Bolivar) to \$16.70 per month. Smith noted that Bolivar is in the process of raising their rates and noted that our rates are in line with other municipalities. Smith explained that the need for an increase for our rates is due to a new contract with Kimble starting June 1, 2021 and not collecting enough revenue from the recycling grant and the residents to cover the new monthly cost of the Kimble contract. Legal Counsel Fox will have the ordinance for the next council meeting.

Park –Chairman Dustin Briggs thanked Street Superintendent Matt Miller and Street Employee Trevor Dreher for removing the old playground equipment and reported that the village received \$ 50,000 from the Reeves Foundation to use toward the purchase of the new playground equipment. Briggs and Press Representative Barb Limber expressed thanks to Kathy Burrier for preparing the application and letter for the grant.

Safety – Chairwoman Kathy Burrier reported an update on the new offices for the Police Department. Burrier reported that the painting has been completed, the doors have been installed, the carpeting is being completed and that the Police Department has started moving into the offices. Burrier noted that the ceiling tiles in the basement have been completed. Burrier noted that the Police Department is in need of a computer and printer for the new office. Burrier noted that the library will inherit the current space that the Police Department was in and that the basement area will be used as a training space for the Police Department.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert reported that the waterline project will be complete when all sidewalks have been repaired. Lambert reported that the Maple Avenue project is progressing, noting that the waterlines are in and the pressure tests are done, will completing the bacteria tests, will run water services, and will look at the weather window on the paving portion of the project.

#### **ORDINANCE O-26-2021**

Ordinance O-26-2021, An Ordinance establishing and approving the amended Strasburg Municipal records manual, and adopting the records retention policies contained therein for the Village of Strasburg, Ohio, was given its second reading by title only.

**ORDINANCE O-27-2021**

Ordinance O-27-2021, An Ordinance approving the hiring of new Village Solicitor/Law Director, was given its second reading by title only.

Janet Rosenberry thanked Mayor Smith for providing her with the quotes on the other playground equipment that the village had received. Rosenberry asked for an explanation of when council reconvenes into regular session after executive sessions. Legal Counsel Fox explained that council cannot have any action during executive sessions and that they must enter back into regular session to conduct any action and adjourn their meeting. Rosenberry asked if the public can come back into the meeting after the executive session and Fox noted that the public is welcome to come back in. Rosenberry addressed council regarding additional charges that are included in Ordinance O-27-2021. Fox explained that could be additional charges at \$ 150 per hour. Attorney Terry Seeberger noted that he has served Navarre for 26 years and that charges for additional services are primarily for litigation in lawsuits or extra work for major projects and that he records his time. Seeberger notes that he enjoys doing work for municipalities because he feels that he can make a difference. Seeberger noted that he is not accepting the contract with Strasburg to mistreat the community and noted that if there is a major project that would require major amounts of time that he will talk to council before any additional charges. Rosenberry asked Seeberger what he will do for his proposed yearly contract of \$ 8,500. Seeberger noted that he would attend all meetings, prepare ordinances and resolution, be available on a daily basis for legal consultation to all employees, council, and Mayor, advise the employees, council and Mayor, will prepare the legal ads and attend Board of Zoning Appeal public hearings, and attend planning commission meetings. Seeberger noted that he is hoping to assist Strasburg as he has done for Navarre. Rosenberry asked to see what the village has paid Legal Counsel Fox in addition each year of his contract. Fiscal Officer Jennifer Mahoney will contact Rosenberry and provide that information.

David Dennison addressed council regarding questions on the soliciting permit policy for the village noting that Dover and New Philadelphia have yearly fees for soliciting. Mayor Smith noted that our permit has a daily, weekly, and monthly fee. Legal Counsel Fox will review our current policy on soliciting.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to enter into an executive session at 6:47 pm to discuss a pending legal matter, Franklin Township Trustee Doug Hensel was invited into the executive session. At roll call, all members voted approval. Council reconvened into regular session at 7:28 pm. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to adjourn at 7:29 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.

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MAYOR STEVE SMITH

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FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY