

Regular Session of Village Council

February 18, 2025; 6:00 pm

Call to Order

The Regular Session of Council was called to order by Mayor Mitchell Fisher. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Roll Call was completed by Solicitor, John Kaspar. The following members were present.

York Bryant - A
Jim Frederick
Mike McKeehan

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh
George Schraffenberger
Ben Steiner

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to approve January 21st, 2025 Regular Session made by Schraffenberger; second by Frederick. All yea.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials

Monthly Village Fiscal Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements, Mayor's Court Report and Bank Reconciliation were provided for Council.

Village Officials

Mayor Fisher deferred to Administrator Caroline Whitacre to update council on Flood Plain Regulations. The Administrator reminded council of the changes requested at the last meeting. Ohio Department of Natural Resources has said that everything is compliant. There was a public meeting held today for the public to consider the complaint Floodplain Regulations at 5:00. There were questions posed, but no changes recommended. Councilmember McKeehan asked if the map has been updated and this has been taken care of. The Administrator asked to adopt the Flood Plain Regulations as a community. Motion to suspend the rules made by Schraffenberger; second by Steiner. All yea. Motion to adopt as an emergency made by Frederick; second by Steiner. All yea.

Mayor Fisher informed council of a donation from Riddle House LLC (the developers of the Woodlands of Morrow) of 3 parcels of land that is known as Flat Rock. The Village will keep the properties open to the public as public parks. Discussion of insurance and coverage followed. Resolution #5-25 authorized Mayor Fisher to accept Flat Rock Properties as a gift. Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Steiner; second by Schraffenberger. All yea.

Mayor Fisher informed council there are four phases to be accepted in the Woodlands of Morrow. Everything from the punch list from Jones Warner has been updated and approved. Phases 3C, 4B, 4C and 4D have been recommended from Jones Warner to be accepted by the Village of Morrow. All other phases are making great progress and hope to have all older phases ready for acceptance by the end of the year. Resolution #6-25 Authorizing the Mayor and the Village Engineer to endorse the approved plat and accept the streets of phases 3C, 4B, 4C and 4D for public use. Motion to suspend the rules made by Schraffenberger; second by Frederick. All yea except Isaacs-Niemesh voted no. Motion to adopt made by Schraffenberger; second by Frederick. All yea.

Mayor Fisher discussed the use of flock cameras at all entrances to the Village in order to assist the police department with any crimes that may occur. Recently there have been many burglaries and thefts in and near our area. These cameras assist in flagging amber alerts, missing persons, stolen vehicles, ect. Councilmember Fisher asked the Chief what his opinion was on the cameras. Chief Kilburn stated that they are a great tool and will benefit the police department, just a couple of cameras would help. The Mayor informed council that the cost per camera is \$3,000 per year. The company does all of the maintenance and he is looking at 5 cameras to cover all of the entrances and exits of the Village. It was suggested to ask Salem Township if they would be interested in sharing a camera and some cost.

Administrator Whitacre updated council on the Historic Railroad Bridge lighting project. A power point and presentation was handed out for discussion. The LED lights have a 15 – 25

year warranty. Several members of the audience spoke in support of the lights on the bridge including George Flynn who stated that it is a potential economic driver for local businesses. McKeehan asked what the cost of the electricity would be monthly. Isaacs-Niemesh asked how much we would need to add to the monthly budget and where would the money come from. Discussion followed. Frederick asked for a special meeting to be set in order to give time for the community to give their opinion. A poll will be posted on our website along with information on the digital signs. A special meeting is set for Tuesday, February 25th at 6pm.

Shawn Campbell with Jones Warner Engineering updated council on the Pike Street Booster Station. Only one bid was received and it does not meet all of the requirements requested in the bid. Therefore, Mr. Campbell is requesting that council reject the bid and rebid this job. Resolution #7-25 motion to reject current bid and reauthorize Jones Warner to rebid the Pike Street Booster Station. Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea. The rebid should be done in March per Mr. Campbell.

Mayor Fisher informed council that he and the Administrator received several resumes and interviewed two individuals for the Tax Administrator position. Based on his resume, job history and interview, the Mayor recommends Jake Van Etten for the full time Tax Administrator position. Frederick asked for a background and reference check to be done. Resolution #12-25 appointing Jake Montana Van Etten as the full time Tax Administrator. Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second by Steiner. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea.

Mayor informed council that he has quotes from Mt. Pleasant Blacktopping for paving Lincoln, upper Kibbey and Front Streets. He is working on other quotes to be sure we have three before moving forward. Council previously agreed to sell two of the police cruisers. Currently the Chevy is on EBAY and next the Crown Vic will be sold. The Mayor will keep council updated on these sales.

Councilmember Frederick questioned the paving of Front Street. Will we be able to widen and pave? Will it still flood? Can we do something about the sharp corner to raise the road and make it less dangerous? Discussion followed.

Solicitor Kaspar read Resolution #4-25 authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Warren County Engineer's office for the purchase of road salt for the 2025-2026 winter season. Motion to suspend the rules made by Steiner; second by Frederick. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Steiner. All yea.

Open to the Floor

Andrea Joffe questioned if she could get a copy of the Villages' financials. The Mayor asked her to fill out a records request form and submit it to the Fiscal Officer.

Fred Carmack asked who donated the Flat Rock properties, where are they located and what is the intentions.

The Mayor closed the floor comment period.

Motion to go into executive session made by Schraffenberger; second by Steiner. All yea.

Executive Session – requested by Mayor regarding real property.

Motion to return to regular session made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Steiner; second by Frederick. All yea.

Tina Powell, Clerk of Council
& Fiscal Officer

Mitchell Fisher, Mayor