

Regular Session of Village Council

May 19, 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 Clerk of Council, Tina Powell. The following members were present.

York Bryant
Jim Frederick
Mike McKeehan - A

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh
George Schraffenberger
Ben Steiner

Open to the Floor

The Mayor stated that the meeting agenda would run backwards due to allow the Solicitor time to get to the meeting.

The Mayor opened the floor for comments.

George Bocklett made a statement against Main Street area being made into a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). He believes that it will cause problems in the area and that only those living on Main Street should be able to vote.

Andrea Joffe asked if there was an open meeting to discuss the DORA for the Village and would like more advertisement of meetings. The Mayor informed her that it was held on May 12th and was announced on the Village's website and the electronic signs.

Since discussion of the DORA had already been brought up, the Mayor gave the results of the online survey. Question #1 asked do you want a DORA in the area of Main Street (a map was provided with the question)? 407 responses – 358 yes and 49 no. Question #2 asked if Phegley Park should be included in the DORA? 405 responses – 307 yes and 98 no. Discussion followed.

The Mayor closed the floor.

Village Officials

The Mayor had a few updates for council:

1. Paving of Upper Kibbey, Lincoln and Front Streets will begin on May 27th. Front Street will be closed due to paving and striping.
2. Booster Station plan is in place. The generator is on a shipping delay but everything else should be set by the end of July.
3. Well #3 has a leak in the pipe at a joint that will be replaced with stainless steel.
4. Salt Bin – removing trees to clear the lot. Work will be done on July 2nd. Discussion and questions about the lot and what to do with the bin followed.

Administrator Whitacre updated council on

1. The Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report (CCW) for 2024 from the Ohio EPA. The Village was within all of the appropriate ranges according to the Ohio EPA.
2. Betty Rae Burger, a retired teacher at Little Miami Schools, passed away in 2023. Betty's daughter Jodi collected funds for a memorial bench to be placed in Phegley Park. The bench is ready to be placed and a date and time will be set to have a small celebration of life for Betty Rae.
3. Ohio Department of Natural Resources gave approval for the lights to be placed on the Historic Railroad Bridge. The contract with York Electric from Dayton has been signed.
4. Paul Zorn dropped off flyers from Warren County for donations to be made for a statue of General Joseph Warren. Council discussed and gave the thumbs up for a \$250 donation.

Councilmember Frederick asked about the sealing for the parking lot at the administration building. He also asked about the progress of the retaining wall on Welch Road and if the bridge walls on 123 could be painted. The bridge walls would be Ohio Department of Transportation.

Councilmember Bryant asked if the Village was going to receive the Flat Rock properties and what they would do with it. The Village is waiting on the deeds to be recorded.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to approve April 15th Regular Session made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. 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 Cont.

The Mayor discussed agenda items. First, the Village of Morrow Handbook has been reviewed by the Mayor, Administrator and the Fiscal Officer. The updates were sent via email to council and the solicitor. Discussion followed. Councilmember Frederick asked if this could be sent to Worker's Comp to have their opinion on a few points. A few things to be added – drivers license pulled yearly and self-reporting incidents. Motion for the First Reading of the Village of Morrow Employee Handbook motion made by Frederick; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea. Resolution adopting amendments to the Village of Morrow handbook. This is the first reading.

Next, discussion of the remaining steps for the DORA to be enacted continued. A Resolution will need to be passed and then sent to the State of Ohio for approval. Councilmember Bryant stated that he was against the DORA and only those that will be affected and live on Main Street should vote. The location and what to include on the map was discussed. Isaacs-Niemesh does not want to include Phegley Park. Discussion followed. Only the lot that includes the bathroom and the shelter will be part of the DORA map, the rest of the park will not be included. An Ordinance creating a designated outdoor refreshment area establishing requirements to ensure public health and safety and suspending the rules. Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea. Motion to adopt with the bathrooms included, not the remainder of the park made by Frederick; second by Steiner. All yea. Discussion followed regarding if changes need to be made. There is a required 5 year review of the DORA but amendments can be made at any time. Council would like to review annually in March.

Administrator Whitacre asked for council's approval of the Policy for lighting of the Historic Railroad Bridge in Morrow, Ohio that is required by ODNR. Discussion followed regarding the lights on the bridge being personalized. This would require an application and a fee.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Clerk of Council
& Fiscal Officer

Mitchell Fisher, Mayor