

## Regular Session of Village Council

September 16, 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

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh - A

Jim Frederick

George Schraffenberger

Mike McKeehan

Ben Steiner

### **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to approve August 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Session made by Frederick; second by Steiner. 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.

### **2025 Warren County Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The Mayor introduced Sydney Renner and Frances Ficke with the Warren County Emergency Management Agency to provide more information regarding the Village's involvement in the 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Renner explained that this document is updated every 5 years. Part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is addressing hazards to the county and individual jurisdictions. The items identified by The Village of Morrow are to be looked at over the next 5 years and implement where possible. By having this plan adopted, should an event occur and disaster relief become available this makes the Village eligible. There are also additional mitigation grants available, as well that the department will assist with. Mayor requested that council pass the 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan by emergency. Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea. Motion to adopt Resolution 21-25 made by Schraffenberger; second by McKeehan. All yea.

### **Woodlands Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4A Acceptance**

The Mayor introduced the agenda item of accepting the Woodlands Phases 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3d, 3e & 4a. All items have been approved by Jones Warner Engineering being overseen by Joe Zistler. The Mayor requested council accept these phases. Council agreed to three readings. Kaspar made the first reading of Resolution adopting and accepting the Woodlands phases 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3d, 3e & 4a.

### **Village of Morrow Tax Review Board**

The Village is looking for recommendations for people to appoint to a Tax Review Board. Kaspar gave an update on items he was to look into. A member of the Review Board does not have to be an electorate to serve on the board. Compensation is not prohibited and makes sense to compensate those who will serve on the board. Frederick asked if a Resolution could be adopted to set a fee should anyone appeal their taxes and not prevail in their appeal, an assessment could be placed on them. Kaspar will research. Also, the Village would like to establish the compensation for those serving on the board. Discussion followed regarding to what compensation should be. The Mayor updated council on how well the new Tax Administrator is doing. The Village taxes are up \$90,000; this includes past due balances that have gone down from \$120,000 to \$52,000.

The Mayor appointed Paul Zorn to the Tree Board to fill the vacancy of Agnus McIntosh and finish her term.

### **Plaza Update and Review Letter**

The new owner of the plaza, George Flynn, is working with the Salem Township Library. The Library is wanting to own their own property; in order to do this, the property will be split into 3 lots. This is being recorded at the county level. Since the Village is the Lender of this property, a letter from the Village approving and allowing the sale of this lot is required. Permission must be given by the Village and the dollar amount must be set by council on

what the Village will require from the sale of the property. Discussion followed. Frederick stated that at least \$75,000 should be paid from the sale as well as the regular payment of \$75,000 in March. Further discussion and more numbers were given. It was decided to ask for \$150,000 at closing, then \$75,000 for the regular payment. The initial contract did not have this in it. Motion to suspend the rules by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. Bryant votes no, everyone else is yea. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. Bryant voted no, everyone else yea. Resolution #22-25 authorizing the Mayor or designee to execute the deeds and documents necessary for the subdivision and sale of a sub-divided parcel of the Morrow Plaza to the Salem Township Library by the Flynn Property Group, LLC. Resolution carries not by emergency but 30 days to adoption.

### **Village Officials**

The Mayor had a few updates for council:

1. Pursuing the property behind the Depot from ODNR. There was a 2 hour meeting with ODNR.
2. A project for next year – water system – new water tower and cleaning old water tower.
3. Spent extra time with the Tax Administrator.
4. Carol has spent a lot of time on Zoning and Hazard Mitigation Plan.
5. Set meetings with HOA's.

Lots of administrative items going on behind the scene.

Councilmember Bryant discussed a missing bench from Bryant Park. The Mayor stated that Council and the Village had been misled on what was being put in the park. Nothing was stated that there would be a plaque or any words placed on the bench, just a bench put in the park. Council or administration should have approved the script. The Mayor stated that the bench was donated to the Village to be placed on Village property. The Mayor would like to discuss with those who donated to the purchase of the bench and fix the wording and then will reinstall the bench. The bench currently is in the property of the Village. Discussion followed. Councilmember Steiner read a letter sent into the meeting by Councilmember Isaacs-Niemesh. This letter is in the records with the meeting minutes. Councilmember Bryant made a motion to reinstall the bench; second by Steiner. Resolution to reinstall bench at Bryant Park. Votes are as follows: Frederick – no, Steiner – yes, McKeehan – yes, Bryant – yes and Schraffenberger – no. 3 yes and 2 no. Motion carries.

Solicitor Kaspar made a direct statement to council in regards to the discussion of the park bench.

Councilmember McKeehan asked if the Village maintenance workers are mowing the Depot's grass. At the current moment the lot behind and beside are the Villages and ODNR's properties. Therefore, the Village maintains the grass.

### **Open to the Floor**

The Mayor opened the floor for comments.

Andrea Joffe informed council that the tree board would like to plant a maple tree this year. The Board would also like to plant a dogwood tree in Phegley Park to dedicate in memory of Agnus McIntosh.

The Mayor closed the floor.

### **Adjournment**

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