

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 7:30 pm. Mayor Steve Smith presided over the meeting.

Members answering roll call were Liz Dreher, Martin Zehnder, Dustin Briggs, Kathy Burrier, and Jeff Smith. Don Wallick was absent from the meeting. Others present were Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Police Chief Dave Warrick, Fire Chief Andy Slemmer, Street Superintendent Todd Whalen, Zoning Inspector Karl DiBacco, Legal Counsel Richard Fox, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Amanda Miller, Matt Miller, Jerry Schultz, and Meck Media.

A motion was made by Dustin Briggs, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve the minutes from January 8, 2020 council meeting. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

The December financial statement, the December Unified Bank Statement, the December SSB worksheet, and the list of bills were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve the December financial statement, the December Unified Bank Statement, the December SSB worksheet, and the list of bills in the amount of \$ 495,579.78. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

Mayor Steve Smith noted that he had asked a representative from Meck Media to give a short presentation of a new website for the village. Meck Media gave a presentation and the proposed new website was referred to the Finance Committee.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert reported that ODOT will be paving in 2021 so we need to discuss any waterline projects that may need to be done before they pave Wooster Avenue. Lambert noted that areas that have had waterline breaks would need to be on the list. Mayor Smith suggested a crosswalk painted on Wooster Avenue at 4th Street SW. Jeff Smith noted that the storm drain system is inadequate downtown and Lambert reported that he has talked to Engineer Don Dummermuth regarding those issues to tie in the downtown area to some of the new storm drains that have been installed and hook into the existing line on Railroad Avenue. Lambert noted that it may be too big of a project, but we need to look at the cost and the timeline. Lambert noted that we also have an area with a dead-end line that we need to look at and one that has had multiple leaks. Lambert noted that he will get the numbers from Dummermuth and then meet with the Street and Alley Committee and the Finance Committee to review. Lambert noted that ODOT typically pave every ten to twelve years.

Mayor Smith noted that the Safety Committee and the Finance Committee were presented with information on the creation of a Fire District and that the proposal will need to be discussed with Legal Counsel. Mayor Smith noted that we are currently working on update the zoning ordinance books and would like to set up a meeting with Legal Counsel Fox, the members of the Planning Commission, and the members of the Board of Zoning Appeals, to discuss their roles. Mayor Smith noted that he would like to see the village look into grant funding for making the council chambers handicap accessible and renovate the restrooms into one handicap accessible restroom with a baby changing station.

Fire Chief Andy Slemmer reported that the department will continue looking at demo squads and noted the need to get cost estimates to update the heating system for the fire station.

Police Chief Dave Warrick reported that he received a resignation letter from Police Officer Connor Bailey. Warrick noted that bicycles and a nail gun will be sold at auction on Friday, January 24, 2020.

Finance – Chairman Jeff Smith reported that the Finance Committee had met on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 and discussed a new allocation of the water revenue. Smith noted that currently the water revenue is split 60% to the Water Fund and 40% to the Water System Improvement Fund. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to change the allocation to 70% to the Water Fund and 30% to the Water System Improvement Fund. At roll call, all members present voted approval. Smith noted that they also discussed establishing a penalty for past due invoices and establishing a fee for NSF checks written to the village. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to increase the clothing allowance for the full-time police officers to \$ 750.00. At roll call, all members present voted approval. Smith noted that Fire Department is looking to purchase a new squad, we will be replacing the 2009 pickup for the water/sewer department, and will be purchasing a new police cruiser this year. Smith noted that they discussed the need to increase the refuse fee to help cover the cost of the contractor. Smith noted that we rely on the revenue from the recycling grant to help with the cost of the refuse contractor, but the fund is falling behind because the Waste District reduced the recycling grant from \$50 per ton to \$ 40 per ton.

A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Jeff Smith, to authorize Legal Counsel Fox to draw up an ordinance increasing the refuse monthly rate from \$ 10.00 to \$ 12.00 effective May 1, 2020. At roll call, all members present voted approval. Smith noted that we will discuss the compost site and the fee in the future. Smith noted that the finance committee has reviewed information provided by the police department for a proposed fifth full time police officer. A brief discussion was held on the proposal. Tuscarawas County Prosecutor Amanda Miller noted to council that the village has an amazing Police Chief and that she has worked with him on many cases. Miller reported that last year we broke the record for the most felonies in the county and that there were 545 felonies indicted last year noting that the county added another prosecutor. Miller noted that the drug epidemic is bad which adds to property crimes cases and domestic abuse cases. Miller noted that with a good Police Chief, good personnel, and an additional full-time officer, they will provide great coverage for the residents. Miller encouraged council to hire the additional full-time officer and noted that Police Chief Dave Warrick does a great job. Council thanked her for the information. Smith noted that the Finance Committee and the Safety Committee have discussed this request at great lengths. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to authorize Police Chief Dave Warrick to provide council with an officer to hire as the fifth full time officer. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

Park – Village Administrator Ron Lambert reported that our seasonal park employee has resigned and that we need to advertise for a part time seasonal park employee. The village will place an ad for the seasonal park employee.

Safety – Chairwoman Kathy Burrier reported that they discussed the need for additional tornado sirens for the village. Burrier noted that the cost is \$ 27,000.00 per siren and that there is FEMA grants available and that she will review the grant applications. Burrier read the resignation letter from Police Officer Connor Bailey. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to accept the resignation of Police Officer Connor Bailey effective January 25, 2020. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

Street & Alley – Martin Zehnder reported that the committee will begin reviewing streets to be paved in 2020.

ORDINANCE O-01-2020

Ordinance O-01-2020 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members present voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to approve Ordinance O-01-2020, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING, AND ENACTING AMERICAL LEGAL PUBLISHING'S OHIO BASIC CODE, 2020 EDITION, AS THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members present voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Tuscarawas County Prosecutor Amanda Miller noted that she lives in Winfield and is running for Juvenile Probate Judge. Miller noted that children are the most vulnerable in our community and that the world has changed and the court has not changed. Miller noted that there are a lot of services that are not being provided and that we are in need of a juvenile work program. Miller noted that we used to have a juvenile work program a long time ago noting that she would like to bring that back for the community. Miller noted that they would work six days a week and could help in the communities and in our parks. Miller noted that as prosecutor she enjoys working with Attorney Richard Fox and Police Chief Dave Warrick and asked for everyone's vote and thanked them for their time. Council thanked her for the information.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to adjourn at 8:52 pm. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

MAYOR STEVE SMITH

FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY