

Council held a public hearing for the JEDD at 5:45 pm.

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 19, 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, Martin Zehnder, and Dustin Briggs. Others present were Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Fire Chief Andy Slemmer, Police Chief Dave Warrick, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Ted Shetler, Bruce Metzger, Chase Willis, Jessie Stallings, Lewis Dreher, Jerry Schultz, Steve & Christine Holloway, Ryan Blagg, and Tony Clark.

A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2021 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

The December financial statement, December Unified Bank Statement, December SSB Worksheet, and the list of bills was presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Jeff Smith, to approve the December financial statement, December Unified Bank Statement, December SSB Worksheet, and the list of bills in the amount of \$ 291,692.12. At roll call, all members voted approval.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to enter into an executive session at 6:03 pm to discuss a pending legal matter and personnel. Council reconvened back into regular session at 6:43 pm.

Police Chief Dave Warrick reported that Mayor Steve Smith had sworn in Auxiliary Police Officer Van Wallbrown and Warrick made the recommendation to council to hire Katelyn Brown as a full time Police officer to fill the vacate position. Legal Counsel Fox will draw up an ordinance.

Mayor Steve Smith noted that the Village Administrator has the authority to appoint with approval of the mayor to fill the vacant position of Street Superintendent. Mayor Smith noted that the recommendation from Village Administrator Ron Lambert is Matthew Miller based on his resume and qualifications. Mayor Smith noted that he is currently employed by the Village of Baltic. Lewis Dreher questioned on how he was hired, noting that in the past when he was a council member, were those employees hired incorrectly. Dreher suggested asking Legal Counsel on the past hiring practices. Dreher noted that he had discussed the issue with Village Administrator Ron Lambert and noted that in the Ohio Revised Code it says appoint not hire and noted that Legal Counsel should be asked if that it means the same. Dreher noted that he is not questioning the person that is being hired, but it is being done currently. Village Administrator Ron Lambert noted that he spoke to Legal Counsel Attorney Richard Fox and Attorney Terry Seeberger and they both stated that the way that we are doing this hire is correct. Mayor Smith noted that in the past when Dustin Briggs was hired for the utility departments he was appointed by Lambert. Martin Zehnder noted that it is a shame that it is being done this way. Dreher noted that he does not have any issue with the new hire, but was surprised by the procedure. Dreher noted that he had talked to Lambert today and noted that he respects Lambert and had hired Lambert. Zehnder noted that he did too, but wants to ask Fox on the difference between hire and appoint, noting that he does not grasp as the same. Lambert noted that in the Village's Officers handbook it states that when hiring for the Park, Street, or Utility departments it is on the Village Administrator in municipalities without a Board of Public Affairs. Bruce Metzger noted that we have a current employee that lives and pays taxes in the village and applied for the position, noting that he doesn't understand why that person doesn't get a shot for the position. Metzger noted that there is a difference between appoint and hire. Zehnder noted that our past Fire Chief put his life on the line for the Village and that he does not understand why he did not get an interview. Mayor Smith explained that we interviewed the four top candidates out of the 25 applicants. Zehnder noted that this is why council should be involved in the decision and interviews.

Tony Clark and Ryan Blagg addressed council on a proposal of use of the football field at Strasburg Franklin Park for a semi pro football team. Clark noted that they had met with the school superintendent, principal, and the athletic director and they approved the proposal. Clark noted that the season starts in May and would have five home games to be held in Strasburg. Clark noted that the season could end in either July or August. A brief discussion was held on the proposal. Council will discuss the proposal with school officials and Legal Counsel and will provide their decision at the next council meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

Mayor Smith noted that the appraisal of the 224 North Bodmer property came in higher than the purchase price of \$ 265,000.00, and that the paperwork is at the title office and closing will be in February. Village Administrator Ron Lambert supplied council with the renovation estimate of \$ 20,100.00 which includes new carpet, updated lighting, removing walls, removing windows, and painting. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to approve the renovation estimate. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Mayor Smith reported that the Franklin Township Trustees will place a 2.5 mil fire levy on the ballot that will provide \$ 320,000.00 for 24/7 coverage of the fire department. Mayor Smith noted that the levy will help to make the department more responsive to calls. Fire Chief Andy Slemmer asked for the residents to support and pass the levy. Mayor Smith noted that we need to promote the need of the levy to the residents. Mayor Smith noted that he was interviewed by WJER on the levy.

Andy Slemmer provided council with a letter of removal of Trevor Heaton from the Fire Department and made a recommendation to council to hire Elaina Berry as an advanced EMT for the Fire Department. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to accept the recommendation and authorize Legal Counsel Fox to draw up an ordinance to hire Elaina Berry. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Street & Alley – Chairman Don Wallick noted that the committee will meet on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 5:30 pm in village hall council chambers. Wallick noted that he is filling in as Zoning Inspector as a request of Mayor Smith. Wallick reported a business permit for a new commercial roofing company on Wooster Avenue and will be issuing them a sign permit, and will also issue a permit to a property owner on 7th Street SW for an addition.

ORDINANCE O-42-2020

Ordinance O-42-2020, An Ordinance regulating “Off Street Parking” of motor vehicles on the premises of any residential unit located in the Village of Strasburg, Ohio, was given its second reading by title only.

ORDINANCE 0-02-2021

Ordinance O-02-2021, An Ordinance modifying section 60.07(g(2)) of the municipal regulations authorized by the Ohio Basic Code for the Village of Strasburg to provide that payments of the sludge fee due and owing to the Village of Strasburg shall be paid within fourteen (14) days from the date of the billing, and any fees over fourteen (14) days late shall incur a penalty of five percent (5%) per month until paid, and to provide for further sanctions for unpaid bills, was given its second reading by title only.

ORDINANCE O-03-2021

Ordinance O-03-2021 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Don Wallick, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Ordinance O-03-2021, AN ORDINANCE MAKING PERMANENT THE APPOINTMENT OF BRANDON M. WARMAN AS A FULL-TIME POLICE PATROLMAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-05-2021

Ordinance O-05-2021 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Ordinance O-05-2021, AN ORDINANCE EMPLOYING KATELYN A. BROWN AS A FULL-TIME PATROLMAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, OHIO, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 20, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Mayor Smith noted that all committees and chairpersons will remain the same for 2021 and noted that he will be the Regional Planning and CIC representative for 2021. Mayor Smith asked everyone to support our local businesses by shopping local and asked everyone to continue washing hands, wearing masks, and social distancing. Mayor Smith noted that the village received a thank you from the Carpenter’s Cupboard food pantry for our donation from the cares act funds.

A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to adjourn at 7:44 pm. At roll call all members voted approval.