

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 5, 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 Legal Counsel Attorney Richard Fox, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, Paul Stillion, Chase Willis, Chris & Carter Pratt, and Ryan Pastircak from WJER.

Mayor Steve Smith noted corrections to the minutes. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve the amended minutes from the December 14, 2020 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Don Wallick nominated Jeff Smith for President of Council and Kathy Burrier seconded the nomination. Liz Dreher nominated Martin Zehnder for President of Council and Martin Zehnder seconded the nomination. Kathy Burrier made a motion to close the nominations and Liz Dreher seconded the motion. At roll call, all members voted approval. Council agreed to do a vote by paper ballot. Dustin Briggs noted that residents have expressed concerns regarding Jeff Smith being president of council and Steve Smith as Mayor, residents seeing it as a conflict. Jeff Smith noted that all issues must always come before council. Chase Willis asked what is the role of the President of Council. Legal Fox noted that the president of council becomes the acting mayor in the absence of the mayor and preside over council. Legal Counsel Fox opened the paper ballots and reported four votes for Jeff Smith and two for Martin Zehnder. Fox noted that Jeff Smith is the president of council for 2021 and will take the paper ballots home and destroy them.

Mayor Steve Smith noted that he hopes everyone had a good and safe holiday season. Mayor Smith asked council about moving the Tuesday, February 2, 2021 council meeting to Wednesday, February 3, 2021. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Liz Dreher, to move the meeting to Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Mayor Smith opened a discussion regarding the need for an additional fire levy to be placed on the ballot for funding for the part time staffing because the safer grant ended on December 31, 2020. Jeff Smith handed out an email to council from the Fire Department expressing concerns of the millage of the proposed new levy. Smith noted that the staffing will be funded through the General Fund at this time. Smith asked everyone to review the email and noted that the primary election is an earlier date this year and that we need to get moving on this because it is a 90-day process. Mayor Smith noted that offering daytime coverage is very important for our residents. Mayor Smith noted that the part time staffing will continue at this time and that the department would like to move to 24-hour staffing sometime in the future. A lengthy discussion was held on the amount of millage needed to fund the staffing. Legal Counsel Fox suggested that the finance committee meet before the next council meeting and have a recommendation for council. Legal Counsel Fox noted that he would need the information to prepare a resolution for the next meeting, noting that the primary is May 4, 2021. Legal Counsel Fox noted that council and the fire department need to explain to the residents the importance of the levy for the staffing before the primary so that they are informed and prepared to vote, also need to explain that there will be additional funding from the township. Martin Zehnder suggested a work session. Council scheduled a work session to be held after the council meeting at 8 pm.

Mayor Smith noted that we had twenty-five applicants for the Street Superintendent position and that four applicants have been interviewed by himself, Village Administrator Ron Lambert, and Street Committee Chairman Don Wallick.

A brief discussion was held on a proposed turn lane through the village on Wooster Avenue. Council and guests expressed the concern of local businesses losing parking spaces because of the proposed turn lane. Further discussion will be held.

Mayor Smith reported on Cares Act funds that the village had received and reported the equipment and expenses for the various village departments. Mayor Smith noted that we were also able to make donations to local non-profits in the village.

Mayor Smith suggested a change in the village council meetings with a more structured agenda with guests calling the week before the meetings to get on the agenda. Guests and council expressed objection to the proposal. Mayor Smith noted that the meetings will remain same.

Finance – Chairman Jeff Smith reported that the committee has been discussing a pay ordinance 2021 and 2022 and reported 2020 projects including the Oak Avenue NW and other paving projects, roof on the sewer plant, new vehicles for departments, acquiring a new building, and painting and paving at the park. Smith reported that grant funds and cares act funds were spent wisely on equipment and expenses and thanked everyone for

their hard work and expressed appreciation for the election as the president of council for 2021. Smith noted that he will continue to keep good communication with council.

Safety – Chairwoman Kathy Burrier set a safety committee meeting for Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 4:30 pm in village hall council chambers. Legal Counsel Fox noted that Police Chief Dave Warrick advised him that Officer Brandon Warman has completed one year of service and can be taken off of probation. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Jeff Smith, to authorize Legal Counsel Fox to prepare an ordinance. At roll call, all members voted approval. Burrier reported that Officer Rick Fillman gave Police Chief Dave Warrick a written resignation effective January 6, 2021 and thanked him for his service. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to accept the resignation. At roll call, all members voted approval. Burrier reported that our EMT's and Paramedics are getting their COVID vaccines.

Park – A motion was made by Dustin Briggs, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to advertise for a part-time park employee for 2021. At roll call, all members voted approval.

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 first reading by title only.

ORDINANCE O-01-2021

Ordinance O-01-2021 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve Ordinance O-01-2021, AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-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 first reading by title only.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve the membership renewal of Legal Counsel Fox for 2021 in the Ohio Municipal Attorneys Association at a cost of \$ 650.00. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Jerry Schultz announced that the American Legion will hold their first chicken BBQ in April 2021.

Boy Scout Carter Pratt attended the council meeting to earn a communication badge.

A motion was made by Dustin Briggs, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to authorize Village Administrator Ron Lambert to contract with Engineer Don Dummermuth to prepare bid specs for the Maple Avenue NW project. At roll call, all members voted approval.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to enter into an executive session at 7:30 pm to discuss a pending legal matter. At roll call, all members voted approval. Council reconvened into regular session at 7:38 pm. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to adjourn at 7:39 pm. At roll call all members voted approval.