

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:30 pm. Mayor John Bitikofer presided over the meeting.

Members answering roll call were Liz Dreher, Don Wallick, Martin Zehnder, Dustin Briggs, Kathy Burrier, and Jeff Smith. Others present were Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Police Chief Dave Warrick, Fire Chief Andy Slemmer, Legal Counsel Richard Fox, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, and Steve Smith.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve the minutes from December 4, 2019 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

The November Unified Bank statement, the November SSB worksheet, the November financial statement, and the list of bills in the amount of \$ 702,099.76 was presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve the November Unified bank statement, the November SSB worksheet, the November financial statement, and the list of bills in the amount of \$ 702,099.76. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Mayor John Bitikofer thanked all of the volunteers and employees that helped to make the Christmas event in the village a success.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert reported that the waterline extension has been pressure and bacteria tested and is in service and ready to go.

Fire Chief Andy Slemmer reported on mechanical issues of the squad and council held a brief discussion on replacing the squad for the department. Jeff Smith noted that the Safety Committee and the Finance Committee can discuss options with Slemmer to replace the squad.

Police Chief Dave Warrick reported that the department will replace the 2009 Cruiser in 2020, the server doors have been completed, and he has received 5 letters of intent from the part time staff for the fulltime position. Warrick made a recommendation to council to hire Brandon Warman as the fourth full time police officer. Council accepted the recommendation. A brief discussion was held on selling the 2009 cruiser.

Finance – Chairman Jeff Smith reported that the finance committee was given information regarding delinquent vendor accounts and provided information to Legal Counsel Richard Fox regarding the need to put in place a system for penalties for non-payment of invoices of service. Council and Legal Counsel Fox held a brief discussion regarding the issue. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to authorize Legal Counsel Fox to draw up an ordinance to establish a penalty on outstanding invoices for selling a product. At roll call, all members voted approval. Smith reported that the village has spent close to \$ 300,000.00 on paving projects this year and noted that we have kept to our word on using the income tax revenue on infrastructure in the village and have spent close to a million dollars. Smith reported that we have been contacted by the school about 200 used metal chairs that we use for the corn fest that they would like to sell to the village. Council held a brief discussion about the estimated cost of the chairs. Smith reported that Legal Counsel Fox will present an amended 2019 appropriation ordinance. Smith scheduled the next finance committee meeting for Monday, December 30, 2019 at 6 pm.

Martin Zehnder thanked Mayor John Bitikofer for his years of service as Mayor.

ORDINANCE O-40-2019

Ordinance O-40-2019 An Ordinance amending Section 2.17 of the Comprehensive Ordinance regulating the use of the water and sanitary sewer systems of the Village of Strasburg, Ohio, to establish new water tap fees and sewer tap fees, was given its second reading by title only.

ORDINANCE O-41-2019

Ordinance O-41-2019 was given a first reading by title only. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Dustin Briggs, 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-41-2019, AN ORDINANCE EMPLOYING BRANDON M. WARMAN AS A FULL-TIME POLICE PATROLMAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, OHIO, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 18, 2019, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

SECOND AMENDED ORDINANCE O-11-2019

Second Amended Ordinance O-11-2019 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 Seconded Amended Ordinance O-11-2019, AN AMENDED ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES, JEDD MONIES, AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019. At roll call, all members voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately. Council authorized Fiscal Officer Jennifer Mahoney to send a letter and a copy of the ordinance to the Tuscarawas County Auditor.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to establish the 2020 temporary appropriations in the amount of \$ 8,686,889.43. At roll call, all members voted approval and authorized Fiscal Officer Jennifer Mahoney to send the information to the Tuscarawas County Auditor.

Steve Smith thanked Mayor John Bitikofer for his years of service to the village.

Mayor John Bitikofer expressed his appreciation to council and the employees for all of their hard work over the years and thanked everyone for the wonderful open house that was held for him.

Jeff Smith expressed gratitude on behalf of council and the employees to Mayor John Bitikofer for his 38 years of service to the Village of Strasburg serving as Zoning Inspector, Council Member, and the Mayor. Smith expressed a job well done during hard financial times for the village noting that John has left the village in a great position for further growth and happy that we had a great leader that kept a great position. Council presented a plaque to Mayor John Bitikofer thanking him for his years of service. Mayor John Bitikofer received a standing ovation.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to enter into an executive session at 8:21 pm to discuss a pending legal matter. At roll call, all members voted approval. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:33 pm.

Legal Counsel Fox requested an appeal hearing for Wednesday, January 8, 2018 at 7:30 pm. Council agreed and authorized Legal Counsel Fox to send a letter regarding the appeal hearing.

A motion was made by Martin Zehnder, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to adjourn at 8:34 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.

MAYOR STEVE SMITH

FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY